The Center for LGBTQ Studies provides a platform for intellectual leadership in addressing issues that affect lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender, and queer individuals and other sexual and gender minorities.

As the first university-based LGBTQ research center in the United States, CLAGS nurtures cutting-edge scholarship, organizes events for examining and affirming LGBTQ lives, and fosters network-building among academics, artists, activists, policy makers, and community members. CLAGS stands committed to maintaining a broad program of public events, online projects, and fellowships that promote reflection on queer pasts, presents, and futures.
Dear CLAGS family, friends, partners, & supporters,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as well as reflect upon the work of this past year. I have had the honor of serving as the new Executive Director of the Center for LGBTQ Studies (CLAGS). Upon entering this space, my aim was to take this inaugural year to learn through collaborative action and engagement with the staff, board members, and the larger CLAGS community. I hoped to understand the organization more through the lived experiences and eyes of the aforementioned parties. My goal was to begin establishing long-lasting relationships and begin the process of developing a course of action for the years ahead. This year of exploration and critical analysis has helped me establish the skeletal structure for reinvesting in long-standing community partnerships and planning for new future initiatives. Before discussing these things further, I wanted to take this opportunity to examine the CLAGS year in review.

Despite being a transition year for CLAGS, we had a successful year ensuring the continuation of established programming and activities. The weekly programming that we provided spanned a number of topics and disciplines from LGBTQ health, critical pedagogy and the future of LGBTQ Studies to exploring Southeast Asian queerness. Much of the work related to our public programming this year was a result of strong collaborations with other centers, institutes, community organizations, and our board members. In fact, several of our events were co-sponsored by partnering entities and spearheaded by our board members as program developers, conveners, moderators, and presenters.

This year we provided several fellowships and awards to a broad array of deserving scholars, students, artists, and community members dedicated to uplifting the LGBTQ community through their work. In regards to this, it was an honor to see two of our past fellowship recipients return to CLAGS and personally give back to the community by presenting on their current research in the field to improve the lives of LGBTQ individuals and push the theoretical frameworks used within LGBTQ Studies forward. CLAGS has continued to be an “academic home” for many and a safe haven for those that may not have access to supportive communal spaces to do their work. CLAGS has continued to be a place where students, scholars, and activists continue to develop their craft and grow in both personal and professional ways.

Two of CLAGS’ anchor awards, Kessler and Jose Esteban Munoz, honored well-deserving individuals.

As we look ahead to next year, CLAGS will continue to be an industry lead addressing the issues impacting the LGBTQ community. We look forward to providing a space for young scholars entering the academy to conduct their research, developing a stronger education/training platform and certificate program, creating a larger digital footprint, introducing new opportunities for interdisciplinary convenings, conferences, and finding new ways to honor members of our community and expanding our membership base.

With all this said, I am looking forward to building upon our past as we work toward a brighter future. I hope that you will continue to support CLAGS. Please join us for our future events and engage with us in both continuing and new collaborations.

With joy, love, and pride,

Justin T. Brown, PhD.
Executive Director
The Center for LGBTQ Studies, CLAGS
The Graduate Center, CUNY
Assistant Professor, Health Sciences
LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Dear friends of CLAGS,

I write this letter from rain soaked Kolkata, India. I am presently traveling throughout South Asia to conduct academic & activist collaborative research that documents transgender activism in South and South-East Asia. Serving as board co-chair for CLAGS has been of immense joy for me, while CLAGS also continues to provide me a much-needed home and a platform for creating transnational cutting edge queer (of color) scholarship.

I spent over 10 years in New York City, organizing within LGBTQ immigrant communities. During this period, CLAGS provided me with an intellectual space, wherein I could learn and co-theorize with fellow queer theorists and activists. I stepped up to join the CLAGS board and serve as board chair as a way of giving back to my beloved CLAGS community. Presently, we live within a very precarious political conjuncture. The attacks on public education, LGBTQ and feminist studies (as well as our human rights) are relentless. In this political climate CLAGS events and community continue to carve out an academic-activist space for queer scholars within one of the largest public university systems in the country. As a scholar of transnational sexuality studies, I was able to organize a panel that brought together queer studies scholars such as Dr. Rohit K. DasGupta from the Loughborough University and Dr. Kaustav Bakshi from Jadavpur University along with Indian queer activists from the New York City area at CUNY. The panel discussed how the movement for LGBT rights in India privileges upper class and upper caste communities. We were able to identify philanthropic organizations, and every day ethical practices that will decenter an upper class and caste narrative within queer movements in India.

Another highlight for me, has been the highly attended Kessler Award and lecture by Sara Ahmed. Ahmed’s lecture discussed the uses of queer and the queering of value. Ahmed urges us to decenter a value based approach within queer and feminist movements. Rather, she asks us to return to objects that have lost values, or different values. We at CLAGS are very proud to be able to host Sara Ahmed and her partner, and to be able to provide the New York City community an opportunity to attend Ahmed’s lecture for no cost at all. Now that’s called queering value!

We at CLAGS are very blessed to have amazing staff members who remain dedicated to our mission and purpose. Our new Executive Director, Dr. Justin Brown brings with him a passion for developing CLAGS infrastructure as well as programming around community health. Our board members bring a diversity of academic, activist, and professional backgrounds. Such diversity is reflected in the rich programming of CLAGS that ranges from humanities to the social sciences. I am honored to have worked aside Dr. Shereen Inayatullah as Board Co-Chair and have every faith in our incoming board chairs. CLAGS will always be my intellectual home, even when I am thousands of miles away from the graduate center.

Yours truly,

Debanuj DasGupta
CLAGS Co-chair

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Debajyoti DasGupta

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CLAGS Co-chair
The Kessler Award

The Kessler award is given to a scholar who has, over a number of years, produced a substantive body of work that has had a significant influence on the field of LGBTQ Studies. The awardee, who is chosen by the CLAGS Board of Directors, receives a monetary award and gives CLAGS’ annual Kessler Lecture. No applications or nominations are accepted for the Kessler award.

Date: December 4th, 2017
Title: Queer Use
Recipient/Speaker: Sara Ahmed

Sara Ahmed’s Kessler Lecture, Queer Use, which took place on December 4th, 2017 examined the ways in which academic institutions impede diversity work through the use and misuse of employees, resources, and policies. Drawing from her recently published book, What’s the Use, Ahmed articulated use as a relation and an activity which often points beyond something, arguing that objects possess intrinsic use values. Ahmed offered direct actions the audience members could take toward altering their normative use-relation to academic, political, and social institutions in the status quo.

One way Sara addressed this issue was by outlining the biographical benefits of use; “a way of telling a story of things.” Ahmed explained the heuristic implications of use, as revealing the intended function of an object. Understanding this functionality elucidates the limitations of the used object. Ahmed advocated for the queering of use, which she identified as the “the willful destruction of what is venerable and beautiful.” Ahmed encouraged the audience to occupy unusable spaces, as to question what makes something functional. Ahmed located queer vandalism and use within acts of citation and scholarship, arguing that to queer use in an academic setting is to question and problematize how knowledge is produced and for whom it is produced. Ultimately, Ahmed’s nuanced and unique analysis of queer use revealed the seemingly mundane activities and spaces which can be sites for critical resistance.

The full lecture was live streamed and posted online.
Recipient of the 2017 Jose Muñoz Award, Patrisse Cullors, on June 12th 2018, discussed before a panel the challenges and triumphs of the Black Lives Matter movement. The Jose Muñoz Award recognizes cultural icons that through their work serve as social activists to shed light upon LGBTQ and LGBTQ people of color. Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, touched on the practicality of intersectional politics, the relationship between social practice and art, as well as the physical and emotional toll of activism. Ultimately, Cullors advocated for a dynamic coalition comprised of the LGBTQ community, persons of color, and allies, each willing to acknowledge their individual privileges and engage in courageous conversations about their own identities. The dialogue began with Cullors sharing her experience as a queer woman of color, drawing a connection between the marginalization of her identity, and her willingness to engage in activism. When asked by CLAGS Executive Director, Justin T. Brown, about the centrality of queer individuals of color within freedom movement Black Lives Matter, Cullors again explicated the macro relationship between communities of color and the LGBTQ movement. Which is to say, as Cullors poignantly stated: “No one is free until black people are free.” Furthermore, Cullors examined the increased normalization of white supremacy, homophobia, transmisogyny, and xenophobia experienced under the Trump administration. Cullors made a critical scalar distinction between national and local politics, encouraging audience members to contextualize local, grassroots politics and activism within the national political climate. Cullors explained that critical inter-communal dialogues must be substantiated by constant vigilance and awareness of each group’s privilege. As she explained, raising awareness and representation may not be enough to combat the increasing erasure of marginalized communities.

Lastly, and most importantly, Cullors discussed the emotional demoralization, physical stress, and celebratory joy resulting from organizing and activism. While Cullors conceded that she has felt like giving up, she believes that hope lies in the Black Lives Matter movement and its attendant organizations. Concluding, Cullors discussed the importance of self-care, joking that “[She] believes that everyone needs a therapist”, and that: “Therapy should be a part of [her] reparation package.” During the Q&A audience members asked Cullors about the challenges of inter-generational collaboration between activists, the role of white allies within the Black Lives Matter, and the role of pedagogical approaches to social change. More specifically, several audience members asked Cullors how broader policy changes could be implemented within the increasingly segregated and underfunded public education system. Cullors responded by advocating for an increase of people of color on an administrative and executive level, as well as encouraging teachers to raise critical questions, and have tough conversation within the classroom surrounding issues of racism, homophobia, and classism.
Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, CLAGS sponsored multiple events centered around pedagogical approaches to queer studies, queer praxis and colonial politics, and academic implications of women’s gender and sexuality studies. Events like Queer Pedagogies Initiative, Queering LGBT Studies in Curriculum Development and Program Design, and Poor Queer Studies Mothers approached various aspects of queer education and teaching.

CLAGS’ Queer Pedagogies initiative, led by Maria R. Scharron-del Río, Kate Westerling, and Stephanie Hisu, attempted to address ways in which educators at all levels of education can create LGBTQ+ spaces within educational institutions. Sharing resources, experience, and formal instruction, this event was co-sponsored by the Futures Initiative.

CLAGS also sponsored a panel on Queering LGBT Studies in Curriculum Development and Program Design, which focused on program sustainability, institutionalization, faculty labor issues, and the promise of what Matt Brimm calls “poor queer studies,” or creating pedagogies at working-poor and working-class institutions of higher education. This event was directly followed by Brimm’s talk “Poor Queer Studies Mothers,” in which he addressed the urgent problem of class stratification in higher education through the lens of a specific academic formation: queer studies. Both events were centered around the central question of how the field of queer studies can be a site of intervention for redistributing resources and advancing “epistemic equality” in the academy.

Shifting the focus to international politics and human rights discourse, the Center hosted “Queer/Trans/National Adoption Politics: An Adoptee Roundtable” and “Sexing India: Hinduula, LGBTIQ Rights, and Global Philanthropy.” Led by writer, activist, and adoptee Liz Latty, “Queer/Trans/National Adoption Politics” shifted the focus of adoption narratives from the voices of adoptive parents and non-adopted professionals to queer and trans adoptees. Along with M. Campbell, Amandine Gay, and Tara Linh, this event discussed how queer and trans adoptees can destabilize, expand, and situate the “right to parent” narrative within a larger human rights framework.

“Sexing India,” led by a panel of various scholars and activists, examined the transgender identity as a legally and medically institutionalized concept in relation to the rise of Hindu Nationalism. The panel highlighted the importance of establishing transnational LGBTQ+ coalitions.

“What Would an HIV Doula Do” aimed to increase the awareness surrounding the AIDS crisis. Described as a community collective of artists, activists, academics, chaplains, doula, health care practitioners, nurses, and filmmakers, “What Would the HIV Doula Do” partnered with CLAGS to host a participatory workshop about how to honor, support, and activate transitions in personal health and the political climate through the lens of the AIDS crisis. Using video, writing prompts, and group discussions, the collective members and Ted Kerr explored current realities for people living with HIV, those deeply impacted, and folks who wish to be more involved.

CLAGS sponsored several film screenings, including Guo with Eduardo Velaquez and Roksana Filipowska, Madam Secretary with Sara Ramirez, and Out in the Night. Guo, set in Buenos Aires, explored the realities of transgender and racial identity through the story of Lupe, a Caribbean immigrant and “shy boy with a profound love for Catherine Deneuve.” The film was directly followed by a discussion with the director, Eduardo Velaquez, and art history scholar, Roksana Filipowski. CLAGS partnered with the Human Rights Commission and OutRight Action International to screen Madam Secretary and discuss the ongoing persecution of LGBTQ people globally, as well as what organizations and individuals are doing to engage with this issue and support LGBTQ communities abroad. Finally, Out in the Night, a documentary by Blair Dorosh-Walther, examined the 2006 case of the New Jersey 4, a group of four young African-American lesbians who were violently and sexually threatened by a man on the street. The documentary addressed how race, gender, and sexuality is criminalized.

CLAGS sponsored staged readings, like O, Earth!, a play by Casey Llewellyn, which explores Thorton Wilder’s Our Town to a contemporary LGBTQ context, asking who lives (and dies) in “our” towns and what queer legacies we hope to leave on this earth. In collaboration with the student organization GLASS (Gender, Love, and Sexuality Studies) at Baruch, CLAGS performed O, Earth! Similarly, “Queer Performance Legacies: Charles Ludlam Live!” examined the impact of Ludlam’s playwriting on contemporary queer performance in New York City.

CLAGS also hosted The Kessler Award event which is given annually to a scholar who has, over the course of their career, produced a substantive body of work that has made a significant impact on the field of LGBTQ Studies. CLAGS presented Sara Ahmed as the 2017 Kessler Award recipient for her critical examinations of feminist theory, queer studies, cultural pedagogy, and their intersections. Sara Ahmed’s Kessler Lecture, “Queer Use,” examined the ways in which academic institutions impede diversity work through the use and misuse of employees, resources, and policies. Drawing from her recently published book, What’s the Use, Ahmed articulated use as a relation and an activity which often points beyond something, arguing that objects possess intrinsic use values. Ahmed offered direct actions the audience members could take toward altering their normative use-relation to academic, political, and social institutions in the status quo.

CLAGS concluded the 2017-2018 academic year with the annual José Esteban Muñoz Award, awarding Black Lives Matter co-founder, Patrisse Cullors. Cullors and CLAGS Executive Director Justin Brown discussed the challenges facing the Black Lives Matter movement in the current political climate, the relationship between Cullors’ art and activism, and the need for an intersectional approach to activism.
Over the past academic year, I have worked for the CUNY Digital History Archive, making a collection about the history of CLAGS. The CUNY Digital History Archive, CDHA, is an online repository for archival material related to the history of CUNY that is then organized into collections pertaining to specific topics. I was brought onto this project by former CLAGS employee Yana Calou, who had originally pitched the idea of a CLAGS collection to the CDHA, but had to step down from the project because they got a new job.

In order to create this collection, I had to first learn the history of CLAGS and decide what items to feature. I did this by spending time in the CLAGS archive, going through forgotten files and reading about past events. I then selected a number of items — including posters, fliers, videos, letters, internal documents, and memos. Each of these items was then digitized and accompanied with a short explanation of the item and its significance. The collection also contains a short history of CLAGS to encompass all of the items.

Creating this collection was a truly educational and rewarding experience. I learned a great deal about not only the history of CLAGS, but also about the history of the LGBTQ movement within both academia and the larger society. One of the most interesting parts of this experience has been digitizing VHS tapes of old lectures that have become all but forgotten. These videos include Kessler Lectures by prominent queer scholars such as Eve Sedgwick and Judith Butler and early panels like “The Nation and the Closet,” now available for all to see on the CLAGS YouTube channel.

If I have learned one thing while creating this collection, it is that CLAGS was and continues to be an institution that defines the field of LGBTQ studies. The collection also contains a short history of CLAGS to encompass all of the items.

The CLAGS Archive Committee has engaged in large-scale and collection based assessment in the 2017–2018 academic year. The CLAGS Archive has been hard at work on multiple fronts:

Access to online audiences
In Spring 2018, CLAGS chose select items, documents, records, images and videos to be digitized and become part of the Archivo Vegus del Apocalipsis (AYA), with the purpose of putting them in value, safeguard and access to researchers, students and the general public. To support preservation tasks, including the execution of digital copies and transfer to updated formats, as well as the physical printing of copies of all documents and records, access will be made through the following public institutions: Library of the Municipality of Concepcion, Library of the Museum of Fine Arts of Santiago, the National Archive of Chile and the Museum of Lima (MALI) Peru and through Gallery D21.

The CUNY Digital History Archive (CDHA) has reserved a spot on its site to include a subset of the CLAGS archive with the support of Christopher Morabito, a doctoral student here at the Graduate Center, employed via the CDHA to process the CLAGS collection.

CLAGS News processing
A call for interns was put out in the Spring 2018 for a ten-week internship which was inhabited by Marybeth Cosica-Weiss and Caroline Jedlicka, both students of Queens College Masters of Library and Information Studies program. Caroline and Marybeth laid the groundwork to determine the authors of CLAGSNews articles in order to gather permissions for upload into the CUNY Academic Works Institutional Repository. This work was the precursor to the GC Library receipt of the CLAGSNews digital archive. Additionally, the GC Library will hold an exhibition in its display cases to commemorate the receipt of this digital collection.

General processing, outreach, and development
An aim to secure a vendor for large scale digitization; follow-up with the uncovering of the IRN Archive; continued correspondence with any interest in use of the CLAGS Archive; conversations surrounding past Kessler lectures and any potential publishing contracts; establishment of potential relationships with outside organizations within and outside of CUNY as it pertains to CLAGS Archives, such as with LaGuardia Community College Archive projects for CUNY-wide queer archives.

The goal for the efforts relating to the CLAGS Archive is to adequately quantify what exists within the collections, to find repositories for which the material may become accessible to a wider public, and additionally, to allow for easeful solicitation, with a readiness for use, research, and exhibition.
Rachel Coleman is a doctoral candidate in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Stony Brook University. Her research interests center on the history of U.S. social movements, LGBTQ and feminist activism, and the relationship between social movements and the formation of interdisciplinary fields of study. Her dissertation, “Confronting on the Edge: A Queer History of Feminist Field Formation,” traces the infrastructural and intellectual history of U.S. feminist and queer field formation, spanning the institutionalization of the first women’s studies programs in the 1970s and the development of gay and lesbian studies in the late 1980s. In addition to her work as a scholar and teacher, Rachel is on the coordinating committee of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the oldest and largest lesbian historical collection in the world.

Javier Fernández Galeano is a History PhD candidate at Brown University. He is currently a visiting scholar at the Centro de la Imagen. His dissertation explores how state authorities, scientific experts, and sexual nonconformists battled over the meanings of male homosexuality in Argentina and Spain between the 1940s and 1980s. He has a BA in History and a BA in Anthropology from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata. He received a MA in Historical Studies from The New School, where he studied as a Fulbright scholar. In 2018-2019, he will be a Mellon/ACLS fellow. He has published in the Journal of the History of Sexuality and is forthcoming in LAASR.

LeAni Downey is a Presidential Magnet Fellow and Ph.D. candidate in English at the City University of New York Graduate Center. She is interested in issues of gender, sexuality, and power in relation to “human rights” discourses. Her current work examines U.S. carceral logics through the case of the New Jersey Four, a group of Black lesbian and gender nonconforming people imprisoned for defending themselves against an attack in New York’s Greenwich Village in 2006.

Sarah Tobias is Associate Director of the Institute for Research on Women (IRW) at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, where she also holds faculty appointments in the Women’s and Gender Studies Department. Her work bridges academic and public policy interests and LGBT advocacy, and she is co-editor of Trans Studies: The Challenge to Hetero/Homo Normalities (Rutgers University Press, 2016), co-editor of Policy issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families (University of Michigan Press, 2007), and editor of the online journal Amstor. Prior to joining IRW in January 2010, she spent over 8 years working in the nonprofit sector, including as Public Information and Research Director at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (now Outright Action International) and as a consultant to the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce (now the National LGBT Taskforce). She has also taught at Rutgers-Newark, the City University of New York (Baruch College and Queens College), and Columbia University. She has a PhD in Political Science from Columbia University and an undergraduate degree from Cambridge University, England.

Polanda Martínez-San Miguel is a cultural critic and literary theorist. She works on issues of sexuality and gender in the production of knowledge and cultural representations in Latin American colonial and Caribbean postcolonial literature and discourse. Her other areas of research and teaching interest include colonial Latin American discourses and contemporary Caribbean and Latino narratives, migration, and Cultural Studies. She has an MA and PhD in Latin American Cultural Studies from the University of California at Berkeley and a BA in Hispanic Studies from the University of Puerto Rico. Martínez-San Miguel is the author of Saboreos americanos: Subalternidad y epistemología en los escritos de Sor Juana (2003); Caribe Two Ways: Cultura de la migración en el Caribe hispanohablante (2001); and Leer y pensar: “Menor” (2013). She is also the author of Colonial Latin American Literature (2008) and Coloniality of Diasporas: Rethinking Intra- and Inter-Caribe insular hispánico (2003). She has served as a consultant to the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce (now the National LGBT Taskforce). She has also taught at Rutgers-Newark, the City University of New York (Baruch College and Queens College), and Columbia University. She has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University and an undergraduate degree from Cambridge University, England.

Tatiana Ades is a graduate student at the University of Virginia. She received her PhD in English from the University of Virginia in 2017. Her research interests include queer theory, American Culture, nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature, posthumanism, and popular culture studies. Her essays and reviews have appeared in or are forthcoming in American Literary Review, American Literature, Callaloo, GLQ, SEL, and The Journal of Popular Music Studies. Her current project, Driftage-Prophecy: The Queer Practice of Black Uplift, 1890-1930, studies post-Reconstruction black American culture in the genealogy of queer American studies. It also roots current queer theory in this archive. Focused on archival papers and novels by Charles W. Chesnutt, Pauline Hopkins, Sutton-Griego, Thomas Nelson Page, William Hambelton Thomas, and Thomas Dixon Jr., Driftage-Prophecy illustrates inventories of and challenges to black sexual propriety in late-nineteenth century culture. It argues that this archive not only calls into question the purdy and novelty of queer antinormativity in the present, but it further illustrates the constitutive relationship between performances of blackness and American theories of sexual propriety in postbellum American history. Previously, he has taught at Brooklyn College and is also a former Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellow and WNYF Schomburg Center Scholar in Residence.

Timothy M. Griffiths is a postdoctoral fellow in English and American African Studies at the University of Virginia. He recently earned his PhD in English from The Graduate Center, CUNY with a certificate in American Studies. His areas of research include queer theory, African American Culture, nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature, posthumanism, and popular culture studies. His essays and reviews have appeared in or are forthcoming in American Literary Review, American Literature, Callaloo, GLQ, SEL, and The Journal of Popular Music Studies. His current project, Driftage-Prophecy: The Queer Practice of Black Uplift, 1890-1930, studies post-Reconstruction black American culture in the genealogy of queer American studies. It also roots current queer theory in this archive. Focused on archival papers and novels by Charles W. Chesnutt, Pauline Hopkins, Sutton-Griego, Thomas Nelson Page, William Hambelton Thomas, and Thomas Dixon Jr., Driftage-Prophecy illustrates inventories of and challenges to black sexual propriety in late-nineteenth century culture. It argues that this archive not only calls into question the purdy and novelty of queer antinormativity in the present, but it further illustrates the constitutive relationship between performances of blackness and American theories of sexual propriety in postbellum American history. Previously, he has taught at Brooklyn College and is also a former Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellow and WNYF Schomburg Center Scholar in Residence.

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CLAGS FELLOWSHIP

Graduate Student Paper Award-$250
Each year, CLAGS sponsors a student paper competition open to all graduate students enrolled in the CUNY system. A cash prize is awarded to the best paper written in a CUNY graduate class on any topic related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or transgender experiences. Papers should be between 15 and 50 pages and of publishable quality.

Undergraduate Student Paper Award-$250
Each year, CLAGS sponsors a student paper competition open to all undergraduate students enrolled in the CUNY or SUNY system. A cash prize is awarded to the best paper written in a CUNY or SUNY undergraduate class on any topic related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or transgender experiences and scholarship. Essays should be between 12 and 30 pages, well thought-out, and fully realized.

Student Travel Award-$250
Each year, CLAGS sponsors two student travel awards open to all graduate students enrolled in the CUNY system. A cash prize is awarded to a student presenting subject matter that addresses gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or transgender issues in their respective field. Presentations can be for conferences held in the U.S. or abroad.

CLAGS Fellowship Award-$2,500
This award, which honors the memory of Rivera, a transgender activist, will be given for the best book or article to appear in transgender studies this past year (2017). Applications may be submitted by the author of the work or by nomination (the application requirements are the same for each; see below). Adjudicated by the CLAGS fellowships committee.

Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies-$1,000
This award is for still images.* This award will support the working with moving image (video or film). This year’s award is for working with still image (photography) and those often focused on LGBTQ lives and issues, this award is presented to an emerging or mid-career artist, from any country doing scholarly research on the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer (LGBTQ) experience.

The Duberman-Zal Fellowship-$2,500
An endowed fellowship named for CLAGS founder and first executive director, Martin Duberman, and partner, Eli Zal, this fellowship is awarded to a graduate student, an independent scholar, or an adjunct from any country doing scholarly research on the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer (LGBTQ) experience.

The Robert Giard Fellowship-$7,500
An annual award named for Robert Giard, a portrait, landscape, and figure photographer whose work often focused on LGBTQ lives and issues, this award is presented to an emerging or mid-career artist, from any country, working in photography, photo-based media, or moving image, including experimental, narrative, or documentary forms of these media. The award now alternates annually between artists working with still image (photography) and those working with moving image (video or film). This year’s award is for still images.* This award will support the development or completion of a project, one that is new or continuing, that addresses issues of sexuality, gender, or LGBTQ identity. The Foundation is receptive to a variety of projects and approaches to these topics.

For more information about these, and any additional fellowships and awards that we offer, please visit: http://clags.org/fellowships-and-awards3/

Ivor Kraft, who supported LGBTQ collection building [clags.org] at the Graduate Center Library, died September 26, 2017 in Hawaii. He was 93 years old. Mr. Kraft’s gifts strengthened the ties between the Graduate Center Library, and CLAGS through a generous endowment which has funded for many years the sustained acquisition of LGBTQ related monographs, films, and other resources for GC students and the wider CUNY community. He endowed similar library collections at Sacramento State[library.csus.edu] and the New York Public Library[nypl.org], and he maintained several other charitable interests. Ivor Kraft lived modestly and pointedly refused recognition or fanfare. He lavished attention on others who were in service of shared goals, in gestures that betrayed his knack for celebration. CLAGS and Library staff revelled in Mr. Kraft’s holiday gift boxes filled with handmade cards, booklets, banners, hats, macadamia nuts, candies -- delicious treats and embellishments for the office.

Ivor Kraft was a professor of social work at California State University, Sacramento. In retirement, he was a volunteer docent at the Honolulu Museum of Art. He mastered the Honolulu Museum of Art’s Kamishibai tour, invoking the craft of the post-war Japanese illiterate news and story tellers he described. He enjoyed the camaraderie of close friends in Honolulu.

Kraft directed an additional amount to CLAGS upon his death, supplementing the library’s endowment. Both the Library and CLAGS are grateful for his support and goodwill.

Report on the Carpenter Fund - An Endowment for LGBT Library Books
by Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz
CLAGS offers semester or year-long internships for students and individuals interested in receiving experience working for an LGBTQ research center devoted to the dissemination and support of LGBTQ research, culture, and activism. Some areas of our internship programs include: Admin & Finance, Digital Media, Membership, Fellowships & Awards, and Events. Our internship program provides individuals with an opportunity to assist the CLAGS staff in work that is integral to our success and mission, such as helping with administrative work around the office and assisting with the planning and attendance of our events and conferences. All intern and volunteer positions are unpaid, but offer school credit. In the past, interns have used their experience at CLAGS to fulfill program requirements or to satisfy school credit. CLAGS internship is integral to our success and mission, to assist the CLAGS staff in work that is integral to our success and mission, and to assist the CLAGS staff in work that is integral to our success and mission. 

Christopher Morabito is an English doctoral student at the Graduate Center, CUNY. He is interested in researching literary representations of queer adolescence with an emphasis on identity formation and rationality. He received his bachelor’s degree from the College of Staten Island, CUNY, where he will be teaching starting this fall.

Sergio M Ozoria is a college student at Bronx Community College. Ozoria’s preferred gender pronouns are he/him/they/them. Ozoria will be graduating this Fall 2017 with an associate’s degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. Ozoria is planning to transfer to NYU Steinhardt to get his/her bachelor’s degree in Applied Psychology and planning to get his/her PhD in Physical Therapy. Ozoria is interning at CLAGS this Fall 2017 in an Event and Marketing Internship.

Marybeth Coscia-Weiss is a graduate of Brooklyn College with a Master’s in Musicology and Adelphi University with a Bachelor’s in Music Performance. She is currently enrolled in the MLIS program at Queens College and works for the music publisher C.F. Peters Corporation. She wishes to pursue Music Librarianship or Academic librarianship with a concentration in archives. Her research interests include YA LGBT Literature, Queer Composers, and Music in 1918-1945 Germany.

Experience at CLAGS:

“My experience as the archival intern for CLAGS was really awesome. As a full time employee, it is extremely hard to find flexible internship opportunities, especially in areas of my interests. With the opportunity that CLAGS presented, I was able to gain on-site experience of archival procedures, see behind the scenes of the academic library and assist in curating an exhibit in the Graduate Center Library. Overall, it was a rewarding experience both academically and socially as I was able to steep myself in the history of CLAGS.”

Carrie Jedlicka is a student in the Master of Library Science program at Queens College where she is pursuing a Certificate in Archives and Preservation of Cultural Materials. Carrie also interns at the Leo Baeck Institute, and she has been awarded a fellowship for 2019 with Citi Center for Culture + Queens Library. Formerly, Carrie was a social worker, most recently working with adolescents in the Juvenile Justice system. Carrie feels fortunate to have the privilege of helping preserve the important scholarship of CLAGS.

Experience at CLAGS:

The experience of working in the CLAGS Archive has enriched my studies in library science. I have learned a great deal under the supervision of Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz as we navigate the process of preparing issues of CLAGS NEWS for the CUNY institutional repository and plan an exhibit of CLAGS NEWS and ephemera in the Graduate Center Library.

Adric Tenuta is a rising Junior at Emory University. He studies English, creative writing, and women’s gender and sexuality studies. His research interests are in the work of Essex Hemphill, trans poetics, and postcolonial theory.
Visiting Scholar

Mission Statement
The CLAGS Residency Fellowship Program assists scholars and professionals whose research on the LGBTQ experience can benefit from access to CLAGS’s resources and its location in midtown Manhattan at the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

The Scholars-in-Residence Program is designed to (1) encourage research and writing on the history, literature and culture of the LGBTQ community or other dynamic projects relating to the LGBTQ experience, broadly conceived; (2) to promote and facilitate interaction among the participants including fellows funded by other sources; (3) to facilitate the dissemination of the researcher’s findings through lectures via CLAGS’s ongoing Events Series.

Application Requirements
• Cover Letter including name, contact information (mailing address, email, phone), the title of your proposed study, the names of your recommenders, and the fellowship you are applying for.
• A 1500 word description of the proposed study
• Curriculum vitae
• Two letters of reference

Deadline
CLAGS Scholar in Residence Fellowships are offered annually with up to two awarded each calendar year. Applications should be submitted no later than July 1st for a September start date and November 1st for a January start date.

More information regarding application guidelines can be found on the CLAGS’s website:
http://clags.org/scholar-in-residence-fellowship/

Di Wang is a feminist researcher and advocate from China. She is a PhD candidate of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a focus on SOGIESC rights, legal mobilization and social policy. Her research has been informed by her ten-year experience as a women’s and LGBTQ rights advocate. Using family rights as a focal point, her dissertation investigates the globalization of LGBTQ rights with an empirical focus on two powerful states – China and the United States. Her work is committed to research-based advocacy and the advancement of analytical tools for social change. She has worked on projects that evaluate the impact of law on women’s and LGBTQ rights in China and in the U.S. with organizations like Open Society Foundations, PILnet, Gender Equality Advocacy and Action Network (GEAAN) and the University of Wisconsin Law School.
Each year, CLAGS’ work is made possible by the generosity of our supporters. We receive support not only from our volunteer Board of Directors, but also from foundations, corporate supporters, and from individual members. While the Graduate Center, CUNY provides us with office space, our general operating costs still exist and are funded primarily from individual donors and memberships. Indeed, CLAGS’s membership program is vital to our sustenance: it not only provides our organization with unrestricted funds that let us prioritize the most cutting edge and greatly needed programs, it is also used for the vital but less glamorous aspects of our work: stipends for our speakers, postage, student fellowships, staff support and even the paper and office supplies that we need to keep things running smoothly.

To become a member you can make a secure donation online through Network for Good (https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1434026)
Diana Cage
is an award-winning writer whose work examines desire, sexuality, and power within the context of queer and trans experiences of love and romanticity. She is the author of the books, most recently Mind Blowing Sex: A Woman’s Guide (Seaver Press, 2012) and The London Sex Bible (Black Dog 2014). Her areas of interest include trans* studies, queer theory, in the Writing Program Directors, and the sociology of gender, pornography, and the medicalization of sex and sexuality. (dianacage, dianacage.com, belladonnaseries.org)

Shelley Jagnath
is Adjunct Professor in the Women and Gender Studies department and Global Health Studies Program at Hunter College-CUNY and is affiliated with National AIDS Education and Training Centers (NAETC). Her research interests include HIV prevention, substance use prevention, women’s health, and toxicology. She has served as a board member of two LGBTQ New Yorkers making a difference in their community. By city & State Magazine, Dr. Appolito has published research in public health journals about health issues for college students including stress, and HIV prevention for Black college students. Her current research focuses on HIV prevention among Black gay romantic couples.

Sally J. Haughey, Ph.D.
as Assistant Professor in the Women and Gender Studies Department, and Global Health Studies Program at Hunter College-CUNY and is affiliated with National AIDS Education and Training Centers (NAETC). She also consults with organizations/institutions such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Health, the American Public Health Association, and the Association of Women in Psychology. Publications include 50 articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. Sally is the editor of the Global LGBTQ Health book series (Glenwood Nature).
Debraj Roy

is an associate professor of computer education at Queens College/City University of New York. He holds degrees from Western Michigan University and Johns Hopkins University. He has served on the editorial board for the Journal of Gender, Development and Globalization, and his work focuses on cultural competency development and issues impacting the marginalization and wellbeing of the multicultural/intersectional college student population. His work also focuses on gender identity and non-gendered social structures, with a focus on gender neutrality. Dr. Roy is the current Vice Chair of the Student Council Leadership, which focuses on the development of student leadership at Queens College. He is the recipient of the Ford Foundation funded New Voices Fellowship (2014-2015) and the International Research Fellowship in gender identity and non-gendered social structures. His current book project: “Performing Race and Reading Antebellum American Bodies.”

Janet Weather

is an Assistant Professor of English at the College of Staten Island (CUNY). His work lies at the intersections of book history, queer theory, and literature. He currently has two book projects underway: The first, “Nostalgia: The Labor of Nostalgia and Argonautic Mythologies of the Fragments,” argues for the coherence of the Virginian writer’s motifs as a genre, focused on the establishment of multiple authors. The second project, “Weathering a Storm Through True Stories,” considers the work of women in the United States, focusing on writings in terms of the aesthetics and ethics of media.

Norma N. Halischuk

is an adjunct lecture at Hunter College, City University of New York in the Women and Gender Studies program. Currently a PhD candidate in political science at the CUNY Graduate Center, her interests include transnational justice, human rights, and transnational sexism and gender identity. She has worked on international organization research and programming at the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, and Security Council Report. She has been an instructor at Hunter, City College, and Baruch College of the City University of New York.

Velma Mausoino

is a doctoral candidate in English at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and her research interests lie in examining surviving works of seventeenth and eighteenth-century literature, including Charles Dickens, Carson McCullers, and John Steinbeck. Her essay, “The ‘Tight, Complex and Masculine’ Maritza/Zenas of Contemporary Madagascar: Feminist Formations, Performance and James Baldwin’s ‘Giovanni’s Room’,” appears in Contemporary Madagascar in the UK and US: Between Slaves and Subjects, edited by Paolo Gigante’s Global Masculinities series, edited by Michael Montrose. Mausoino teaches critical theory and writing at the Pratt Institute and has previously taught at Baruch College, the City College of New York, and the University of Florida. She is also a founding member of the New York-based Black Queer initiative.

A. Lovisa Porter

is an Assistant Professor of English at New York City College of Technology. CUNY. He holds a Ph.D. in English from the CUNY Graduate Center and a B.A. in History from Hampshire College. He has previously worked for CLAGS as Membership and Educational Coordinator, as well as the Director of Education and Community Engagement. His research interests include African-American Studies, gender and sexuality, New York City Higher education, and social issues.

Lisa Morill

is a Professor of Behavioral & Performance Studies at Molloy College. Her research and publications are in the fields of performance art, political theatre and performance, and gender/sexuality activism. Her recent book, Making Masculinity Visible: The Staging of Men’s Activism in the United States and Britain, won a Lambda Literary Award in 2018. Her current book project, 19th-century Irish gender performance, is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Dr. Morill has also performed as an actress and social justice activist in New York, Philadelphia, and London. She is also the co-founder of AbsurdArts, a performance and visual arts collective working with multi-disciplinary social justice performance. Her work has been published and performed nationally and internationally. Morill has been an artist-in-residence in schools for youth and teachers in NY and NJ. She has organized, created events, facilitated workshops, and collaboration workshops with youth, women, the LGBTQ community, and people of color. She also administrates treatments to animals, some of which she has named her greatest friends. Morill has offered her care all across the United States, and far as away as the Philippines.

Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz

is an Assistant Professor and Head of Residence at the Graduate Center Library of the City University of New York. She is a Coordinator at the Lesbeni Heritage Archives, Chair of the Archives committee on the CUNY Board, and Advisory Board Member to a GLAMC archiving database. Shawn’s focus is telling the stories of Black lesbian through oral histories, archiving, and the blurred lines of fiction. She presented her work on archiving Black lesbians as a digital repository at the Digital Humanities Conference (DHC) in 2015. She also had a session at the Black Studies Conference in 2014. Shawn has a BA in Gender Studies from CUNY, an MFA in Creative Writing, and is an MLIS with a focus on Archiving and Records Management. Both from Queens College, her current project is creating the narrative of the Salsa Sol Sister, the first Black lesbian organization in the country, through a site and traveling exhibit with the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Robert Blackman Photograph Workshop. She is a member of the Essex County Historical Society and, members of Salsa Soul Sisters. Learn more about Shawn here: https://shawnatthecommence.cuny.edu/
MEET THE STAFF

Justin T. Brown - Executive Director

Justin T. Brown Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Health Sciences at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY where his teaching primarily centers on courses in public health and human services. Dr. Brown’s background mainly resides in the areas of program development and intervention evaluation. His collaborative research focuses on addressing health inequities among persons of color, LGBT, youth, and those populations at the intersection through asset-based approaches. Prior to CLAGS, Dr. Brown was the Deputy Director of the CUNY Institute for Health Equity and worked for several years running one of the only national social service agencies dedicated exclusively to working with LGBTQ youth of color. Brown completed his doctoral training with a health concentration in the Critical Social-Personality Psychology program at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Contact:
Phone: (212)-817-1956

Jasmina Sinanović - Director of Finance and Development

Jasmina Sinanović teaches at the Communications, Arts and Sciences Department at the Bronx Community College and Anthropology, Gender Studies and International Studies Department at the City College by day and is a performing/theatre artist by night. Their research interests are in queer, performance and postcolonial theory as well as the study of the idea of Balkanism. She holds an M.F.A. in Dramaturgy from Stony Brook University and M.A. in Theatre from CUNY.

Contact:
Phone: (212)-817-1957

Yana Calou - Events & Programs Manager

Yana Calou is a genderqueer Brazilian-American writer, artist, and media activist on economic, racial and gender justice issues. Yana is Lambda and VONA Voices fellow, and has performed at the Pop-up Museum of Queer History, La MaMa, Dixon Place, and BAX. They study queer theory and literature at the CUNY Graduate Center, and have led communications and programming for the Retail Action Project, Queer Survival Economies, the Utah Pride Center, GLAAD, Planned Parenthood, and the Women’s Media Center.

Contact:
Phone: (212)-817-1958

Isaiah DuPree - Memberships and Fellowships Director

Isaiah DuPree is a graduate from Eugene Lang College of The New School. While he is experienced as a provider of direct services and English language training to refugee, asylee and immigrant communities, Isaiah has also worked with grassroots LGBTQ advocacy groups from New York to Rwanda. With a strong commitment to social justice and youth empowerment initiatives, he is very excited to join the staff at CLAGS.

Contact:
Phone: (212)-817-1958
**FUNDING SOURCES**

- Foundations: $2,000.00 (1.6%)
- Individual Donations: $84,080.00 (67.2%)
- CURY: $16,500.00 (13.2%)
- Endowments: $21,898.00 (17.0%)
- Other: $575.00 (0.5%)
- Total Income: $125,053.00

**EXPENSES**

- Salaries: $48,568.00 (33.0%)
- Fellowships: $7,840.00 (5.5%)
- Rainbow Book Fair: $3,309.00 (2.7%)
- General Programming: $11,456.00 (6.5%)
- Office and Outreach: $3,308.00 (2.7%)
- Carpenter Collection: $6,700.00 (4.0%)
- Next Year Projects: $40,000.00 (25.4%)
- Total Expenses: $125,053.00