MISSION STATEMENT

CLAGS: 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.
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Dear CLAGS Family:

For the past year, I’ve had the pleasure of serving as Executive Director of CLAGS, and I am so proud of the work that our center, particularly with the help of our CLAGS Staff and Board of Directors, has accomplished.

We hosted two amazing conferences – our LGBTQ Scholars of Color Conference and our 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.

Next year, 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.

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
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 LGBTQ Scholars of Color Network and the Queers & Comis 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 your support, 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

BY KEVIN NADAL

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, 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 held 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 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, 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 Takashima. 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 Sinanović and Yana Calou.

Queers & Comics highlighted the pioneers of queer comics, including cartoonists creating openly queer work in the 1970s and early 1980s, and a “Gay Comix” 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 Dis/Ability,” “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.” Most conference events were videotaped and will be archived for future viewing.

Along with the two day conference at the Graduate Center, there were three days of additional events at other venues, including a Drink & Draw Launch Party, “Queer Comix Live!”, 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 Q&A 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 from New York Council for the Humanities, Gill Foundation and CUNY Diversity Grant.

The great success of this event was reflected in the many rewrites from attendees and press. 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 “subGURLZ”, 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

By Kevin Nadal

The 2015 LGBT Health Workforce Conference was the third annual conference of its kind and took place from May 1-3, 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 (prehealth 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."

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 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 over 1,000 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 jampacked 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 9, 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.
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.
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, Kaijeme Powell, Oscar Grant, and Tamir Rice, to “recenter 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 newly found 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 denigrating 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 a video of Tory Russell from Hands Up United, one of the grassroots groups organizing in Ferguson, Missouri responding to Gwen Ifill (PBS) about what she 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 and read Jessie Daniels’ complete review here bit.ly/1EnyzYE and watch Cohen’s lecture (at 25:50) and read the transcript here http://www.clags.org/downloads/fellowships/Cohen_CLAGS_Transcript_121214.pdf
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 is invited to host a public program during June for LGBTQ Pride Month at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

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.
The 2015 CLAGS programming series 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 heterosexist 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, sexual 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 organizing and imaginary of LGBT spaces as “safe spaces.” The 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 as one contributor Noah Michelson, who is also Executive Editor of Gay Voices on *The Huffington Post*.

Our Seminar in the City 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 Athleticism panel featured athletes, coaches, researchers, and activists involved in the LGBTQ sports movement who highlighted socialization practices that exist within athleticism 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 Que(e)ries series featured legendary downtown performance artist Peggy Shaw’s 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 discussed how her past inflected her current performance work, both solo and collaborative.

Since the systems of oppression that coalesce around queerness and disability are intimately intertwined, CLAGS hosted a panel on queerness and dis/ability to foreground the interrelations between compulsory heterosexuality and compulsory ablebodiedness.
This roundtable featured current research from scholars Cathy Hannabach, Robert McRuer, Cynthia Wu and reflected upon the past, present, and future of theorizing and organizing at the intersection of queerness and disability. Moderator Akemi Nishida (The Graduate Center, CUNY) facilitated participants in a lively discussion about how we can think about queerness and disability in intersectional ways.

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 LGBTQ and other seniors with alternative forms of kinship systems, while LGBTQ political organizing rarely accounts for concerns specific to elderly populations. Thus, an event, Queer Aging 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 for 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” putting 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. Marlon M. Bailey, professor of Gender and American Studies at Indiana University and CLAGS’s 2012 Joan Heller-Diane Bernard Fellowship winner. Dr. Bailey’s book provides a 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 the 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 and 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 along with the film’s director, Sam Feder.
The Martin Duberman Fellowship 2014
Mab Segrest – ST EOM, 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.

CLAGS Fellowship 2014
Ronald Cummings - Queer Marronage and Caribbean Writing
Ronald Cummings is currently Assistant Professor of Postcolonial Studies at Brock University. He was the 2013-2014 postdoctoral research fellow in Critical Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University. His research focuses on representations of queerness and marronage in Caribbean writing and cultural discourse.

Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies 2014
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.

Paul Monette-Roger Horwitz Dissertation Prize 2014
Thomas W. Hafer completed his Ph.D. in History at the Graduate Center, CUNY in 2014. His dissertation, “The Last of the Great Bohemians”: Film Poetry, Myth, and Sexuality in Greenwich Village and the Atlantic, 1930-1975”, examines the modernist
identity, art, and sexuality of a group of bohemian artists as they encounter postmodernist art and gay liberation in the 1960s and 1970s. He regularly teaches history at John Jay College, Brooklyn College, and St. Francis College.

**Graduate Student Paper Award 2014**

**Mariana Romo-Carmona** - *The constitution of lesbian characters in the novels of Ibis Gómez-Vega and Ena Lucia Portela*

Mariana Romo-Carmona is co-editor of *Cuentos: Stories By Latinas*, author of the novel, *Living at Night*, and *Sobrevivir y otros complejos: Poems in Englillano*. 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.

**Undergraduate Student Paper 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 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, his 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 escapade 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.

Cuban-born, Zaldívar lives and works in the United States. He completed both his BFA and a Masters of Fine Arts at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where he has also taught as an adjunct faculty. He has also taught as full-time faculty at Miami International University’s Institute of Art and Design. Zaldívar started his film career as a sound editor and designer; his work can be heard in Academy Nominated films such as Ang Lee’s *Sense and Sensibility,* “On the ropes” and on HBO’s *America Undercover,* for which he garnered an Emmy nomination. His film and video art works have screened at many festivals worldwide and broadcast on PBS, ABC, IFC, Showtime and WE. He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards. His directing credits include “90 Miles” (PBS), “The Story of the Red Rose” (Showtime), “Palingenesis” and “Soldiers Pay” (IFC), co-directed with David O. Russell (Three Kings, The Fighter) and Tricia Regan (Autism, the musical). He has served as a Juror for several major film festivals including the Sundance International Film Festival. He is a Sundance Film Institute alumnus. He has recently co-founded the Miami Filmmakers Collective with a generous grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Art Challenge grant and a matching grant from the Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.
CLAGS FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

CLAGS Fellowship Award - $2,000
An award to be given annually for a graduate student, an academic, or an independent scholar for work on a dissertation, a first book manuscript, or a second book manuscript. The CLAGS Fellowship is open to intellectuals contributing to the field of LGBTQ studies. Intended to give the scholar the most help possible in furthering their work, the fellowship will be able to be used for research, travel, or writing support.

The Martin Duberman Fellowship - $7,500
An endowed fellowship named for CLAGS founder and first executive director, Martin Duberman, this fellowship is awarded to a senior scholar (tenured university professor or advanced independent scholar) from any country doing scholarly research on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or 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, early or mid-career artist, from any country, working in photography, photo-based media, video, or moving image, including short-form film or video. The award now alternates annually between artists working exclusively with still images (photography) and those working with moving images (video or film). In either case, this award will support a directed project, one that is new or continuing, that addresses issues of sexuality, gender, or LGBTQ identity.

The Kessler Award - $2,500
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.

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 LGTBQ 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.

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 to appear in transgender studies during the year.

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

BY SHAWN(TA) SMITH

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 students and researchers. Catering to the demand is possible via a partnership with the CLAGS: Center for LGBTQ Studies, 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 Ivor 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 $4000, 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 Ebook 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 LGBT 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 subject-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 ACRL’s RCL coupled with the COUTTS 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 and Comics Conference, the Rainbow Book Fair, and the LGBTQ Scholars of Color conference, each having robust take-a-ways 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 conversations of social change and public education. The Mina Rees Library is committed to a collection that represents the mission of the Carpenter Endowment. LGBTQ book recommendations can be emailed to the LGBT Studies Liaison at ssmith4@gc.cuny.edu.
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 College of Criminal Justice, CUNY 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. For my internship, I primarily helped Yana Calou, the Events and Programs Manager 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 into 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, and I look forward to volunteering/interning with them the semesters to come.”

Liner Nunez: “At CLAGS I had the opportunity of interning with an amazing team of individuals. They were welcoming and understanding, two principal qualities that are essential to an organization dedicated to the LGBTQ community. I recognized the staff’s genuine interest and passion in advocating for the LGBTQ community, with their ingenuity and focus on expanding and developing through CLAGS’ events. CLAGS is not only a university-based research center, but a true community for LGBTQ individuals. It was a pleasure to intern for CLAGS.”

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 course work in their academic discipline. If you are interested in interning with CLAGS, please take a look at our website for complete information at: http://www.clags.org/support/intern-volunteer-at-clags/.
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 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; to promote and facilitate interaction among the participants including fellows funded by other sources; to facilitate the dissemination of the researcher’s findings through lectures via CLAGS’s ongoing Events Series.

The CLAGS Scholar-in-Residence will be allowed to spend up to six months in residence. Beyond a CLAGS affiliation, fellows will receive office space, access to libraries and electronic databases, as well as opportunities to meet and work with leading LGBTQ scholars in New York City. No monetary stipend is available to fellows.

The Fellowship Program is open to all disciplines with projects that are related to LGBTQ studies. Creative writing (works of poetry and fiction) and projects that result in a performance are not eligible. Applicants finishing dissertation topics are welcome to apply.

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 ‘sasoi’, 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.

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!”
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CLAGS Membership

Each year, CLAGS’s 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 donate online through our Network for Good page (https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1434026)
We kicked off the year with our first ReGenerate party, with some guest appearances by Council Members Corey Johnson (Manhattan), Daniel Dromm (Queens), Nathan Lee Graham (Hit & Run, Zoolander), Carmelita Tropicana (Obie Award Winner), cast members of Logo’s hit show “Hunting Season” + more!

Open Bar sponsored by: Van Gogh Vodka & Gus Sodas
Music provided by: DJ Mel Corpus
Emceed by: Karen Jaime and Regie Cabico
Performances by: J Mase III (black/trans/queer poet) and Cedric Leiba, Jr. (Broadway performer).
Host Committee: Daniel Auld, Lorial Crowder, Marta Esquilin, Monroe France, Risë Nelson, Jarad Ringer, David Rivera, and Tanya Domi
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 the semester social, as well as an end of the year pre-pride party at the historic Stonewall Inn. Performers were Sweet Lorraine, Sir Lewd Alfred Douglas, Gina Toni Wheeler and Jz Bich. We look forward to connecting with and growing CLAGS’ 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.
Rich Blint is Associate Director of the Office of Community Outreach and Education in the School of the Arts at Columbia University where he also curates the built environments exhibition series at the university’s Medical Center Campus. A scholar of African American literature and culture, Rich is coeditor (with Douglas Field) of a special issue of African American Review on James Baldwin (forthcoming Winter 2013). He earned a Ph.D. in the Program in American Studies at New York University and has taught courses and guest lectured at New York University, Hunter College, and Vassar College. He currently serves on the the adjunct faculty for the Masters Program in African American Studies at Columbia.

Jessie Daniels is a Professor at Hunter College City University of New York (CUNY) with appointments in Public Health, Sociology and Psychology at The Graduate Center. She holds a PhD in Sociology (University of Texas Austin) and is the author of two books White Lies (Routledge, 1997) and Cyber Racism (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), both dealing with race, gender/sexuality and various forms of media. She is the director of JustPublics@365, a project funded by the Ford Foundation that brings together scholars, journalists and activists around social justice issues. Among her many research interests, is a study that explores the use of mobile technology among LGBTQ youth. Her work about race, gender, sexuality and new media has appeared in the journals New Media & Society, American Journal of Public Health, Gender & Society and Women’s Studies Quarterly. Aside from her time as an academic, Daniels also works in the Internet industry. Since 2007, she has maintained an academic/civilist blog (RacismReview.com) with Joe Feagin and was recently named one of “20 Inspiring Women to Follow on Twitter” by Forbes Magazine. You can find her there @JessieNYC.

Sean F Edgecomb is Assistant Professor of Theatre in the Department of Performing and Creative Arts at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York. His articles and have appeared in journals such as Theatre Journal, Modern Drama, Popular Entertainment Studies and The Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide. His book on Charles Ludlam and queer legacy is forthcoming from the Triangulations Series at University of Michigan Press. He is also an active director, serving as most recently having presented Machinal at The University of Queensland, Australia in 2013.

Marta Elena Esquilin is a social justice educator, multicultural affairs administrator, community builder, and diversity consultant. In addition to her consulting work with the Posse Foundation and various colleges and universities around the United States, she is currently the Director of Intercultural and Social Justice Programs within the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Columbia University. She holds a degree in Higher Education Administration from Teachers college, Columbia University. Marta’s passion and current work focuses on creating opportunities for students to have difficult dialogues about issues of social inequity that create schisms between communities. She is particularly interested in raising awareness about how micro aggressions manifest to create hostile environments for marginalized identities within work and school settings. Most recently, she has been developing trainings, assessment tools, and educational opportunities to address the impacts of micro aggressions within educational settings. Through her work, she is most committed to creating spaces for healing and liberation for communities impacted by oppression, violence, and marginalization.

Melinda Goodman is a poet who has been teaching at CUNY’s Hunter College since Audre Lorde recommended Melinda as her replacement. She has been an adjunct for 30 years. Here are some words that Melinda has written about her experience as a poet and teacher: “...I believe anybody can write who wants to. I find it interesting and encouraging that people want to express themselves. Often they are as scared as me and as bewildered and hurt and angry. Sometimes they have as much courage as I have or less or more. I like the group aspect of a workshop. Each workshop is different at its members. I feel like we are all on that bus together for that journey. Each person is a universe and it’s amazing we can even communicate at all. Each person is precious. I find it to be a spiritual experience. I find out a lot about myself. My students come from everywhere. To me it’s amazing that we all ended up on this bus at the same time. Who would’ve thought that the little girl sitting at the counter in the swirling heat of her parents’ Chinese takeout on 111th Street would grow up to write sitting on a tundra of the walkin freezer? We are privileged to get to hear what that little girl’s experience was like. I tell my students that they are writing the literature of their generation. I tell them to write about their neighborhoods and families while it’s fresh in their memories because everything is changing and they are the ones who will witness from the inside.”

Stephanie Hsu is an Assistant Professor in the English Department and in the Women’s & Gender Studies Department at Pace University. She is a founding member of G-WAVE, a grassroots organization for queer women and trans/gender variant people of Asian/South Asian/Pacific Islander descent in the tri-state area. She received her doctorate in English at New York University in 2011 and has also taught at UC-Santa Barbara and CUNY/Hunter College.

She teaches and has written articles on topics in the fields of Asian American Studies, Trans Studies, and Disability Studies. She is working on a book manuscript entitled Transgender Transnationalism: Immigrant Genders and Sexualities in 20th- and 21st-Century American Literature.

Dr. Karen Jaime is PostDoctoral Research Associate at Cornell University. She earned her Ph.D. in the Department of Performance Studies at New York University in May 2013. She is also an accomplished spoken word/performance artist. She served as the host/curator of the Friday Night Slam at the world-renowned Nuyorican Poets Cafe (2002-2005) and has also performed in such spaces as The Public Theater and The Town Hall in New York City. A published poet, she is featured in both: The Best of Pas! En Vivo From the East Village, and in Flicker and Flame: A Queer Anthology of Spoken Word and Poetry.

Bianca Laureano is an awardwinning LatinNegra sexologist who has been in the US sexology field for over 15 years. Her background is in Black and Latinx sexualities, education, media justice, and youth culture. She resides in New York City where she provides education, consultation, training, and skillshares on various topics in the sexuality field. Bianca earned a BA in Women’s Health & Latino Communities from the University of Maryland, a MA in Human Sexuality Education from NYU, and a MA in Women’s Studies from the University of Maryland. She is co-directing a feature-length documentary film titled BLACK PERVERT, about the intersections of Black and kink communities. She is a founding member of WOCINN (Women of Color Sexual Health Network) and founder of The LatinNegra@ Project and LatinoSexuality.com. Bianca is on the board of The Black Girl Project and Director of Education and Regional Programs at Scenarios USA. To find out more about Bianca visit her site BiancaLaureano.com.

Rick H. Lee is the Associate Director of the Tyler Clementi Center at Rutgers University. He regularly teaches courses on AIDS literature and film, gay and lesbian literature, and Asian American cultural studies. At Rutgers, he serves on the executive committee for the Institute for Research on Women and is the Coordinator of Asian American Studies Programming. He earned his PhD in literature in 2009 from the Graduate Program of Literature in English at Rutgers University. He has published articles in Literature and Medicine and torquere. His visual essay, AIDS 2.0, can be viewed on his website. He is working on a book project, The Unfinished History of AIDS: Reading and Remembering the
Christopher Adam Mitchell is a member of the History Department at Rutgers University New Brunswick, where he is writing a dissertation entitled, "Condensed to the Point of Explosion": Liberalization, Structural Change, and the Changing Market Culture of New York City’s Queer Sub-Cultures, 19661987. He regularly teaches queer history at both the New Brunswick and Newark campuses.

Angélique V. Nixon is a writer, scholar, teacher, community worker, artist and poet – born and raised in The Bahamas. She earned her Ph.D. in English specializing in Caribbean literature and culture at the University of Florida. She teaches and writes about Caribbean and postcolonial studies, African diaspora literatures, feminist and postcolonial theories, and gender and sexuality studies. She is in the process of publishing her first scholarly book titled Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Literature and Culture, forthcoming with University of Mississippi Press. Her work as scholar, cultural critic, and poet has been published widely in academic and literary journals, including Anthurium, Black Renaissance Noire, Macomer, Proud Flesh, small axe salon, and WomanSpeak. Angélique is deeply invested in grassroots activism and is involved with a number of community based organizations, including the grassroots healing collective Anti Resurrect, Caribbean BN, and Critical Resistance, among others. She is co-editor of the online multimedia collection Theorizing Homophobia in the Caribbean: Complexities of Place, Desire and Belonging. And she is author of the art and poetry collection Saltwater Healing - A Myth Memoir and Poems published by Poinciana Paper Press. Angélique will be a Fulbright Scholar with the Institute for Gender and Development at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, for the upcoming academic year (201415).

Nomvuyo Nolutshungu is an adjunct lecturer 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 transitional justice, human rights, and transnational sexuality and gender studies. 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, John Jay and Baruch Colleges of the City University of New York.

Tei Okamoto is the founder of two oral history projects (CurrentTides.org): The AIDS Epidemic and House Music: Twenty Years of Children of Color at Church, explores how the house music scene provided an alternative space of community and healing for queers of color in the midst of the devastation of the AIDS epidemic in the early to mid 1990s. Love and Affection: Growing Up in a Life and Time of HIV, which documents the life histories of those who have lost a parent or primary caregiver to AIDS. Tei is also the founder of p.i.s.s.: Public Intellectual Space(s). Which curates various political/intellectual/activist queer events. Recent panels include: Queer Gender(J)ections: How to Leave a Legacy in a BrokenAe Economy; Remembering Marlon Riggs; and Never Again: Baby: Juan Extravaganza and Queer Latino Performance. In 2013, Tei joined the international art collective, HOWDOYOUSAAYMINAFRICAN Collective (howdoyouusaayminafican.com).

David Rivera is an Assistant Professor of psychology at William Paterson University. A counseling psychologist by training, he also practices in college counseling centers and consults with institutions on climate issues affecting marginalized groups. Dr. Rivera holds degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Wyoming. His research focuses on issues impacting the well-being of marginalized people, focusing on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity. He is currently on the executive committee of the American Psychological Association’s Division 44 and is a consulting editor of the journal Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity.

Nick Salvato is Associate Professor in the Department of Performing and Media Arts at Cornell University. His first book, Unclothing Drama: American Modernism and Queer Performance (Yale University Press, 2010), is part of the series Yale Studies in English. Articles have appeared in such journals as Camera Obscura, Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, TDR: The Drama Review, Theatre Journal, Theatre Survey, and Modern Drama, where he guest-edited a special issue on “Gossip” and where he is the book review editor. His current book project, “Obstruction,” investigates the value to intellectual work of patently impedimental experiential phenomena like embarrassment, laziness, slowness, cynicism, and digestiveness.

C. Riley Snorton is an assistant professor at Cornell University. His research and teaching interests include rhetorical and cultural theory, queer diaspora, media anthropology, Africana studies, performance studies, and popular culture. He is the director of the short documentary Men at Work: Transitioning on the Job, and has published articles in the International Journal of Communication, Hyppathia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy, and Soul: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society. He has also contributed to numerous edited volumes, including The Comedy of Dave Chappelle: Critical Essays, Homophiles, and Trans(gender) Migrations. Snorton’s book Nobody Is Supposed to Know: Black Sexuality on the Down Low is currently under contract with the University of Minnesota Press. He has received several fellowships, including an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral fellowship at Pomona College and the Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation fellowship at Harvard University.

Andrew Spieldenner (Board Chair) earned his Ph.D. in Communication & Culture from Howard University with an emphasis on health. Dr. Spieldenner has held positions at the NYC Department of Health, Black AIDS Institute, the Latino Commission on AIDS and the National Association of People with AIDS. He is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech Communication, Rhetoric and Performance Studies at Hofstra University. Dr. Spieldenner is openly living with HIV and a longtime community advocate with twenty years serving highrisk populations including racial/ethnic minorities, gay men and people living with HIV/AIDS. His research focuses on HIV stigma and disclosure, intercultural communication, health communication, cultural studies and sexuality.

Kalle Westering is a performance and theatre scholar, currently working on two dissertations, one for Stockholm University in Sweden on the formation of the Swedish transgender movement, and another for The British Library. He is currently under contract with the University of Minnesota Press. He has received several grants from the Swedish Research Council and the Netherlands Cultural Foundation. Westering writes about contemporary queer culture in his work published in performers, theatre journals and in The British Library. His book Nobody Is Supposed to Know: Black Sexuality on the Down Low was published by University of Minnesota Press in 2014. He is currently under contract with the University of Minnesota Press. He has received several fellowships, including an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral fellowship at Pomona College and the Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation fellowship at Harvard University.

John Paul Sanchez, MD, MPH has focused his research on the health needs of the LGBTQ community in the areas of medical education and health disparities, in particular sexually transmitted infections and smoking cessation. He is a founding Board Member of the Bronx Lesbian and Gay Health Resource Consortium (currently the Bronx Community Pride Center). He currently serves as the Chairperson of the Entertainment, Tourism, and LGBT Steering Committee of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and is charged with building a supportive institutional climate to support the personal and professional development of students. Clinically, he practices emergency medicine at Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY.

Michael Yarborough is an assistant professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Yarborough’s research focuses on how law shapes people’s ideas about marriage and family, with a special focus on its consequences for hierarchies of race, class, gender, and sexuality. His current book manuscript explores these themes through comparative ethnographic research among two groups recently incorporated into South African marriage law: people living in communities governed by indigenous or “customary” law; and people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender. As the world’s only jurisdiction to have recently extended its marriage laws to multiple social groups, South Africa makes possible a novel comparison Yarborough uses to re-theorize the institutional and cultural bases of contemporary marriages. His article on these legal expansions came to be is forthcoming in Social Politics, and he has published other work in Qualitative Sociology Review and the Yale Journal of Law & Feminism. In his dissertation form, his current project was awarded a Fulbright Hays fellowship.
Staff

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’s Studies Department at City College and the Department of Communication, Arts and Sciences at the Bronx Community College, CUNY. 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 US 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 a 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 Graduate Center, CUNY 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.
**FINANCE REPORT**

**FUNDING SOURCES**

- **FOUNDATIONS**: $92,500.00
- **INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS**: $58,000.00
- **CUNY**: $21,500.00
- **ENDOWMENTS**: $12,000.00
- **OTHER**: $2,000.00

**TOTAL INCOME**: $186,000.00

**EXPENSES**

- **SALARIES**: $70,500.00
- **CONFERENCES**: $60,000.00
- **FELLOWSHIPS**: $27,250.00
- **RAINBOW BOOK FAIR**: $10,000.00
- **GENERAL PROGRAMING**: $10,000.00
- **OFFICE AND OUTREACH**: $5,000.00
- **CARPENTER COLLECTION**: $2,750.00
- **OTHER**: $500.00

**TOTAL INCOME**: $186,000.00