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List of contributors:
Yana Calou, Jennifer Camper, Sarah Chinn,
Kevin Nadal, Noam Parness, Jasmina Sinanovic,
Shawnta Smith and Andrew Spieldenner.
Dear CLAGS Family:

For the past year, I’ve had the pleasure of serving as Executive Director of CLAGS, and I am so Queers and Comics Conference. We also co-sponsored the third annual LGBT Health Workforce Conference, along with the LGBT Committee of the Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians Initiative and the Women and Gender Studies Program at Hunter College.

We have had some amazing speakers including our Kessler Award Winner Dr. Cathy Cohen; cartoonists Alison Bechdel and Howard Cruse; model and advocate Geena Rocero; and our inaugural Jose Esteban Munoz Award recipient Janet Mock.

We hosted weekly programs that focused on a spectrum of LGBTQ issues, ranging from experiences of LGBTQ people with disabilities to an inside look of the Ballroom Scene.

We also gave out 9 fellowships and awards to so many deserving scholars, students, and artists who are interested in promoting and studying LGBTQ people and experiences.

Among all of these accomplishments, I am most proud that CLAGS has continued to be “an academic home” for students, professors, researchers, and community members, who desire to be in spaces where we can talk, discuss, and analyze everything and anything related to our sexual orientations and gender identities. CLAGS has been a safe space for many – allowing folks to express and explore themselves in ways they might not been able to before. CLAGS has also been a place for growth, particularly for allies and educators who want to learn about our communities and how to advocate for the rights of LGBTQ people and all marginalized communities. CLAGS will continue to be at the forefront of educating and championing for LGBTQ issues, providing programming and opportunities for intellectual stimulation, the conceptualization of research, and potential collaborations for stimulating dialogues and ideas. However, given that 2016 marks the 25th Anniversary of CLAGS at the CUNY Graduate Center, as well as the 30th Anniversary of the original conceptions of CLAGS, next year will also be filled with opportunities for reflection, examining and archiving history, and building and rebuilding relationships of the past.

So with that, I hope you all will continue to support CLAGS in the future. Please come to any or all of our wonderful events, and please continue to advocate for the lives of all LGBTQ people everywhere.

With much love and pride,

Kevin Nadal, Ph.D. Executive Director
CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies

Associate Professor, Psychology
City University of New York

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Dear CLAGS Community,

Thank you for an amazing year of events, programs and transitions! As the Chair of the Board of Directors, I have been honored to collaborate with some of the brightest minds in LGBTQ activism, Queer Studies, and sexuality research in the country. We have had an enormous year starting with Cathy Cohen’s brilliant Kessler Lecture and continuing with the launch of initiatives with national and international reach – particularly the LGBT Scholars of Color Network and the Queers & Comix Conference.

I first came to a CLAGS conference in the mid-90s. As a young HIV activist, I was thrilled to be part of an intellectually stimulating conversation that pushed the boundaries of sex, family and community. Since then, I’ve attended events sporadically whenever my personal, professional and academic interests aligned with the organization. I have seen the dynamic growth of CLAGS, supporting the growth of Queer Studies while providing space for key conversations about our histories, differences, communities, and institutions. Even when CLAGS programming did not follow my particular interests, I understood that it reflected someone else in our community, some other trains of thought. And I was happy to see it happen, knowing that CLAGS was inspiring someone to think deeper or differently, or to know that their experience has value.

As the Board Chair of CLAGS, I have been part of a difficult transition in the organization – successfully shoring up our economic and institutional relationships with the leadership of new Executive Director Kevin Nadal. The diversity of our Board of Directors now mirrors the broader LGBTQ community, and I’m proud to be the Chair of a Board that has 100% participation in donation of personal funds and resources to support CLAGS. Together, we have challenged each other to new directions in Queer Studies, LGBTQ activism, and research in sex and sexuality. CLAGS is on its way to serving as a truly interdisciplinary research center on LGBTQ issues and Queer Studies.

In the coming year, the CLAGS Board of Directors will gain new leadership in David Rivera and Marta Esquillin – who will serve as Co-Chairs. Both are passionate leaders in their fields, and bring a wealth of experience in research and community organizing. CLAGS will continue to thrive with the support of you, and I hope to see you at a CLAGS event.

Sincerely,

Andrew Spieldenner, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Rhetoric
Hofstra University
LGBTQ SCHOLARS OF COLOR NETWORK AND CONFERENCE

With the support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Arcus Foundation, and the Andrus Family Fund, CLAGS was able to launch the LGBTQ Scholars of Color Network and Conference. We first began with a meeting on October 30, 2014, in which we invited individuals who identified as LGBTQ, as people of color, and as scholars or researchers. There were about 70 individuals in attendance. We then held our inaugural LGBTQ Scholars of Color Conference, which was held from April 8-10, 2015.

The goals of the meetings were to: (1) increase exposure of advanced research careers; (2) increase exposure of research on underrepresented populations; (3) provide professional networking and mentoring opportunities; and (4) provide underrepresented scholars access to community and a voice in the academy or prospective fields of research. The agenda for the conference included keynote presentations by Dr. David Malebranche (University of Pennsylvania), Dr. Tania Israel (University of California- Santa Barbara), and Geena Rocero (supermodel and transgender rights advocate). We also had many panels focusing on everything from being a successful LGBTQ scholar of color to areas of research affecting LGBTQ communities of color and more. We also had breakout sessions, which included everything from the tenure process to working with community-based organizations. We had a speed mentoring session, which matched more senior mentors with early career professionals and students. And finally, we had several networking receptions, where individuals were able to meet other colleagues and socialize.

The conference was quite successful. We accepted 200 participants and speakers for the conference (We had over 400 people apply to participate). Participants represented various parts of the country, including the Northeast, West Coast, the South, and the Midwest. Our evaluations indicated that responses were very positive overall. Nearly all of the participants found the conference to be a valuable professional experience and would attend future conferences. Participants enjoyed the format of the plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and keynote speakers. Many participants expressed how supportive, encouraging, informative, and transformative the conference was. Many reported that they valued the opportunity to be their authentic selves in an academic and professional environment without someone treating them differently.

CLAGS hopes to continue to the LGBTQ Scholars of Color Network in the future, while also encouraging for the network to expand across the country.

THE QUEERS & COMICS CONFERENCE, PRESENTED BY CLAGS

The Queers & Comics Conference, presented by CLAGS, was the first university-based LGBTQ cartoonists’ conference, and was a resounding success. On May 7-8, 2015, over 100 international LGBTQ cartoonists and scholars participated on 38 panels and workshops to discuss their craft, and to document the history and significance of Queer Comics. Keynote speakers Howard Cruse and Alison Bechdel highlighted the evenings with their moving slide show presentations. Special guest, Japanese master cartoonist Gengoroh Tagame, also presented his exciting work. During the conference, a digital exhibit of attending cartoonists’ art was displayed, as well as cartoon sculptures by Rica Takahama. Over 400 cartoonists, comics fans, students, and scholars attended the conference.

The conference was created and organized by cartoonist Jennifer Camper, assisted greatly by André Carrington, Prism Comics, many volunteers, and all the hard working CLAGS staff, especially Jasmina Sinanovic and Yana Calu. Queers & Comics highlighted the pioneers of queer comics, including cartoonists creating openly queer work in the 1970s and early 1980s, and a “Gay Comic” reunion of all the editors, the founding publisher, and many contributors to the 25 issues of the groundbreaking comic book. Other panel topics included “Queer Comics, Health and Disability,” “A Trans/Gender/Queer Roadtrip,” “Creating Queer Characters of Color,” “Queer Comics on the Web,” “Queers Working in Mainstream Comics” and “Wet and Sticky: Female Sexuality in Queer Comics.”

Along with the two day conference at the Graduate Center, there were three days of additional events at other venues, including a Drink & Draw Launched at the Queer Pin Uppers, a reading and slide show by 30 cartoonists at the School of Visual Arts, and a postconference cartoonists’ lunch. A group of cartoonists also attended “Fun Home,” the Broadway musical based on Alison Bechdel’s memoir, and had a private QA with Alison and the entire cast.

“Queer Pin Ups,” decks of playing cards, were created with art donated by 54 LGBTQ cartoonists and were sold to help raise funds, along with t-shirts bearing the Q&C logo. Additional funding was raised through grants and membership fees.

The great success of this event was reflected in the many raves from attendees and press reviews. This event generated numerous new queer cartooning projects and countless working relationships. Future Queers & Comics conferences are in the early planning stages.

Cartoonist Jennifer Camper’s books include “Rude Girls and Dangerous Women” and “subCURLZ,” and she edited two “Juicy Mother” comics anthologies. Her work appears in many publications, comic books and anthologies, and has been exhibited internationally. She edited the “Queer Pin-Ups” playing cards and is the creator/coordinator of the Queers & Comics Conference, CLAGS, CUNY Grad Center, NYC, 2015.
The 2015 LGBT Health Workforce Conference was the third annual conference of its kind and took place from May 13, 2015 at Hunter College CUNY. Co-sponsored by CLAGS, the conference was led by the LGBT Committee of the Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians Initiative and the Women and Gender Studies Program of Hunter College. This conference provided an overview of up-to-date practices (climate and educational) in preparing the health care workforce to address the health concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities and was designed for health professionals (M.D., D.O., P.A.C., nurses, dentists, podiatrists, social workers, psychologists, etc.), educators, and students (pre-health professions, professional schools, and graduate). A summary of the first conference, held in 2013, is published in LGBT Health titled First Annual LGBT Health Workforce Conference: Empowering Our Health Workforce to Better Serve LGBT Communities.

CLAGS Board Member Dr. JP Sanchez, a CLAGS Board member and Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Jen Gaboury, a former CLAGS Board Chair and Professor at Hunter College served as conference co-coordinators.

Rainbow Book Fair by Sarah Chinn

The New York Rainbow Book Fair is America’s oldest LGBTQ book fair and the largest LGBTQ book event in the country. It has grown every year since its beginning in 2009. It brings together thoughtful, interesting people of all ages, from early teens to those in their 70s and 80s; from a spectrum of countries, ethnicities, gender identities, and viewpoints. It attracts readers and writers of course, but also publishers, editors, agents, and media attention—people who have never experienced queer culture, and others who have made it the focus of their lives.

Rainbow Book Fair is the most exciting LGBTQ book event in the U.S. The 7th Annual New York Rainbow Book Fair featured more than 100 publishers, writers, poets, editors, booksellers, and the over 1000 readers who love and buy their books. We sponsored panels on LGBT Memoir and Biography, Queer Black Writing in the 1980s, and Queer Jewish Writers. The Fair welcomed award-winning featured readers: novelists Dale Peck and Martha Shelley, biographer David Margolick, activist and memoirist Kelly Cogswell, and poets Mark Doty and Saeed Jones.

Our Poetry Salon, “See Hear,” was jam packed as usual, as were the prose readings that lasted throughout the day.

We are thrilled to announce that the 8th Annual Rainbow Book Fair will be at John Jay College on April 9th, 2016. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sarah Chinn teaches in the English department at Hunter College, where she’s also department chair. Her work primarily explores questions of race, gender, sexuality and national identity particularly in 19th century America. She was executive director of CLAGS from 2007 to 2011.
ON BLACK DEATH & LGBTQ POLITICS: 
BY JESSIE DANIELS

In December, I attended the Kessler Award lecture and ceremony in honor of Professor Cathy J. Cohen (University of Chicago) titled #Do Black Lives Matter? From Michael Brown to CeCe McDonald: On Black Death and LGBTQ Politics.” Cohen’s large body of work at the intersection of race, class, gender, and sexuality includes the well known 1997 GLQ article “Punks, Bulldaggers and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics”.

Cohen began by screening devastating video of the murders of Eric Garner, John Crawford III, Kajeme Powell, Oscar Grant, and Tamir Rice, to “re center us and remind us what the movement is about.” Cohen discussed the context surrounding the murder of Michael Brown as a “multicultural turn in neoliberalism,” defining neoliberalism as a “prioritizing of markets and a corresponding commitment to the dismantling or devolution of social welfare.”

Cohen argues that with the election of Barack Obama as the first African American president, neoliberalism has taken a “multicultural turn” that requires us to “complicate our understanding of state power and neoliberal agendas.” About this, and as part of her critique of Obama, she said:

Colorblind racial ideology, by both decrying racism and designating antiracism as probably one of the country’s newfound core values, actually works to obscure the relationship between identity and privilege. Thus, through colorblind ideology one can claim to be in solidarity with black people while at the same time ignoring the condition of poor black people, faulting them for their behaviors or lack of a work ethic and not their race. Moreover, one could declare that ‘black lives matter’ while undermining any state-sponsored programs that would address the special needs of poor black people. One could say, in fact, that I’m heartbroken with the death of Trayvon Martin because if I had a son, he would look like Trayvon, and recognize that that means nothing in terms of justice for black people.

She began with this turn because “it is a reminder of the sustained attack on the basic humanity of poor black people that provides the context in which we should understand the killing of young black people, in particular young black men, and the less visible assaults on black women and the murder of black trans people.”

The second section, “Performing Solidarity: LGBT Complicity = Black Death,” was a thorough recap of critiques made by Urvashi Vaid, Lisa Duggan, Dean Spade and Michael Warner of the way that mainstream (read: predominantly white) LGBT organizations have prioritized a neoliberal agenda with policies that emphasize marriage, access to the military and increased criminalization through hate crime legislation.

Continuing into “This is Not the Civil Rights Movement: The Queering of Black Liberation,” Cohen addressed the possibility of transformational politics. She showed video of Tory Russell from Hands Up United, one of the grassroots groups organizing in Ferguson, Missouri responding to Gwen Ifill (PBS) about what he sees:

I mean it’s younger, it’s fresher I think we’re more connected than most people think. I don’t, this is not the civil rights movement, you can tell by how I got a hat on, I got my t-shirt, and how I rock my shoes. This is not the civil rights movement. This is an oppressed peoples’ movement. So when you see us, you gonna see some gay folk, you gonna see some queer folk, you gonna see some poor black folk, you gonna see some brown folk, you gonna see some white people and we all out here for the same reasons, we wanna be free.

In many ways, Russell articulates Cohen’s vision for transformational politics and what she refers to as substantive, rather than performative, solidarity. Cohen, along with a growing chorus of voices, sees what is happening now as a movement, rather than simply a momentary response to aggressive policing. Cohen describes this movement, as Tory Russell said, made up of some gays, some queer folk, some poor black people, some brown folks, some white folks, ...all of them united in their position as oppressed people, aka politically queer, and all fighting for freedom, not marriage, not increased criminalization, not access to the military, but for freedom.”

You can view read Jessie Daniels’ complete review here or: bit.ly/1EnyzYE and watch Cohen’s lecture (at 25:50) and read the transcript here.
The inaugural José Esteban Muñoz Award was created to honor an LGBTQ community leader or activist for their advocacy and promotion of LGBTQ Studies. The winner will be invited to host a public program during June for LGBTQ Pride Month at the CUNY Graduate Center.

José Esteban Muñoz was a pioneer in LGBTQ studies. He was the author and editor of several books that grappled with issues of race, gender, and sexuality including Cruising Utopia: The Politics and Performance of Queer Futurity and Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics. He was also a professor and former Chair of the Department of Performance Studies at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. He passed away in December 2013.

The first person to receive the Muñoz award was Janet Mock. Janet Mock is the New York Times bestselling author of Redefining Realness. Currently, she hosts the weekly culture show “So POPular!” on MSNBC’s Shift network and serves as Contributing Editor for Marie Claire. She is one of the most visible transgender women in the country and continues to advocate for the lives of transgender people, people of color, and all marginalized groups.

Ms. Mock received her award on June 22, 2015. A packed audience filled the Elebash Recital Hall at the Graduate Center, hearing her speak in a conversational dialogue with CLAGS Executive Director, Dr. Kevin Nadal. They talked about everything from the #BlackLivesMatter movement to transgender rights to intersectionalities and more. The evening concluded with Ms. Mock receiving her award from the incoming CLAGS Board Co-Chairs Marta Esquilin and Dr. David Rivera.
BOYS: An Anthology (Thought Catalog, 2013). Dr. Michael Kimmel, A Distinguished Professor of Sociology at SUNY Stony Brook moderated an amazing panel that featured the anthology’s co-editors Zach Stafford and Nico Lang, as well one contributor Noah Michelson, who is also Executive Editor of Gay Voices on The Huffington Post.

Our biennial seminar in the series course this year was taught by Dr. Crystal Jackson of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, who is also the author of The State of Sex: Tourism, Sex, and Sin in the New American Heartland (Routledge, 2010). Dr. Jackson led the free, four-part livestreamed course on the sociopolitics of sexual labor and those in the sex trade in New York City, specifically focusing on how LGBTQ voices inform new ways of understanding class inequality, gender-based discrimination, and sexual rights. The course paid particular attention to local sex worker rights activist efforts, including the work of organizations such as the Red Umbrella Project and the Sex Workers Project.

Our Queerness in Athlecsm panelist featured athletes, coaches, researchers, and activists involved in the LGBTQ sports movement, who highlighted socialization practices that exist within athletics and how the culture of sports both helps and hinders the development of LGBTQ identity. Using personal experiences as a starting point, panelists discussed how gender and/or sexual identity allows for bonding and group formations that have helped shape identity as well stimulate change for LGBTQ culture as a whole.

The latest in our Performing Queeries series featured legendary downtown performance artist Peggy Shaw’s performance of selections from her solo repertoire and work in the performance troupe Split Britches, including her most recent internationally acclaimed performance piece, Ruff. In conversation with former CLAGS staff member Benjamin Gillespie (The Graduate Center, CUNY), Shaw will discussed how her past inflected her current performance work, both solo and collaborative.

Similarly, as the population of seniors in the U.S. steadily increases, discussions about quality of life, disability, and care for seniors often assume readily available familial networks and support from children. This assumption fails to account for bonded and group formations that have helped shape identity as well stimulate change for LGBTQ culture as a whole.

We opened the year with Amin Ghaziani, author of There Goes the Gayborhood? (Princeton UP 2014) and Robert McRuer, and Cynthia Wu and reflected upon the past, present, and future of theorizing and organizing at the intersection of queerness and disability. Moderator Akemi Nishida (CUNY GC) facilitated participants in a lively discussion about how we can think about queerness and disability in intersectional ways.

As a main tenet of CLAGS’s mission is to bring communities of scholars, activists, artists, and researchers together, we also hosted an end of year social, as well as a end of year pride party at the historic Stonewall Inn. We look forward to connecting with and growing CLAGS’s membership in the years to come, and offer a heartfelt thank you to all our members, speakers, and volunteers whose work makes our programming possible.

EVENTS

The series of CLAGS programming for the year of 2015-16 was called Q of Life a theme that explored how LGBTQ identity challenges the concept of a normative life cycle. These events proposed queered models of what it means to live or possess a “quality” life. Recognizing that normative ideals are often heteroexist and transphobic, our programming centered upon the lives of queers working within, and against, various economies of marginalization. CLAGS’ events thus focused on alternatives to what constitutes a “quality” life from different perspectives ranging in age, race, gender, gender identity, sex orientation, and economic status. In addition to hosting three conferences, our programming sought to explore the multitudes contained in queer lives.

We opened the year with Amin Ghaziani, author of There Goes the Gayborhood? (Princeton UP 2014) and Graduate Center visiting fellow Christina Hanhardt, author of Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of Violence (Duke UP 2013) for a discussion on Gayborhoods and the Politics of Safe Spaces, where both scholars queried how and why the city has been and remains a key site in the history and formation of queer community. This event was moderated by CLAGS Board Member Christopher Adam Mitchell of Rutgers University.

In October, we partnered with The Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities at Stony Brook University for a panel on the bestselling anthology

boys: An Anthology (Thought Catalog, 2013). Dr. Michael Kimmel, A Distinguished Professor of Sociology at SUNY Stony Brook moderated an amazing panel that featured the anthology’s co-editors Zach Stafford and Nico Lang, as well one contributor Noah Michelson, who is also Executive Editor of Gay Voices on The Huffington Post.

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Similarly, as the population of seniors in the U.S. steadily increases, discussions about quality of life, disability, and care for seniors often assume readily available familial networks and support from children. This assumption fails to account for concerns specific to elderly populations. This event staged an important dialogue between scholar-organizers Anna Muraco and Nancy Giunta, providing valuable insight into how centering LGBTQ seniors shifts the ways we think about aging and care CLAGS was also proud to host two international scholars this year. Belgrade based activist and philosopher Dušan Maljković, founder of queer studies at the Centar za Kvir Studije at Belgrade’s Institute of Philosophy, spoke about the early links between Freudian psychoanalysis and queer theory and why he thinks it still may be possible to psychoanalysis to challenge mainstream politics of fixed homo/hetero oppositions and identities. Swedish choreographer and performer Carl Olof Berg performed from his work titled “The Andrology Showroom” put his own body at play, creating ambiguity, humour, intimacy in an exploration of the performance, production, and destabilization of masculinity and male privilege.

We were thrilled to also host “Butch Queens Up in Pumps: Gender, Performance, and Ballroom Culture in Detroit” by Dr. Markon M. Bailey professor of Gender and American Studies at Indiana University. Dr. Bailey’s rich first-person performance ethnography and memoir of dance, dress, and vogue ballroom competitions in Detroit’s black and Latino queer communities. By sharing his stories and experiences, Bailey demonstrated the ways such cultural formations are spaces of resistance that disrupt dominant notions of gender, sexuality, and community, and create alternative kinship structures. Finally, we closed out the year with a packed screening of new award-winning documentary “Kate Bornstein is a Queer & Pleasant Danger”. This documentary joined the legendary performance artist and writer, who has been exploding binaries and deconstructing gender for decades, on her latest tour, bearing witness to Kate as a trailblazing artist-theorist-activist who inhabits a space between male and female with wit, style and astonishing candor. We were honored to host a Q&A with Kate herself, along with the film’s director Sam Feder.

As a main tenet of CLAGS’ mission is to bring communities of scholars, activists, students, artists, and researchers together, we also hosted an end of semester social, as well as a end of year pre pride party at the historic Stonewall Inn. We look forward to connecting with and growing CLAGS’s membership in the years to come, and offer a heartfelt thank you to all our members, speakers, and volunteers whose work makes our programming possible.
Ronald Cummings
CLAGS Fellowship 2014
Power in the U.S. South.

Che Gossett - We Will Not Rest in Peace: AIDS Activism, Black Radicalism, Queer and/or Trans resistance
Che Gossett is a genderqueer writer and activist who works to excavate queer of color AIDS activist and trans archives. They have received a research grant from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University for their project on legacies of Black queer solidarity with Palestinian struggle, have been selected as a Martin Duberman visiting scholar with the New York Public Library and have published work in Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex and volume two of the Transgender Studies Reader.

Mab Segrest – ST EDM, Jayne County, and the Georgia-to-NYC Rural Queer Avant-Garde
Mab Segrest is Professor Emeriti of Gender and Women's Studies at Connecticut College. Segrest has worked for thirty-five years as a teacher, writer and activist in a range of movements on queer issues, anti-racism, and social and economic justice. Memoir of a Race Traitor (South End Press, 1994) was Editor's Choice in the Lambda Literary Awards, was named an Outstanding Book on Human Rights in North America by the Gustavus Myers Center on Human Rights, and was nominated for Non-Fiction Book of the year by the Southern Regional Council. She is currently living in Brooklyn and working on two books of social history on Georgia's state mental hospital at Milledgeville, the largest such institution in the world during the 1940s and 1950s as culmination of her work on identity, culture and power in the U.S. South.

Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies 2014
Mariana Romo-Carmona - The constitution of lesbian characters in the novels of Ibis Gómez-Vega and Ena Lucía Portela
Mariana Romo-Carmona is co-editor of Cuentos: Stories By Latinas, author of the novel, Living at Night, and Sobrevivir y otros complejos: Poemas en Ingiliano. Her Master's thesis is on deterritorialization and suicide in the work of surrealist Chilean poet, Carlos de Rokha, and begins her doctoral studies (Fall, 2014) in the Hispanic & Luso-Brazilian Lits. and Langs. Program at The Graduate Center, CUNY.

Paul Monette-Roger Horwitz Dissertation Prize 2014
Paul Monette-Roger Horwitz
Thomas W. Hafer
The Last of the Great Bohemians: Film Poetry, Myth, and Sexuality in Greenwich Village and the Atlantic, 1930-1975

Liron Cohen
The Death of a Lesbian - Death in Lesbian Theatre
Liron Cohen is an undergraduate CUNY BA student at Hunter College. Her unique degree is in Journalism / US Media and Culture. She is also the college newspaper’s theatre critic. Liron started her academic career as an international student from Israel. She has since then married her partner of four years and is now a happy equal resident of the US, thanks to the Supreme Court’s overturning of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.

The Robert Giard Fellowship Award 2014
Jaun Carlos Zaldívar - Alterations
ALTERATIONS follows J, a young trans person, as she sets out to reconnect with her estranged mother for the first time as a woman. Months prior, when Jesus told his bi-polar mother, Mary Jane, that he was going to transition into a woman, her mother had a heart attack. When Mary Jane came to, she did not remember her identity and now believes that she is someone else. ALTERATIONS chronicles a magical weekend escape where the two women meet as their new selves. When they challenge each other to face their worst fears, a new friendship blossoms that is independent from their blood ties.

The Robert Giard Fellowship Award 2014
Liron Cohen - The Death of a Lesbian - Death in Lesbian Theatre
Liron Cohen is an undergraduate CUNY BA student at Hunter College. Her unique degree is in Journalism / US Media and Culture. She is also the college newspaper’s theatre critic. Liron started her academic career as an international student from Israel. She has since then married her partner of four years and is now a happy equal resident of the US, thanks to the Supreme Court’s overturning of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.
The Paul Monette-Roger Horwitz Dissertation Prize - $1,000
This award, which honors the memories of Monette, a poet and author, and his partner, Horwitz, an attorney, will be given for the best dissertation in LGBTQ Studies, broadly defined, by a PhD candidate within the City University of New York system. The dissertation should have been defended in the previous year. Adjudicated by the fellowships committee of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies.

The Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies - $1,000
This award, which honors the memory of Sylvia Rivera, a transgender activist, will be given for the best book or article on any topic related to transgender studies during the year. Adjudicated by the CLAGS fellowships committee.

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.

*Award was not given in 2014-2015, but will be available again in 2015-2016.

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

EDWARD CARPENTER COLLECTION

The Graduate Center is a leader at CUNY in titles on gender, sexual orientation, queer theory, and other LGBT interdisciplinary subjects and authors. As LGBT Studies liaison at the Graduate Center Library, I am happy to unveil the curtain for collection development in this area. Students of all fields utilize LGBTQ resources, making selection for materials beneficial across all departments in the humanities and social sciences. High production of this broadening field is coupled with the high demand from researchers. Catering to the demand is possible via a partnership with the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS), making my job equipped for the challenge.

To provide context on a collection development partnership between a University Center and the library, allow me one moment to quote myself in a 2014 Graduate Center Library blog post, A Queer Library Collection:

After receipt of a generous bequest by long time CLAGS member Iver Kraft in 2000, an endowment was created in the name of poet and labor activist Edward Carpenter (1844-1929). Thanks to this endowment, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies administers the acquisition of materials and resources on books directly relevant to the fields of lesbian, gay, and gender studies, broadly defined, to be housed at the Graduate Center’s Mina Rees Library.

This past 2014-2015 fiscal year, a few new strategies were employed to spend the endowment of a little over $4,000, generated by the Carpenter Fund. Used exclusively to collect books, as opposed to films or electronic resources as in previous years, the Graduate Center Library has enlisted into Coutts OASIS Information Services, an ordering and collection development tool from Ingram Content Group. OASIS (Online Acquisitions and Selection Information System), recently acquired by Proquest, is the broadest database in the industry of print and E-book titles from large and small press publishers. Use of this collection development resource has made the demand to order LGBT specific books an efficient process.

In addition to using Coutts as a platform, I am also an LGBT Studies referee for Resources for College Libraries (RCL) a core bibliography of essential resources for undergraduate library collections. Developed by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), I am given the opportunity to review over one thousand LGBTI titles, and determine which form a core collection of LGBT studies. A part of the process for this work is to contribute to the development of a more appropriate taxonomy. Currently Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation are subcategories of Personal Identity in the taxonomy tree. There’s much to unpack and consider. Work with the RCL’s search platform allows for a depth in choosing to collect new titles. A final and most important step implemented this year was the generation of lists from recent CLAGS book-related events. Namely the Queer Comics Conference, the LGBT Bookfair, and the LGBT People of Color conference, each having robust take-aways with a ready list of authors and publishing companies. I happily read through bios and co-sponsors, then generated a list from which recently published books were reviewed and selected. While the Graduate Center Library consistently ensures acquisitions that are reflective of courses taught at the Graduate Center, due to the specificity of the demands of the Carpenter fund, to collect resources directly related to LGBT and gender studies means to think outside of the box.

Edward Carpenter (1844 – 1929) was an influential English author, social reformer, and leader in sexual freedom, enlightenment, and tolerance. His socialism advocated for a homosexual imprint in humanities and social sciences. High production of this broadening field is coupled with the high demand from researchers. Catering to the demand is possible via a partnership with the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS), making my job equipped for the challenge.

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CLAGS INTERNSHIP

My name is Nancy Amin, and for the Spring 2015 semester I worked as an intern at CLAGS. Currently, I attend John Jay and I am working towards a degree in Gender Studies, so CLAGS was a great fit for me. My internship allowed me to really understand the concepts I was learning in the classroom because they were now being applied to real situations with real people. It also gave me the opportunity to attend events where I gained a better understanding of concepts that I was being taught as I was interning helping me grasp them much easier. For my internship, I primarily helped Yana, the Events and Marketing coordinator as well as Jasmina Sinanović, the Finance director. Both were really patient with me as I learned how to send mass emails, update web pages, help organize volunteer lists, and complete paperwork. I attend a lot of community events, but I never had a chance to really get involved and see all the work and time that gets put in to it, or feel how rewarding it was when an event has ended and people leave discussing how much they enjoyed it. The work environment was so great and I've never worked with a better group of people (both staff and directors), and I look forward to volunteering/ interning with them the semesters to come.

VISITING SCHOLAR SPRING 2015

Ellie Gore: My visiting scholarship at CLAGS was a very enjoyable, informative, and inspiring experience. At this critical point in my studies, it was a privilege to be working in an environment where I could discuss ideas with fellow scholars and activists within the same field. It gave me the opportunity to get involved in CLAGS programmes and events, to share and get feedback on early findings from my research, and to build networks and research links for the future. The CLAGS team were also really welcoming and made me feel at home. I would thoroughly recommend the experience to other scholars!

Ellie Gore is completing her doctorate in the International Development Department at the University of Birmingham, UK. Her thesis is based on a yearlong ethnographic study of political and community organising among queer men, locally referred to as ‘sasɔf’, in Accra, Ghana. She is particularly interested in concepts of LGBTI rights and identity, and how these link to the lived experiences of Ghanaian sexual rights activists. Her research interests include queer, feminist, and postcolonial theory, gender and sexualities in Africa, and the anthropology of development.

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To become a member, you can make a secure donate online through our Network for Good page (https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1434026)
for communities impacted by oppression, violence, and marginalization.

In the journals New Media & Society, American Journal of Public Health, Gender & Society she is co editor (with Douglas Field) of a special issue of African American Quarterly, which explores the intersections of race, gender, sexuality and new media has appeared by the Ford Foundation that brings together scholars, activists, African American cultural studies. At Rutgers, she serves on the executive committee for the Institute for Research on Transnational Studies, and Disability Studies. She is working on a book manuscript entitled, Transcending Gender and Sexualities in 20th and 21st Century American Visual Texts.

Dr. Karen Jaffe is Assistant Professor of African Diaspora Studies at Baruch College of the City University of New York. She is a founding member of KOLUMN Magazine (www.columnmag.com), a team of Black intellectuals, artists and the media. She is the Director of the Black Student Center at Teachers College, Columbia University. Marta’s passion is everything is changing and they are the ones who were witnesses from the inside.”

Lesbian Review Worldwide. His book on Charles Ludlam titled Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in the Caribbean, 1966-1987.” He regularly teaches queer history at the Graduate Program of Literatures in English at Rutgers University. He regularly teaches courses on Caribbean and postcolonial studies, African diaspora literatures, feminist and postcolonial theories, and gender and sexuality studies. He has worked extensively on legacies of
discrimination, and data visualization specialist. Reconstituted fellow at the Digital and Computational Ethnography Research Laboratory at Bennington College the center is exploring artificial intelligence, and network visualization.

Marta Elena Esquilin is a poet who has been teaching at City University of New York since 1996, in the departments of Sociology, Political Science and Women’s Studies. She holds a PhD in Sociology (University of Texas Austin) and is a founding member of WOCSHN (Women of Color Sexual Health Network). She is working particularly with Asian/American cultural groups and has written about the intersections of Black and kink communities. She teaches and writes about Caribbean and postcolonial studies, postcolonial theories, and gender and sexuality studies.

Bianca Laureano is an award-winning LGBTQ historian who teaches in the US and Canada. Laureano’s research, training, and teaching are focused on the intersections of Black and Black diasporic communities. She is working on a book manuscript entitled, Transcending Gender and Sexualities in 20th and 21st Century American Visual Texts. She is working on a book manuscript entitled, Transcending Gender and Sexualities in 20th and 21st Century American Visual Texts.

Bina Laskar is a sociological historian and journalist. Her scholarship is 

Maisa Elena Espinola is a social justice educator, multilingual multimedia advocate, and the director of the undergraduate community and diversity education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Maisa’s passions and research are focused on the importance of language and the necessity of language. She advocates for the importance of language to create social change.

Tei Okamoto is a poet who has been teaching at City University of New York since 1996, in the departments of Sociology, Political Science and Women’s Studies. She holds a PhD in Sociology (University of Texas Austin) and is a founding member of WOCSHN (Women of Color Sexual Health Network). She is working particularly with Asian/American cultural groups and has written about the intersections of Black and kink communities. She teaches and writes about Caribbean and postcolonial studies, postcolonial theories, and gender and sexuality studies.

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Kevin Nadal, Ph.D. Executive Director

In addition to his work at CLAGS, Kevin Nadal is an Associate Professor of Psychology at both John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center CUNY. He is the president of the Asian American Psychological Association, as well as national trustee of the Filipino American National Historical Society. He has written over 60 journal articles and 5 books, including That's So Gay: Microaggressions and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community. He is married to RJ Mendoza Nadal, the Civil Rights Community Relations Specialist of the Kings County District Attorney's Office, and they live in Manhattan with their 8 year old, 8 pound chihuahua.

Jasmina Sinanović Director of Finance and Administration

Jasmina Sinanović teaches, thinks and performs. Originally from former Yugoslavia, Jasmina identifies as an artist and thinker in exile and a member of Balkan diaspora. New York City is and has been for over a decade Jasmina’s intellectual home and sanctuary. Jasmina teaches at the Women Studies Department at City College and the Department of Communication, Arts and Sciences at the Bronx Community College. Jasmina holds an M.F.A in Dramaturgy from Stony Brook University and M.A. in Theatre from CUNY. As an active member of WOW Café Theater, a woman and trans* people theater collective in East Village Jasmina has created and produced several works there. As a performing artist Jasmina touched audiences across the U.S and internationally, Jasmina is a founding member of Balkan Queer Initiative.

Noam Parness

Memberships and Fellowships Director Noam Parness is a genderqueer art lover and intellectually curious human. They received their B.A in Philosophy and Jewish Studies from CUNY Queens College. Most of Noam’s interests lie within the intersections of queer history, art, and activism. In addition to their work at CLAGS, Noam works at the Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art as a Curatorial Administrative Assistant. They have also volunteered with a number of queer arts organizations, such as MIX NYC and the Pop Up Museum of Queer History.

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.