The polls have closed and the votes have been tallied. As we all now have to grapple with the aftermath of this election, many of us have found great solace, guidance, and friendship in the community at SCA. We want to begin by expressing our deep gratitude to the faculty, staff, and students at SCA for building a space where we can think together about a way forward, even in such distressing times.

On a brighter note, this year, we are excited to have Tom Sugrue as the new Director of American Studies, and to have two new faculty members, Cecilia Marquez and Sophie Gonick, who bring a wealth of expertise in urban, Latino, and migration studies, among other fields, to our department. We are also pleased to welcome a new cohort of graduate students, working on a range of exciting topics, including surveillance and aesthetics, homeless intimacy and organizing, and human/animal studies.

We have a lot to be proud of this year. Our graduating students continue to land tenure-track jobs and postdocs at places like Smith College and University of Richmond. Our current students have been honored with such prestigious grants and fellowships as: the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship; Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship; AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship; Mellon Predoctoral Fellowships; and Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship. We’re also happy to announce that PhD student Steven Thrasher was awarded the 2015 Al Neuharth Award for Innovation in Investigative Journalism and MA candidate Jamiles Lartey was named Emerging Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists.

SCA student and faculty have long been a strong presence at the ASA. To get a sense of the kinds of research interests, modes of inquiry, and forms of engagement that we value, look out for their presentations at this year’s conference on queer aesthetics; indigenous and settler colonial studies; race and HIV; the body in pain and under reconstruction—to name just a few.

We’d like to close by giving warm thanks to our tireless student committee—Ayasha Guerin, Kassandra Manriquez, Emily Rogers, and Nayo Sasaki-Picou—for putting together this newsletter, and to all our SCA students, for being the best representatives of our shared commitments.
ARLENE DAVILA  This year was all about the publication of El Mall, the Spatial and Class Politics of Shopping Malls in Latin America with UC Press. I held multiple talks and events for the book to share its findings and had a great time speaking to a variety of audiences. I also started a new project on the marketing and circulation of Latinx art, and published a short piece with some preliminary thoughts on the interplay of racism, Latinx art and the illusion of visibility in Art 21 Magazine. Another highlight was participating in the BlackLivesMatter in Latin America event organized by some Africana grad students, and re-doing the same panel at the AfroLatino/a Festival. I also enjoyed teaching my grad seminar on Visual Culture and Race and a new undergrad lecture on Contemporary Latin American Cities focusing on matters of culture, neoliberalism, and creative economies among other topics. This fall, I’m excited to help host the third “Art of Justice Conference at SCA,” with a variety of local arts groups, and to participate on some conferences on creative economies and cities where I look forward to continuing to share about El Mall.

CRYSTAL PARIKH  In 2016, Crystal Parikh delivered the keynote lecture for the Women and Gender Studies Caucus at the Northeast Modern Language Association and was a featured scholar for the “Crossing Boundaries in the U.S.” seminar at Lebanon Valley College. She also presented seminars at the Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute and the “Cultivating Global Competencies” workshop series at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. Parikh published an entry on “U.S. Imperialism and Neo-Imperialism” in The Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies (eds. Sangeeta Ray and Henry Schwarz). She served as the program committee co-chair for the 2016 national conference of the Association for Asian American Studies and as the chair for the executive committee of the MLA’s Forum for Asian American Literature. She organized the “Beyond Normal: The Fantasy Bodies of National Culture” symposium in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis. Parikh co-edited (with Daniel Y. Kim) the Cambridge Companion to Asian American Literature, which was published in August 2015. She also co-authored (with Helena Grice) a chapter, “Feminisms and Queer Interventions into Asian America” in the Companion. In 2015, Parikh also published essays and chapters in Keywords for Asian American Studies, the International Journal of Human Rights, and the Routledge Companion on Human Rights. Her second monograph, Writing Human Rights, is forthcoming (2017) with University of Minnesota Press. She continues to serve as the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of English.

ANDREW ROSS  taught in our Prison Education Program at Walkill again this summer, and recommends it to all. He also did further field research on the West Bank on Palestinian labor markets, and he completed the co-editing on a volume of essays and architectural plans due to appear in December, called The Helsinki Effect: Public Alternatives to the Guggenheim Model of Culture-Driven Development. This Fall, he is a part of a group residency at Artists Space, called Decolonize This Place, aimed at incubating new arts-activist initiatives, direct actions, and advocacy campaigns. The three month project is an extension of previous work done by the group within Strike Debt, the Rolling Jubilee, the Decolonial Cultural Front, the Global Ultra-Luxury Faction (G.U.L.F.), and the Direct Action Front for Palestine.

GAYATRI GOPINATH recently delivered the 2016 Annual Queer Theory Lecture at Tufts University, entitled “Unruly Visions: The Aesthetic Practices of Queer Diaspora,” which is also the title of her new book, forthcoming from Duke University Press.

LISA DUGGAN is co-editing, with Curtis Marez, a new e-book series for University of California Press: American Studies Now. The series features short, accessible books on timely issues, designed to contribute to public debate as well as for use in undergraduate teaching. We are launching the series with a small group of titles:

  - Barbara Ransby, Making Black Lives Matter
  - Rod Ferguson, We Demand: The University and Student Protests
  - Jack Halberstam, Trans*: A Quick and Quirky Account of Gender Variability
  - Lisa Duggan, Mean Girl: Ayn Rand and the Culture of Greed
  - Scott Kurashige, The Fifty-Year Rebellion: Detroit and the Future of Race and Activism in America

In addition to publishing her much-anticipated book, Indian Given: Racial Geographies across Mexico and the United States (Duke UP 2016), Prof. JOSEFINA SALDAÑA published two articles this year. “Cruel Coloniality, or the Ruse of Sovereignty” appears in PMLA, and engages with the gendered analysis of
Latin American dictatorial violence and the politics of witness offered by Jean Franco in her Cruel Modernity. “Latina Literature in the U.S.: The View from Here” appears in The Cambridge History of Latin American Women’s Literature (Ileana Rodríguez and Mónica Szurmuk, eds.) and places U.S. Latina authors, from the 19th century to the present, in the transnational Latin American tradition of feminist and revolutionary authorship. In addition, Saldaña-Portillo published an interview she conducted with Franco as well in PMLA. Saldaña-Portillo delivered 10 invited lectures at universities in 2016, including a keynote address at Cornell University for the “Ideas of South: Romance Studies Graduate Conference,” and the inaugural address for the University of Pennsylvania’s Program on Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism as part of its “Citizenship on The Edge Seminar Series.” There Saldaña-Portillo presented on her work with Central American women held in detention in South Texas. Her analysis of gender as a factor in both Central American drug violence causing this migration and the asylum seeking process itself will be part of her forthcoming book, NAFTA, Narcos, Migration and The Problem of National Citizenship.

In addition to working on her book manuscript, The Geopolitics of Beauty, SHARON HEIJIN LEE recently published “Beauty Between Empires: Global Feminisms, Plastic Surgery, and the Trouble with Self-Esteem” in Frontiers: Journal of Women’s Studies. The week after ASA, Lee will travel to Berlin as an invited speaker at Free Berlin University’s “The Beautiful Face of Modernity – Beauty, Beautification and Social Change in Transitional East Asia.” In addition to being a featured speaker in Sarah Lawrence College’s Spring Speaker Series, Lee’s co-edited volumes are forthcoming in 2017. The first, Fashion and Beauty in the Time of Asia, maps fashion and beauty as markers and modes of new Asian modernities. The second, From Bollywood to Hallyuwood: Mapping Power and Pleasure Across Pop Empires, is a comparative analysis of South Asian, Korean, and US global media cultures.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

A.J. BAUER was recently awarded a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, and he is currently writing the final chapters of his dissertation, “Before Fair and Balanced: Conservative Media Activism and the Rise of the New Right.” In the past year he has presented new work at the Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference, and is presently revising a manuscript titled “Journalism History and Conservative Erasure” for publication in a leading journalism history journal. His commentary on Donald Trump’s presidential candidacy has appeared in The Guardian and on SiriusXM Progress radio.

SAM NG is a seventh-year doctoral candidate in the American Studies program. He received his BA in American Studies from Yale University in 2009 and worked as a teaching fellow in the history department of Phillips Academy Andover before coming to NYU. His research interests include African American history and culture in the twentieth century, social movements, gender, queer theory, performance, and affect studies. His dissertation, “Bodies in Danger: The Politics of Black Mourning in the United States, 1917-1955,” examines the emergence and development of mourning as a viable basis for black political organizing and protest in the United States during the first half of the twentieth century. He plans to join the Africana Studies Department at Smith College as an assistant professor in 2017.

JACKSON SMITH This summer Jackson Smith conducted preliminary dissertation research on civil forfeiture in Philadelphia with the support of a Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council. He also organized a panel for the American Anthropological Association’s Annual Meeting titled “New Anthropologies of Money: Global Ethnographic Perspectives on the Transformation of Money,” for which he will present his summer research findings in a paper titled “Dirty Money: Civil Asset Forfeiture and the Monetization of Criminal Justice in Philadelphia.”

HAYLEY WAGNER, a second year Master’s student in Africana Studies, was selected to speak at UCLA’s LGBTQ Studies Conference “Q Grad” on October 28 in Los Angeles. Her presentation on queer migration was entitled, “Queering Bodies: LGBTQ Refugee Activism and Performative Sexuality.”

Over the past year JORDAN CARVER continued his work as a contributing editor for the Avery Review, writing two essays, “Signal to Astronoise” on Laura Poitras’ exhibition at the Whitney museum and “Land Art in Age of Remote Sensing” on visiting Robert Smithson’s Spiral Jetty with some help from Google Maps. In addition, the Avery Review editorial team edited and published Climates: Architecture and the Planetary Imaginary. The book was launched with a small exhibition at the Venice Architecture Biennale. In June, Jordan presented at
the Aquarius Redux conference at the University of Sydney School of Architecture. His paper, “The Dome and the Citadel” situates contemporary far-right militia compounds within the discourse of counterculture communities of the 1960s. In October “The Sophisticated Hut” was published in Bracket. Co-written with Andy Vann, the essay investigates the spatial logic of tax havenry. Jordan also continues to work with Who Builds Your Architecture? (WBYA?), a collective working to educate architects on construction worker rights and migrant laborer exploitation. This year WBYA? held a workshop in Istanbul, published a small book about their work, and opened an exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago. Looking to spring 2017, his first book, Spaces of Disappearance: The Architecture of Extraordinary Rendition, will be published by Urban Research.

JOAN MORGAN is a 2016-2017 recipient of an American Fellowship and her article, “Why We Get Off: Moving Towards a Black Feminist Politics of Pleasure” was selected by The Black Scholar an “Editor’s Choice” for one of the top 5 articles of 2015.

STEVEN W. THRASHER, a third year PhD student, has continued an ethnography of the Black Lives Matter movement by working as Writer-At-Large for the Guardian US. In April, the Guardian announced that of 12,000 writers, Steven is among the 10 to receive the most abusive reader comments. In May, the Guardian announced he is also among their 10 most read writers worldwide on Facebook. In June, Steven published an Esquire essay on same-sex marriage and also reported for a week from Orlando after the Pulse shootings. He’s since moderated academic panels on queer people of color at CUNY’s “After Marriage” and Columbia’s “Queer Disruptions” conferences, and appeared on panels at the Schomburg Center, Van Allen Institute, Association of American Geographers, and American Sociological Association. In October, Seven lectured about his dissertation research on HIV criminalization at the American University of Beirut. He’s had academic articles published this summer by Contexts, Radical History Review and the Journal of American History, and was interviewed by CNN, Democracy Now!, NPR and the BBC. Two of his articles were anthologized in sociology textbooks, and his essay “Who’s the man? Black Masculinity and Stardom” was published in the British Film Institute’s book Black Star.

This year AYASHA GUERIN (5th year PhD Candidate) joined the education department at the Museum of the City of New York as an Andrew W. Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellow. Ayasha was also honored as a New Museum Ideas City Fellow, attending the research and art residency and presenting at the public conference in Athens, Greece this September, 2016. She will be presenting at the Black Portraiture[s] III: Reinventions – Strains of Histories and Cultures conference in Johannesburg, South Africa this November and photographs from her research project “Cuban Windows,” supported by an NYU CLACS travel grant, were selected for Steadfast Magazine’s third issue, “A Tribute to Cuba,” December 2016. Her photography is also represented at this year’s Art Basel, at the Rojas + Rubensteen Projects gallery in Miami. Over the next year, Ayasha is co-curating as well as making work for “Set On Freedom,” a group show featuring queer POC artists at The Queens Museum, July 2017.

NAYO SASAKI-PICOU is a second year Masters candidate in the Africana Studies program. Throughout the summer, she spent three months in Lagos doing research with the family of Afrobeat musician Fela Kuti. Her final thesis, with the working title “Afrobeat: The Way She Moves – Framing the Black Female Body in Nigerian Performance”, will examine the historical displacement of female dancers from the visual representations of Fela Kuti and explore the ways female Afrobeat dancers now in Femi Kuti’s band, have evolved the choreography to claim a new space in the narrative.

The SCA Graduate Student Committee will be hosting a conference, tentatively titled “Ecologies of the Future Present,” in the spring. The conference will address how ecologies, species, and bodies are governed by an attitude toward the future.

A new e-book series for University of California Press: *American Studies Now* features short, accessible books on timely issues, designed to contribute to public debate as well as for use in undergraduate teaching. (Lisa Duggan is co-editing with Curtis Marez)
GRADUATE STUDENT BIOS

1. **JENNIFER AYRES**
   is a sixth year PhD candidate in American Studies who focuses on creative work, fashion, the secondhand clothing trade, and cultural economy. With a BA from UC-Davis in Women & Gender Studies in 2008, a Masters from Cornell in Apparel Design in 2011, and as a vintage shop owner, Jen approaches the material culture of style through the lens of a scholar-practitioner. Jen’s dissertation project, “Circuits of Value: The Political Economy of Buying and Selling Vintage”, uses economic geography and multi-sited ethnography to examine how value is created across a loose network of corporate non-profits and small businesses for a category of objects traditionally classified as ‘Post-Consumer Waste’. Researching the variety of labor that is required to transform used clothes into vintage (creative, flexible, affective, immaterial, atomized, and non-unionized), the spaces that comprise the secondhand trade (thrift stores, flea markets, and buy-sell-trade clothing shops), and the exchanges that enliven secondary markets (gift and commodity), Jen’s project illuminates how the secondhand trade is a vital part of the aesthetic economy that the creative city increasingly relies upon as an untapped market, infinite resource, and lucrative export. What it shows is how the intersections of race, gender, class, immigration, and sexuality complicate simplistic notions about how fashion and the economy works.

2. **A.J. BAUER**
   is a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion fellow and sixth year doctoral candidate. He works at the intersection of American political development and media studies, with a focus on contemporary and historical right-wing movements and conservatism in the United States. He entered the American Studies PhD program in 2011, following his completion of the Master’s program, which culminated in an ethnographic study of the Tea Party movement. His dissertation, “Before Fair and Balanced: Conservative Media Activism and the Rise of the New Right,” is a historical study attendant to debates in the fields of mass communication and political theory. He is a contributor to the Historian’s Eye online archive, a member of the Writers for the 99% collective, and his work has appeared in Social Text Periscope and The Guardian. Before his graduate studies, Bauer served as editor of The Daily Texan, the student newspaper of the University of Texas at Austin, and worked as a reporter, writer and researcher in Texas and Massachusetts.

3. **JORDAN H. CARVER**
   is a writer, educator, and sometimes designer based in New York. His work investigates various combinations of space, law, political rhetoric, conservatism, media, tax haven, and sovereignty. He is a contributing editor to the Avery Review and a core member of Who Builds Your Architecture? an advocacy group working to educate architects on the effects of globalization and labor. He was the 2014–2015 Peter Reyner Banham Fellow at the University at Buffalo and is currently a Henry M. MacCracken Doctoral Fellow in American Studies at New York University. Jordan’s writing and design work have been published widely and exhibited around the world. His first book, Spaces of Disappearance: The Architecture of Extraordinary Rendition investigates the sovereign, architectural, and aesthetic manifestations of the CIA’s detention and interrogation program and is forthcoming from UR (Urban Research).

4. **MAX COHEN’S**
   art, activism, and scholarly work focus on political economy and economic justice. He studied Business, Policy, and Poverty as well as Urban Studies as an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania. As an activist and community organizer, Max has organized campaigns around labor, debt, housing, and migrant justice. Since 2014, he has contributed to a research project on the challenges of contemporary family finance by conducting and analyzing interviews with student debt-holding families across the US. Concerned with how power is wielded, resisted, and critiqued, Max’s work draws on critical social theory, political theory, economic anthropology and history, US and Latin American history, and social movement theory. He is a second year American Studies PhD student.

5. **EMMA SHAW CRANE**
   is a third year American Studies PhD student. She received an interdisciplinary social science BA from UC Berkeley in 2009. Her work draws on urban studies, medical anthropology, feminist geography, and critical poverty and refugee studies. Her current research investigates the afterlife of U.S. imperial warfare across the urban Americas. In 2012 and 2013, Emma was a Global Poverty and Practice Research Fellow at UC Berkeley, where
she studied counterinsurgency and urban poverty programs in the 1960s in Oakland, California. She is co-editor, with Professor Ananya Roy, of Territories of Poverty, published in 2015 by the University of Georgia Press.

6. **RICARDO GAMBOA** is a fourth 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. 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.

7. **EMMAIA GELMAN** is an activist with deep roots in direct action on queer, antiracist, anticolonial and housing struggles, particularly in New York City’s ACT UP, ILGO/Irish Queers, and Palestine-related organizing. She also spent nearly a decade as a policy strategist for labor and political organizations, working primarily on housing, fiscal policy, and energy democracy. In 2009 she completed the “Green Jobs/Green NY” blueprint, and subsequently collaborated on the establishing NYS legislation and supported community-based organizations in the first year of implementation. Driven in part by the lessons of Green Jobs/Green NY, Emmaia’s doctoral research investigates racial capitalism and its entrenchment in progressive state projects. Her work also investigates the new territory of racial capitalism forged by Islamophobia and US neocolonialism; and the authorizing discourse of racial injury and remedy with respect to Jewish identity. In true Gemini fashion, Emmaia has yet another project: she is working on an archival project documenting the two-way influence of queer and radical activism between Ireland/Northern Ireland and New York City in the early 1990s. Emmaia is a typical queer New Yorker with three kids and a dog. She holds a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from MIT.

8. **AYASHA GUERIN** is a fifth year PhD graduate student who studies urban and environmental studies, engaging questions about sustainable urban development and the sociopolitical relations that define the 21st century neoliberal city. Her art and writing concern themes of the urban/natural, public and private space, ecology, community, and security. Ayasha completed her bachelor’s degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 2012, where she studied Urban and Environmental Studies and minored in Anthropology and Photography. Currently, Ayasha is the Andrew F. Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellow at the Museum of the City of New York. Her dissertation “Making Zone A: Flooding and Resilience on NYC’s Most Vulnerable Shores” is a socio-ecological study of four New York City waterfront communities and the environmental histories of their settled land.

9. **JUSTIN ABRAHAM LINDS** is interested in queer cultural production around microbial life such as viruses and bacteria. His work often involves theories of illness, the body, queerness, and gender and sexuality as well as 20th and 21st century literary and non-literary texts, but he is regularly inspired by thought and texts from outside his “disciplines.” For his master’s thesis he researched AIDS dissident writing from the 1980s from Canada and the U.S. and examined the presence of AIDS dissident political thought in the contemporary fermentation “cookbooks” of Sandor Ellix Katz. In January 2016, a portion of the thesis was published in the Eros issue of the journal SCAPEGOAT. In the summer of 2015, Justin performed original work around ideas of queerness, dying, and eulogy on the main-stage at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto.
10. **CLAUDIA SOFIA GARRIGA LOPEZ** is a doctoral candidate in American Studies at the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis of New York University. She is the author of “Transfeminist Crossroads Reimagining the Ecuadorian State” published in the Transgender Studies Quarterly Special Edition on Transfeminism (2016). Her doctoral dissertation Gender for All: The Political Economy of Transfeminism in Ecuador is a historiography of trans activism in Ecuador over the past two decades. She recently returned from living Quito, Ecuador where she undertook participatory action research over the course of three years with a number of trans, feminist, and queer activists and artist groups. Claudia’s scholarly work is grounded in a critical engagement with activism, public policy, and public health, as well as close attention to trans performance art and cultural production in Latin America and the Caribbean.

11. **KASSANDRA MANRIQUEZ** is a first-year American Studies PhD student. She graduated from the University of Arizona in 2016 with a BA in Gender and Women’s Studies and a BA in Journalism. Her current research interests include sexuality studies, feminist studies, and urban poverty.

12. **SAM MARKWELL** is a third-year PhD student with an MA in American Studies from the University of New Mexico. His work is situated in the fields of historical materialism, anthropology, geography, Native studies, settler colonial studies, and ethnic studies. His research investigates the array of concepts and apparatuses of “security” that animate U.S. and Israeli settler colonial projects, specifically focusing on contestations over food and water infrastructures. By critiquing the roles played by the U.S. and Israel in shaping life in these regions, he aims to reorient the study of security away from the priorities and frameworks of the settler nation-state to alternative political and ethical geographies of the Americas and West Asia. He locates the specific questions of his research in conversations with general questions of the reciprocal relations between material processes of urbanization and colonization; structures and dynamics of biological, psychical, and social life; and international formations of solidarity and accountability. His publications include essays in La Jicarita: An Online Magazine of Environmental Politics in New Mexico; a chapter, “Greenwashing and the Scrubbing of United States and Israeli Settler Colonialisms”, in the anthology Queer After Homonationalism and Pinkwashing, under review by Duke University Press, and an article “The Colonial Hydropolitics of Infrastructure in the Middle Rio Grande Valley”, forthcoming from WIREs Water.

13. **OSCAR MARQUEZ** is a fourth year Ph.D student in American studies. He received his B.A in Chicana/o Studies at Cal Poly Pomona and his M.A. in Latin American Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. His research interests are in comparative colonialisms, Chicana/o indigeneity, and Border Studies. His work investigates the role race plays in the dispossession of indigenous territory by non-indigenous mestizos in the Sierra Wixárika of Northwestern Mexico.

14. **JULIA A. MENDOZA** is a fifth year doctoral student in the American Studies program. Prior to coming to NYU, Julia obtained her law degree from UC Davis and a master’s degree in Human Rights from Columbia University. Julia thereupon 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 racial disparities within public schools and felon disenfranchisement. She is continuing her advocacy by using research as a tool to address the problems and issues confronting urban public schools and prison education programs. She is currently teaching in the recently launched NYU Prison Education Project and conducting preliminary research for her dissertation. During the summer, she enjoys returning home to the Bay Area to teach at San Quentin State Prison for the Prison University Project and work as a youth organizer at Fathers and Families of San Joaquin Valley-a community organization located in Stockton, California.

15. **SUSANA MORALES** is a scholar activist of color, mother, and now third 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.

17. **SAM NG** is a doctoral candidate in the American Studies program. He received his BA in American Studies from Yale University in 2009 and worked as a teaching fellow in the history department of Phillips Academy Andover before coming to NYU. His research interests include African American history and culture in the twentieth century, social movements, gender, queer theory, performance, and affect studies. His dissertation, “Bodies in Danger: The Politics of Black Mourning in the United States, 1917-1955,” examines the emergence and development of mourning as a viable basis for black political organizing and protest in the United States during the first half of the twentieth century. He plans to join the Africana Studies Department at Smith College as an assistant professor in 2017.

18. **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. 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 in Indigenous lands. She came to American Studies NYU in 2012 to continue thinking through the interlocking relations of race and sexuality within both transnational neoliberal capitalism and US settler-colonialism. She also organizes with GSOC-UAW to help restore collective bargaining rights for graduate employees.

19. **CARMEN PHILLIPS** began the PhD program in American Studies at NYU 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.

20. **BRIAN RAY** is a fifth-year doctoral student in American Studies who works in the transnational history of capitalism and social movements, queer studies, science studies, and transnational religion studies. He holds a BA in Women’s Studies and Philosophy from the University of Georgia. His dissertation project is a transdisciplinary study of gay conservative activism and thought in the U.S. and Mexico. Tentatively, he conceives of gay conservatism as a post-WWII political “third-way” movement that poses interesting questions regarding left/right political identification, subjectivity, and the structure of history. Drawing on immanent critique and biopolitical frameworks, his project is in conversation with reconfigurations of Thomas Frank’s infamous “What’s the matter with Kansas?”, like Bethany Moreton’s reversal “What matters to Arkansas?” As such, his project explores how some counterintuitive or seemingly frustrated political identifications, like gay conservatives, are made possible by mapping the ethical substance of self-proclaimed post-partisan politics. Without psychologizing them, neither right nor left, what motivates these political actors? In this endeavor, particular attention is given to transnational material formations that have inaugurated and facilitated gay conservative movements in particular but that speak questions of subjectivity and progress in broader ways. A few include: narco trafficking, aesthetics, atheistic and theistic Satanisms, BDSM, contemporary science, the HIV/AIDS crisis, prosperity gospel, and the rise of neoliberalism in the Americas.

21. **JAMES RODRIGUEZ** entered NYU’s 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.

22. EMILY LIM ROGERS is a second year PhD student in American Studies. She received her BA from Sarah Lawrence College in 2015. Prior to entering doctoral study, she was a Leadership Alliance Mellon Initiative fellow at the NYU Center for the Humanities and a C3-LADO undergraduate fellow at Columbia University. Her work draws on STS, medical anthropology, disability studies, feminist/queer theory, and the history of capitalism. Currently, her research looks at contested diagnoses, specifically chronic fatigue syndrome (myalgic encephalomyelitis), to better understand the affective and temporal dimensions of “everyday life” in the post-Fordist United States.

23. EMI SAWADA is a second-year PhD student in American Studies. She graduated from Scripps College in 2011 with a BA in Asian American Studies, a division of Race & Ethnic Studies. Her dissertation research will likely examine images of eugenic reproduction in contemporary expressive culture, and especially the visual arts. While her recent writings investigate the aesthetics of new reproductive technologies, Sawada remains interested in a variety of topics such as affect, temporality, development, embodiment, pedagogy, autobiography, and the US/Japan’s double empire. Her undergraduate thesis, which folded ethnographic interviews into literary analysis and creative writing, explored the use of radical pedagogy as an instrument of community organizing in feminist organizations. In 2009, Sawada partnered with Pomona College and the Southeast Asian Community Alliance in Los Angeles to co-found Rise Up, a program for Los Angeles youth to improve their community via the creative arts. In 2011, she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Jeonju, South Korea. She is also an alumna of the Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers’ 2014 Associate’s Program and the Public Policy Institute of America’s 2010 Junior Summer Institute. Sawada speaks fluent Japanese and also knows Korean and French. She holds an MA in English from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

24. JACKSON SMITH is a third-year doctoral student in American Studies. He investigates the politics of dispossession in the contemporary capitalist city through three intertwined moments of governance: money and credit, property, and policing. He graduated from Reed College in 2010, where he completed original research on the rise and fall of the squatters’ movement on Manhattan’s gentrifying Lower East Side. His dissertation research will examine civil asset forfeiture in Philadelphia. This policing strategy generates state revenue through the seizure of cash, homes, and other property suspected of involvement in the drug trade. Jackson’s work draws from historical materialism, socio-legal scholarship, anthropology of money and value, and critical interdisciplinary perspectives on race, security, and urban governance.

25. 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 New Press.

26. STEVEN W. THRASHER, a third year doctoral student in American Studies, was named Journalist of the Year 2012 by the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association for his writing in the Village Voice, the New York Times and Out magazine. He is a member of the editorial board of the American Sociological Association’s journal Contexts, a Contributing
Steven is particularly interested in the historic intersection of race, LGBT sexuality, economics and incarceration in the state of Missouri, which he recently explored in St. Louis while investigating HIV criminalization for BuzzFeed and in Ferguson while covering the shooting of Mike Brown for the Guardian. A public radio producer and filmmaker by training, Steven has crewed on Saturday Night Live and HBO’s film The Laramie Project, and he once spent a year interviewing 500 people for the NPR StoryCorps project. His stories have been broadcast on All Things Considered, Marketplace and the BBC, and his work was included in the New York Times bestselling book Mom: A Celebration of Moms from StoryCorps and in Gawker’s Best Posts of 2013. Steven is planning to use oral history, critical race theory, queer history and sociology to approach African American history and American Studies. He is a recipient of an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science Writing Fellowship, an Association of Alternative Newsweeklies feature writing award, Hunter College’s James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism, and the Anti-Violence Project’s Courage Award.

27. AMRIT JUSTIN TREWN is a native of Detroit, the city and the metropolis. As a community educator who is his mother’s child, he has collaborated with youth and adults of color in generating critical and creative projects that center social health, wellbeing, and empowerment. He also regularly contributes as an archivist to The Funambulist: Politics of Space and Bodies, a magazine that stages interventions into design by architects, activists, and academics. He situates his scholarly work at the cross-currents of black feminism, queer thought, surveillance studies, diaspora studies, and critical human geography. In particular, he is interested in how colonial relationships between blackness and tropes of surveillance— including visibility, captivity, discipline, and fear— have migrated over the last century alongside architectural and technological transformations. He is also working on a literary project that recovers and reimagines the loosely convergent journeys of his black, brown, and indigenous ancestors. Most importantly, he believe that the bigger the curls, the bigger the dreams.

28. MAYA WIND is a feminist activist from Jerusalem. In 2008 she helped establish the Shministim Letter of Israeli conscientious objectors. For her refusal to serve in the Israeli army she was sentenced to military prison and detention. After her release she co-led the Jerusalem alternative education program of New Profile, the feminist movement for the demilitarization of Israeli society. She also guided political tours in East Jerusalem and the West Bank for the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, and worked against Palestinian displacement and Israeli colonial expansion in East Jerusalem. Today she is a board member of ICAHD-USA and an active member of Anarchists Against the Wall and Boycott from Within, the Israeli contingent of the BDS movement.

ARLENE DAVILA January 2016, University of California Press

While becoming less relevant in the United States, shopping malls are booming throughout urban Latin America. But what does this mean on the ground? Are shopping malls a sign of the region’s “coming of age”? El Mall is the first book to answer these questions and explore how malls and consumption are shaping the conversation about class and social inequality in Latin America.
NYU SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS
PRESENTERS AT THE 2016 ASA

HOME/NOT HOME: CENTERING AMERICAN STUDIES WHERE WE ARE

Denver, Colorado
Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association

THURSDAY 11.17
8 AM

6 PM
Non-paper session: The Prince Revue – STEVEN THRASHER

FRIDAY 11.18
10 AM
Paper session: Critical Ethnic Studies Committee II: Visionary Aesthetics and the Queer Femme of Color Imagination – GAYATRI GOPINATH

4 PM
Paper session: Imperial Erasures: NGOs and the Bodily Home – SHARON HEIJIN LEE

4 PM
Non-paper session: ASA Program Committee: Publicly Engaged American Studies: A Dialogue – STEVEN THRASHER

SATURDAY 11.19 | 10 AM
Paper session: Traditional Format: Homefronts - AJ BAUER

12 PM
Non-paper session: The Home/Not Home of the Body in Pain: Responding to Christina Crosby’s A Body Undone – LISA DUGGAN

4 PM
Paper session: Mapping the Intersections of Indigenous and Settler Colonial Studies: Lessons From Hawai’i – DEAN ITSUJI SARANILLIO

4 PM
Paper session: The Blackness of HIV - STEVEN THRASHER
The group is called ñuca trans, a folkloric dance troupe. The bottom photo is the marcha de las putas (like The Slut Walks) in Quito in 2014. I was the host for the post-march festival.

(CLAUDIA SOFÍA GARRIGA LÓPEZ)
DHARAVI SLUM
Weekend Morning Fair. Many people are living on selling traditional pottery in the slum fair. (FREDA GUO)

Female students going to school in the early morning. Even though the living condition is rough in Mumbai, education is believed a way to relive suffering. (FREDA GUO)
Many people lived under crude tents on the street. A man putting his palms together when he saw me taking a picture. *(FREDA GUO)*

A smiling woman in Mumbai Dharavi Slum. *(FREDA GUO)*

The photo is also taken in a car in the deep inside of Dharavi Slum, and the local driver told me the living situation has been much improved nowadays. *(FREDA GUO)*
We traveled to Cuba to study the food systems of the city. The urban agriculture scene that exploded after the U.S.’ tightening of the trade embargo in 1993 had vacated the city center, and in its place, we found a new network of independent rural farmers who now commute to the city to walk the streets with pushcarts. Family-owned lunch establishments have sprung up, where food is served through holes carved into the facades of private living rooms. They are the Cuban Windows we’ve documented. (AYASHA GUERIN)
Over 200 people took part in the Decolonize This Place tour of the American Museum of Natural History, and joined the rally outside the museum to remove the controversial Roosevelt statue.

(ANDREW ROSS)
Opposite: Women dancing in line to the music of Femi Kuti and the Positive Forces in The African Shrine in Lagos, Nigeria. (NAYO SASAKI-PICOU)

Female dancers centre stage performing alongside Femi Kuti and the Positive Forces in the African Shrine in Lagos, Nigeria. (NAYO SASAKI-PICOU)

Female dancers leading the song forward with Eqypt 80 and Seun Kuti in The African Shrine in Lagos, Nigeria. (NAYO SASAKI-PICOU)