PROGRAM

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS
CONFERENCE, NEW YORK 2019

New York, March 13-15, 2019

www.humanrightsscny.org
CONFERENCE LOCATION

City College of New York
Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
Center for Worker Education
25 Broadway, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Note: A valid picture ID is necessary to enter the building; passport from any country or a US driver's license.

Conference Co-Chairs:
Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, CCNY
Dr. Danielle Zach, Adelphi University and CCNY

Organizing Committee
Kathlene McDonald (Chair, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences)
Rajan Menon (Anne and Bernard Spitzer Chair, Political Science)
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Irina Carlota Silber (Chair, Anthropology, Gender Studies, and International Studies)
Justin Williams (Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences)
Martin Woessner (Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences)
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrated its 70th birthday on December 10, 2018. Since that statement of principles following the mass atrocities of WWII, the world has witnessed the spread of human rights discourse, norms, law, and institutions at both the domestic and international levels. Eleanor Roosevelt’s prediction that “a curious grapevine” would spread the ideas articulated in that 1948 General Assembly document seems to have come to fruition. Nevertheless, the aspirations of the Declaration remain far from fulfilled, as grave violations of rights continue to be perpetrated around the globe, often with impunity. Economic inequality, racism, sexism, and multiple refugee crises have engendered and exacerbated the rise of political extremism. Addressing such issues, as well as many others, the Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference aims to explore the contested legacy of human rights in increasingly uncertain times. It seeks to foster dialogue and scholarship from a wide range of perspectives. Some conference presenters are scholars and activists who continue to view the human rights project as a moral and ethical challenge to power; others see it as an enabler of political and economic domination. The Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference participants gather to reassess the origins, foundations, and contemporary forms of human rights discourse, ideas, and practice today, seventy years on.

Conference presenters have institutional affiliations that span nearly twenty countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Nigeria, the Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference is part of a larger initiative at The City College of New York, CUNY—shared among the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Division of Humanities and the Arts, and the President’s Office—dedicated to human rights studies, public programming, and scholarship.
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 13

PANEL 1: MIGRANTS/REFUGEES

Is the Black Mediterranean Liberal Human Rights’ Achilles’ Heel?
Marcela F. González, CUNY, City College, and Lucas Arrimada, University of Buenos Aires

An Ethical Investigation into the EU Partnership with Libya to Curb Immigration
Angesom Ghebremeskel Teklu, Brandeis University

Why the Norms of International Cooperation and Responsibility Sharing for Refugees are Problematic? The Case of the EU in 2015 and the Failure of the Relocation Agreement with Greece
Ioanna Maria Kantartzì, Carleton University

Human Rights Violation Pointers for Migrants and their Families
Ngide Terence Hene, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg

PANEL 2: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Transnational Human Rights Norms Come of Age: Assertions, Influences, and Continuities in the Helsinki Final Act
David Pultz, CUNY, City College

From the World Foundation to the World Liberal Union. Salvador de Madariaga and Human Rights (1930-1948)
José Ramón Rodríguez Lago, University of Vigo

A Violent Interlude: Producing Banana Plantations and Human Rights in the Guatemalan Caribbean
Lilianna Quiroa-Crowell, CUNY Graduate Center

Activism and the College Experience: The Anti-Fascist Movement on the CCNY Campus in the 1930s
Isabel Estrada, CUNY, City College
PANEL 3: NATIONAL BELONGING

11:45 - 1:15
Room 7-50
Moderator: Susanna Rosenbaum, CUNY, City College

Medievalist Passports. Discussing the Right of Return for Sephardim and Andalusíes in post-2012 Spain
Carlos Yebra Lopez, New York University

Owning the Body, Embodying the Owner: Complexity and Discourses of Rights, Citizenship and Heritage of Southern African San-Bushmen
Luan Staphorst, Nelson Mandela University

Borders and the Borderless: Citizens and Migrants in the UAE
Sarah I. Han, Columbia University

PANEL 4: GENDER AND INTERSECTIONALITY

11:45 - 1:15
Room 7-52/3
Moderator: Kathlene McDonald, CUNY, City College

From Structural to Intersectional Discrimination
Cecilia Gebruers, Yeshiva University, Cardozo Law School

The Story of the Philippine Reproductive Health Law: Moral Discourses, Policymaking, and Human Rights
Maria Dulce F. Natividad, University of the Philippines Diliman

Female Prisoners in New York State: Are Their Rights to Non-Discriminatory Treatment Being Respected?
M. Victoria Pérez-Ríos, CUNY, John Jay College
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 13

PANEL 5: END OF CONFLICT, CONTINUATION OF VIOLENCE

2:00 - 3:30
Room 7-50
Moderator: Nicholas Rush Smith, CUNY, City College

- Counterinsurgency Without Insurgency: Insights on Criminal Violence from Mexican Narco-Messages
  Philip Luke Johnson, CUNY Graduate Center

- Human Rights Standards as a Framework for Humane Prisons
  Jennifer Peirce, CUNY John Jay College and Graduate Center

- "And These Are the Disposables": Social Cleansing in Colombia and Mexico
  Osha Smith-Gittelman, CUNY Graduate Center

- Pax Mafiosa or Peacebuilding, Are Gang Truces Successful Ways to Deal with Criminal Violence in Latin America? An Exploration of the Salvadoran 2012-2014 Gang Truce
  Andrés Besserer Rayas, CUNY Graduate Center

PANEL 6: MIGRANTS/REFUGEES II

2:00 - 3:30
Room 7-52/3
Moderator: Kathlene McDonald, CUNY, City College

- Alternatives to Immigration Detention – Adopting a Human Rights-Centered Approach in Canada
  Vanessa C. Wachuku, Ryerson University

  Nikki Reisch, Anjali Mehta and Ashley Miller, New York University

- The Possibility of a Human Rights-based Approach on Migration: Confronting the Vague Understanding of Human Rights in Estonia
  Maarja Sau, Estonian Institute of Human Rights

- The Exigency of Refugee Law in Light of the Rohingya Crisis in India
  Meghna Bajpai, Hidayatullah National Law University (undergraduate)

- Justice Empowerment: Strategies Beyond the Law to Promote Dignity and Rights in the U.S. Immigration System
  Beenish Riaz and Nikta Daijavad, New York University
PANEL 7: CIVILIAN PROTECTION

3:45 - 5:15
Room 7-50
Moderator: Danielle Zach, Adelphi University and CUNY, City College

1. Shielding Attackers from Responsibility: The Dilemma of Passive Precaution in Asymmetrical Conflicts
   Bruce Cronin, CUNY, City College

2. The European Union, Hybrid Threats, “Grey Zones” and the Challenge to Human Rights in the New Multi-domain Security Space
   David J. Garcia Cantalapiedra, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

3. R2P in Syria and Myanmar: Norm Violation and Advancement
   Jenna Russo, CUNY Graduate Center

4. UN Monitoring of Sanctions Violations and Human Rights Abuses
   Louis Charbonneau, Human Rights Watch and CUNY Graduate Center

PANEL 8: HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS I

3:45 - 5:15
Room 7-52/3
Moderator: Susanna Rosenbaum, CUNY, City College

1. Human Rights in the Context of Healthy Communities: Personal Responsibility and Societal Obligation
   Jerry Marx, University of New Hampshire

2. Thinking Through Racialized Rights Regimes in the US-Mexico Drug Politic Relation
   Emily Campbell, CUNY Graduate Center

3. LGBTQ+ and Access to Sexual Health
   Brivia Bobby, CUNY, City College (undergraduate)
OPENING CEREMONY

6:00 - 7:30 pm
Auditorium

Introductory Remarks, Vincent Boudreau, President of City College, CUNY

Keynote Address, Domna Stanton, Distinguished Professor of French
Critical Refugee Studies:
Rethinking Conventions, Securitization, Resistance

Domna Stanton, Distinguished Professor of French at the Graduate Center, CUNY, is the author, most recently, of *The Dynamics of Gender in Early-Modern France* (2014). In addition to her book, *The Aristocrat as Art*, Stanton is the editor of *The Female Autograph; The Defiant Muse*; and *Histories of Sexuality: From Aristotle to AIDS*. She coedited "A Woman who Defends all the Person of her Sex": *Selected Philosophical and Moral Writings of GabrielleSuchon* (2010), and *Enchanted Eloquence: Fairy Tales by 17th-century Women Writers* (2011). Stanton was president of the Modern Language Association in 2005 and editor of *PMLA* from 1992 to 1997; she co-edited with Judith Butler a special issue of *PMLA* (Fall, 2006) on the humanities and human rights, a field that has engaged her graduate teaching and writing over the past decade. Stanton sits on several non-profit boards and committees, including the Modern Language Association, Human Rights Watch, and Scholars at Risk. Stanton’s next book is *The Monarchy, the Nation and its Others: France in the Age of Louis XIV*. 
THURSDAY
MARCH 14

PANEL 9: CRITICAL APPROACHES

10:30 - 12:00
Room 7-50
Moderator: Martin Woessner, CUNY, City College

- Human Dignity: The Ultima Ratio in Genome Editing Programs
  Marisa Almeida Araújo, Universidade Lusíada

- Mapping LGBTIQ Inclusion and Mainstreaming
  Ariel Mekler, CUNY Graduate Center

- Postcolonial Theory and Human Rights: Exploring the Relevance of Postcolonial Perspectives with the Example of the Human Rights Discourse on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
  Monika Mayrhofer, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute

- The Future of Social Rights: Rethinking Critical Human Rights Locally
  Paula Fernandez-Wulff, Real Colegio Complutense, and José Manuel Martínez Sierra, Harvard University

- Both/And Paradigms in Critical Human Rights Theory
  Jeff Vesel, University of South Carolina

PANEL 10: COURTS

10:30 - 12:00
Room 7-52/3
Moderator: Itai Sneh, CUNY, John Jay College

- The European Court of Human Rights: a Victim of its Success? A Critical Assessment of recent Reforms
  Koen Lemmens, KU Leuven

- The Drafting History of the European Convention on Human Rights and its Current Limits in Responding to Authoritarian Rise
  Esra Demir-Gürsel, Freie Universität Berlin

- The Future of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction in Spain: A Reflection Based on the Cases of Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico
  Mónica Sánchez Girao, Amnesty International (Spain)

- A World Court of Human Rights? A Critical Assessment
  Anna Romaniszyn, University of Ottawa
From Human Rights to Humanity Law: The Current State of Play

Ruti G. Teitel

An internationally recognized authority on international law, international human rights, transitional justice, and comparative constitutional law, Ruti Teitel is the Ernst C. Stiefel Professor of Comparative Law at New York Law School, Visiting Professor of International Relations at New York University (NYU), and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She was a Straus Fellow at NYU Law School’s Straus Institute for the Advanced Study of Law and Justice (2012-2013). Her most recent book, *Globalizing Transitional Justice*, published by Oxford University Press, provides observations and insights on how the practice and discourse of transitional justice has been evolving, especially in relation to the rise of international criminal law and the increasing centrality of international human rights. Her path-breaking book, *Transitional Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2000), examines the 20th century transitions to democracy in many countries. Born in Argentina, Professor Teitel’s interest in the topic grew out of the dilemmas confronting that society in the transition out of junta rule. Her book explores the recurring question of how new regimes should respond to past repression, contending that the law can play a profound role in periods of radical change in advancing a new sense of legitimacy. Her book *Humanity’s Law* (Oxford University Press, 2011) explores a paradigm shift in international affairs. Her extensive body of scholarly writing on comparative law, human rights, and constitutionalism is published in many law reviews and edited volumes. She serves on the Board of Editors of Oxford’s International Journal of Transitional Justice, as well the Editorial Advisory Board of the Interdisciplinary Journal of Human Rights Law.
PANEL 11: PHILosophical Foundations

2:00 - 3:30  
Room 7-50  
Moderator: Marlene Clark, CUNY, City College

Mediating between the Debate on Universalism and Cultural Relativism: An Old Problem in a New Light at the United Nations’ Universal Periodic Review Process
Gayatri Patel, Aston University Law School

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Localization of Human Rights in Africa: Towards the Development of New Paradigm
Nlerum S. Okogbule, Rivers State University

Who Defines Scarcity? In Defense of a Conflict Perspective on Human Rights
Suzy Lee and Jakob Feinig, Binghamton University

Fundamental Rights and Private Law in the United States and Germany: A Relationship of Subordination or Complementarity?
Bedő Renáta, Eötvös Loránd University

PANEL 12: HeALTHe AND huMAN RIGHTS II

2:00 - 3:30  
Room 7-52/3  
Moderator: Danielle Zach, Adelphi University and CUNY, City College

Human Right to Health: Need for Adjustment!
Karl H. Wehkamp, Bremen University

Universal Healthcare and Human Rights in Cuba: A Critical Appraisal
Elsada Diana Cassells, CUNY, City College

Transnational Interdependency and Healthcare System Change: The Role of Humanitarian and Development Aid in Shaping Health Policy in Jordan
Sigrid Lupieri, University of Cambridge Lorraine Frisina, University of Bremen
PANEL 13: POPULISM AND ILLIBERALISM

3:40 - 5:00  Room 7-50  Moderator: Martin Woessner, CUNY, City College

- Populisms and Human Rights: Substantive and Communication Challenges
  John Morijn, New York University Law School

- Toward a New Paradigm of Human Rights, or an Impasse? New Attempts to Redefine Fundamental Rights in an “Illiberal” State
  Fruzsina Gárdos-Orosz, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Center for Social Sciences (Institute for Legal Studies)
  Zoltán Szente, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Center for Social Sciences (Institute for Legal Studies)

- Authoritarian Populism and the Anti-Human Rights Project
  Jefferson Lyndon D. Ragragio, Hong Kong Baptist University

- Cold War Resistance deja vous: Human Rights, Colonialism, and Othering
  Itai Sneh, CUNY, John Jay College

PANEL 14: ART AND EDUCATION

3:40 - 5:00  Room 7-52/3  Moderator: Justin Williams, CUNY, City College

- Participatory Public Art for Human Rights Education
  Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario, CUNY, City College

- Kara Walker’s Sugar Mama
  Marlene Clark, CUNY City College

- Adult Immigrants’ Experiences and Contributions in Nonprofit Education and Educational Research: An Ethical, Dialogical, Transformative Approach for New Possibilities
  Katherine E. Entigar, CUNY Graduate Center
Book Talk: Eric Weitz, Distinguished Professor of History

A World Divided:
The Global Struggle for Human Rights in the Age of Nation-States

Eric D. Weitz is Distinguished Professor of History at City College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. He is also the former Dean of Humanities and Arts at City College. Trained in modern German and European history, Weitz also works in international and global history. His most recent book, A World Divided: The Global Struggle for Human Rights in the Age of Nation-States, will be published by Princeton University Press in August 2019. His other major publications include Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy (2007; Weimar Centennial (third) edition 2018), A Century of Genocide: Utopias of Race and Nation (2003; reprint with new foreword 2014), and Creating German Communism, 1890-1990: From Popular Protests to Socialist State (1997), all with Princeton University Press. Weimar Germany was named an “Editor’s Choice” by The New York Times Book Review. Weitz edits a book series for Princeton, Human Rights and Crimes against Humanity. He has been the recipient of many fellowships and awards from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and others. Weitz lectures widely in public and academic settings on the history of human rights and genocides and on Weimar Germany.
Right to the City and Human Rights in New York City:
A Round Table Discussion with Activists, Faculty, and Graduate and Undergraduate Students

Organizers: Susanna Schaller and John Calagione, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, CCNY

Moderators: Michael Bobker, CUNY Institute for Urban Systems; John Calagione and Susanna Schaller, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, CCNY

Reclaiming Inwood: Asserting Our Right to the City
Paloma Lara, Lena Melendez, Candida Uraga, Leadership Council, Northern Manhattan Not for Sale; Cheryl Pahaham, Inwood Legal Action; Nova Lucero, Northwest Bronx

Right to the City and Sustainable Infrastructure in the South Bronx
Michael Bobker, CUNY Institute for Urban Systems
Jose Firpo, Ladan Hadji-Mohamed, Kenneth Almario, Graduate Students, Sustainability in the Urban Environment, CCNY

No More Dancing in the Street: Urban Cultural Extinction as a Function of Displacement
Jasmina Nikolov, Undergraduate Student, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, CCNY

Narratives of Belonging and Change: The Contradictions of Gentrification in Bedford-Stuyvesant
Mariluz Blandon, Undergraduate Student, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, CCNY
FRIDAY
MARCH 15

PANEL 15: MEDIA

10:00 - 11:30
Room 7-50
Moderator: Itai Sneh, CUNY, John Jay College

News Coverage of Race- and Gender-Based Human Rights: What Gets Covered When?
Shawna M. Brandle, CUNY, Kingsborough CC

Evangelizing Neoliberalism through Megachurches in Latin America and the United States
William Collazo, CUNY, City College

Media Literacy Education in America: Current Efforts, Legislation and Policies
Leocadia Diaz Romero, Murcia State University

PANEL 16: DISCOURSE, EMPATHY, AND NARRATIVES

10:00 - 11:30
Room 7-52/3
Moderator: Lauren Balasco, Stockton University

Love, Radical Empathy and Engaging the Oppressor
Sari Bashi, Yale Law School

Human Rights in Conflict: The Discursive Struggle Among South Korean Activists over the North Korean Human Rights Problem
Hyuk Jung, Free University of Berlin

Mass Killings, Torture, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Red Line Narratives in Nigeria: Confronting the Inevitable
Igwe Onyeka Williams, Rivers State University

Writing Human Rights: Prison Writing Programs in Nebraska and Beyond
Daniel Wuebben, University of Nebraska at Omaha
FRIDAY
MARCH 15

PANEL 17: JUSTICE

11:45 - 1:15
Room 7-50
Moderator: Itai Sneh, CUNY, John Jay College

Affirmative Action as Transitional Justice
Yuvraj Joshi, Yale University

Securing Transformative Justice Beyond Transitional Politics
Lauren Balasco, Stockton University

Right to Be Remembered: Comfort Women Statues
Hyokyung Jung, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to New Zealand

Reforming the Albanian Legal System and the Perception of Justice as a Basic Human Right
Adriana Michilli, University of Padova

Transitional Justice in Kosovo and Northern Ireland
Jennifer Mueller, Marymount Manhattan College
Danielle Zach, Adelphi University and CUNY, City College

PANEL 18: RIGHT TO MIGRATE

11:45 - 1:15
Room 7-52/3
Moderator: Shawna M. Brandle, CUNY, Kingsborough CC

New Horizons for Transnational Rights: Insights from a Case Study with Vulnerable Migrants Living in Brazil
Aline Khoury, University of Cambridge

The Crisis of Migration: A Protective Approach (Remembering Mary Kibwana, A Lesson for Us All)
Alunegbe Oziegbe-Anozie, Rivers State University

Migration as Adaptation Strategy: A Critical Approach to the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration
Janet Reilly, Sarah Lawrence College

The Right to Migrate Within the Nation of Humanity
Steven Sacco, The Legal Aid Society of New York
FRIDAY  
MARCH 15

PANEL 19: A CONFLUENCE OF RIGHTS: THE EMERGING HUMAN RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

2:00 - 3:30  Room 7-50  Moderator: Rebecca Bratspies, CUNY School of Law

- The Right to a Healthy Environment: Challenges and Opportunities  
  Sumudu Atapattu, University of Wisconsin Law

- Health, Safety, Labor Rights: Case of Garment and Tea Workers in Bangladesh  
  Chaumtoli Huq, CUNY School of Law

- The Global Struggle for Food Sovereignty and Peasants’ Rights  
  Smita Narula, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

- Environmental Dignity Rights in Action  
  Erin Daly and James May, Widener University Delaware Law School

PANEL 20: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS/BASIC NEEDS

2:00 - 3:30  Room 7-52/3  Moderator: Danielle Zach, Adelphi University and CUNY, City College

- Examining the Challenges and Contested Legacy of Human Rights Within the Practice of Social Work in Sub-Saharan Africa  
  Theophilus Osaheni Osawe, York University

- Right to Happiness  
  Miguel Escobedo, National University of the Littoral

- Migration and the Right to Freedom from Modern Slavery  
  Ashok Kumar Pindiga

CLOSING CEREMONY

3:30 - 4:00 pm  Auditorium
Honorary Conference Chair:
CCNY President Vincent Boudreau

Vincent Boudreau was appointed president of The City College of New York by the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York on December 4, 2017. For the past three years he has served as the founding dean of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at CCNY. From 2002 through 2013, he served as the founding director of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at CCNY, and is a professor of political science at City College and a member of the City University of New York graduate faculty. A specialist in the politics of social movements, particularly in Southeast Asia, his latest book is Resisting Dictatorship: Repression and Protest in Southeast Asia (Cambridge University Press) He also conducts research about government transitions to democracy, collective violence, and the relationship between civil society, social movements, and democratization processes in Indonesia and the Philippines. At City College, where Dr. Boudreau has worked since receiving his degree, he served as the director of the M.A. Program in International Relations, the chair of the Department of Political Science, the director of the International Studies Program, and the deputy dean of the Division of Social Science. He serves on the editorial committee of Comparative Politics, and has undertaken projects with ActionAid Asia, Jubilee South Asia, The Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, and Freedom House.
The City College of New York was founded by Townsend Harris in 1847 as the Free Academy of the City of New York. It is the first public institution of higher education in New York City and the precursor to CUNY. At a time when higher education in America was limited to children of the wealthy and privileged, CCNY was established to provide children of immigrants and the poor access to free higher education based on academic merit alone. Dr. Horace Webster, its first president, described the college as an experiment dedicated to educating “the children of the whole people.” This has remained CCNY’s unwavering mission ever since. Now, in our 170th year, the City College of New York continues to offer an ideal learning opportunity for students, providing an affordable world class education in a wide variety of disciplines.

Today, more than 15,000 students pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in the College of Liberal Arts and Science; Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture; School of Education; Grove School of Engineering; Sophie Davis Biomedical Education/CUNY School of Medicine; and the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. Spitzer, Grove and Sophie Davis/CUNY School of Medicine are the only such public schools in New York City. Bolstered by an outstanding faculty whose research and scholarship is widely applauded, access to excellence remains CCNY’s vision.

U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review and Forbes all rank City College among the best colleges and universities in the United States. In its 2016 rankings, U.S. News placed CCNY among the nation’s “Most Ethnically Diverse” institutions. Other accolades come from the Center for World University Rankings that has listed CCNY “one of the world’s best institutions of higher education,” and the American Institute of Physics as a, “a top producer of physics graduates in the nation.”
City College’s distinguished alumni include ten Nobel Laureates with the most recent winner being neuroscientist John O’Keefe, Class of 1963, in 2014.

Originally situated at 23rd St. and Lexington Ave. in lower Manhattan, CCNY moved uptown, to its now landmarked neo-Gothic campus in Harlem, in 1907. The college is currently led by Dr. Vince Boudreau, a dedicated member of the campus community for more than 25 years, and the founding dean of the Colin Powell School.

About The Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education

The Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE) is on the Downtown Campus of the City College of New York/CUNY. Founded in 1981, it is one of the leading working adult educational institutions in New York City. It provides working adults with small classes, flexible schedules, individualized attention, an innovative curriculum, and all the resources of a world-class academic institution. Life Experience credit is available.

CWE offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences and a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, with special concentrations in Childhood Studies; Disabilities Studies; Global Labor Studies; History, Politics, and Society; Literary, Media, and Visual Arts; Social Welfare; Urban Studies and Public Administration; and the Americas.

CWE also offers a Master’s Degree in the Study of the Americas, with a BA/MA option, which enables students to complete both degrees in a shorter time period.
The Frances S. Patai Program in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies

Among the most unique aspects of the Center for Worker Education is its commitment to supporting a diversity of profound, yet topical, educational opportunities. One such example of this commitment is its Frances S. Patai Program in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. The Patai Program at CWE supports courses, conferences, and symposia, as well as public lectures, lectureships, and an annual student essay competition—all dedicated to the lasting and transformative lessons of Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies.

In addition to being one of the first female graduates of City College, Mrs. Patai was a strong supporter of providing educational opportunities to those people who would otherwise possibly not have access to a formal university education. With this in mind, Mrs. Patai bequeathed a generous donation to CWE that allowed for the creation of a program that now bears her name.

Mrs. Patai was motivated by three aims when she gave her support. First, she wanted to keep alive the memory of those volunteers who joined the Abraham Lincoln Battalion to fight against fascism in the Spanish Civil War. Second, she wanted to make sure that students did not forget the Holocaust. She believed that education was an important way to prevent the reoccurrence of genocide. Third, she supported programs that encouraged students to use their knowledge as a springboard for exploring other mass atrocities, including both the realities of contemporary genocide and the ongoing global struggle for human rights.
In step with the most cutting-edge trends in interdisciplinary education, the M.A. in the Study of the Americas grounds students in a broad vision of the Americas while allowing them to explore more individual interests. Our 30-credit program combines a variety of perspectives, including literature, anthropology, history, philosophy, urban studies, cultural studies, film, and political science to subjects such as race, gender, human rights, contemporary politics, immigration, and popular culture.

Our program provides an affordable, world-class education, offering small classes with dedicated professors who are experts in their fields, as well as the possibility of taking courses at other CUNY campuses. Part of the largest public urban university in the US, our students have access to a vast and vibrant intellectual community, and, our location, at the heart of New York City's Financial District, allows easy access to everything the city has to offer.

Possible Degree Options
- MA in the Study of the Americas
- MA in the Study of the Americas: Dominican Studies Track
- MA in the Study of the Americas: Human Rights track

For additional information, please contact: Prof. Susanna Rosenbaum, Director.

srosenbaum@ccny.cuny.edu 212.925.6625 ext. 208 citycollegeamericasma.org