Rapporteur Positions for University Seminars

There are openings for the position of rapporteur available through The University Seminars office. Rapporteurs serve as liaisons between the seminar and the department of The University Seminars, performing all duties necessary to ensure that all meetings are successfully held and archived by minding the administrative tasks and by taking the minutes of each meeting.

Meetings generally meet once a month in the evenings and includes dinner. This position takes approximately 8-10 hours a month and rapporteurs are compensated $20.00/hour in their first year, $25.00 in their second year, and $27.00 for each subsequent year. Full-time Columbia University graduate students are eligible for this posting. If you are interested in any of the following positions please contact the seminar Chair directly.

NOTE: Applicants must make sure to take into account hourly commitments to teaching fellowships, DRA and/or RA, TA positions. Some student employment positions require a 20-hour per week commitment, which will make you ineligible to receive additional compensation for rapporteur work during the academic year.

For each of the following positions, apply directly with the chair(s) as listed.
The seminar on **Religion, #405**

The approaches to religion in this seminar range from the philosophical through the anthropological to the historical and comparative. We concern ourselves with religion in all of its manifestations—ancient and modern, primitive and civilized, heretical and orthodox, individual and cosmic. The guiding thread is whatever subjects are uppermost in the minds of those composing the membership at a given time. Since members come from different disciplines as well as different traditions and have a variety of personal orientations, we are assured maximum openness and flexibility.

Please contact:

**Chairs**
Tony Carnes  
contentsem@aol.com

Sidney Greenfield  
Professor  
sgreenfield222@aol.com
The seminar on **Eighteenth Century European Culture, #417**

This interdisciplinary seminar hosts leading national and regional scholars who present works-in-progress that explore aspects of eighteenth-century European culture of vital interest and concern to the wider field of eighteenth-century studies. Like our guest speakers, our membership is drawn from a wide variety of institutions and disciplines: history, literature, philosophy, political science, music, history of science, and art, as well as national traditions. The Seminar’s offerings are eclectic, but from time to time our Seminar has hosted special events such as symposia on the 18th-century reception of Classical, Hellenistic, and Late Antique texts (2003) and the intellectual origins of freedom of speech (2007, 2008). Proceedings from the latter recently appeared as a collection of essays edited by former Chair Elizabeth Powers, *Freedom of Speech: The History of an Idea* (Bucknell University Press, 2011). Most recently, our Seminar has co-sponsored, with the Seminar on Early Modern France, a series of roundtables on new directions in eighteenth-century studies under the rubric of “Literature and History in Dialogue.” Past roundtables have been devoted to concepts of authorship (Fall 2010), eighteenth-century science studies (Spring 2011), and comparative colonialisms and orientalisms (Fall 2011). Our 2012-2013 program marks the Seminar’s 50th year in operation.

Please contact:

**Chair**

Al Coppola  
John Jay College, CUNY, English  
[acoppola@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:acoppola@jjay.cuny.edu)
The seminar on **Organization & Management, #423**

This seminar addresses issues related to the structure and management of purposeful human enterprises. The membership is highly interdisciplinary. In addition to university and visiting scholars, distinguished individuals from industry and government participate regularly. The seminar selects themes for deliberation for one or more academic years. Recent themes have been: concept formation in developing theories of management; how should managers be educated, with implications for business administration curricula; managing increasing complexity, scale and change; measurement in management; and currently, managing in times of fundamental transformations. The consistent long-range effort has been toward an operationally verifiable theory of organizing and managing, including managers’ education and training, and the emerging effects of globalization.

Please contact:

**Co-Chairs**
Howard Finkelberg
hfinkelberg@gmail.com

Peter V. Norden
Columbia University, Industrial Engineering and Operations Research
pvn1@columbia.edu
The seminar on **Knowledge, Technology and Social Systems, #467**

Technologies, scientific transformations, and new areas of knowledge are continuously, and rapidly, being introduced. These developments are transforming social systems around the world. We have seen networked computers rapidly converging with telephones and TV into globally pervasive digital communications systems. These systems—and the emerging New Media they create—are increasingly impacting what and how we communicate with each other, as well as how we write history and interact among ourselves. The opportunities and threats these and other systems pose to personal and global quality of life, even to human survival, are very real and relatively little understood. This seminar will consider these aspects, as well as alternative social systems that may lead to a better future for humankind. This seminar was formerly called Computers, Man, and Society.

Please contact:

**Chairs**
Professor Sidney Greenfield  
[sgreenfield222@aol.com](mailto:sgreenfield222@aol.com)

Professor Jerry Spivack  
[jspvk@aol.com](mailto:jspvk@aol.com)

Professor Takeshi Utsumi  
[takutsumi0@gmail.com](mailto:takutsumi0@gmail.com)
The seminar on The Ancient Near East, #479

This seminar was created to coordinate the archaeological chronologies of the regions of the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean. It meets from six to eight times a year to discuss new research and hear reports of recent fieldwork. A number of relevant papers were published in the American Journal of Archaeology from 1968 until 1988, and in 1992 in the Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society. Since then, the focus of the seminar has been widened to include all aspects of the ancient cultures of the Near East and its adjoining regions.

Please contact:

**Co-Chairs**
Sally Dunham
sallydunham@sbcglobal.net

Allan S. Gilbert
Fordham University, Sociology and Anthropology
gilbert@fordham.edu

Oscar White Muscarella
oscurrbeay@aol.com
The seminar on Economic History, #503

The concerns of this seminar are wide ranging in time, place, and method. Emphasis is on the logic of European and American economic growth from feudal times forward with regular, but less frequent, contributions on Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Topics range from microeconomic studies of firms undergoing rapid technical change and households changing their interaction between home and market to more macroeconomic topics concerned with national and regional economic growth performance, the economics of imperialism, and the political economy of the Great Depression. Given the breadth of the seminar’s membership and interests, comparative economic history is often a central element in seminar discussions. Pre-circulation of papers permits vigorous discussion.

Please contact:

Co-Chairs
Alan Dye
Professor, Columbia University, Economics
adye@barnard.edu

Susie Pak
Associate Professor, St. John’s University, History
paks1@stjohns.edu

David Weiman
Professor, Columbia University, Economics
dweiman@barnard.edu
The seminar on **Latin America, #515**

This seminar is devoted to developing a better understanding of the region, presenting current research and thinking in disciplines that range from anthropology to economics, history, human rights, political science, religion, literature, and the arts. In addition to scholars affiliated with the academic community, speakers are invited from the private sector, international organizations, and governments. The seminar, whose membership also reflects a broad range of disciplines, offers the framework for a lively exchange of ideas on Latin America, its past, present, and future.

*This seminar requires a rapporteur who can read, write, and understand Spanish fluently.*

Please contact:

**Chairs**
Dr. Sara Calvo  
sgc28@columbia.edu

Dr. Christopher Sabatini  
csabatini@ascoa.org

Dr. George Vickers  
gvickers@earthlink.net
The seminar on **Political Economy and Contemporary Social Issues, #523**

This seminar was founded to study the most compelling questions of the day which then related to the war in Southeast Asia, its causes, and consequences. Today the seminar continues to examine vital current issues with emphasis on their economic and political dimensions. Such issues have included welfare policy, homelessness, and strains in multicultural democracies. The underlying nature and structure of the political economy giving rise to these issues are also considered. In this regard, sessions have addressed the extension of democracy to economic enterprises, refashioning American government, developments in welfare state, changes in Marxism, and new principles of income distribution.

Please contact:

**Co-Chairs**
Carol C. Gould  
Distinguished Professor, Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY  
carolegould@gmail.com

Philip Green  
philip.green51@verizon.net

Gary Mongiovi  
Associate Professor of Economics, St. John’s University  
mongiovg@stjohns.edu
The seminar on **Ottoman & Turkish Studies, #551**

From its inception, this seminar adopted an interdisciplinary approach to Turkic studies, and its members represent many fields. At the same time, their interests span more than twelve centuries. In most years, the program covers a selection of topics reflecting current research of members. Special anniversaries such as the Atatürk centennial (1981–1982), the sixtieth anniversary of the Turkish Republic (1983–1984), and the traveling exhibition, The Age of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent (1987–1988), however, have provided themes around which all papers or a series of papers have been centered. Discussion on papers presented—no matter what their topic—has shown that dialogue between, for example, political scientist and art historian, medievalist and modernist, can be both stimulating and productive.

Please contact:

**Chairs**
Leyla Amzi-Erdoğdular  
[la2142@columbia.edu](mailto:la2142@columbia.edu)

Zeynep Celik  
[zc2162@columbia.edu](mailto:zc2162@columbia.edu)
The seminar on **Scientific Literacy/Scientific Frontiers, #611**

In view of the widespread concern with the notion of scientific literacy on the part of scientists, educators at all levels, industrialists, politicians, and the media, this seminar aims to analyze the wide diversity of views as to how a greater measure of scientific literacy might be obtained. There are many ways of teaching science, looking at science, and practicing science. The notion of a universal scientific literacy as a unique set of things is not at all defined; the seminar’s goal is to delineate its significance and implications.

Please contact:

**Chair**  
Jean Delfiner  
Councilor, American Chemical Society, New York Section  
jadelfiner@verizon.net
The seminar on **Iranian Studies, #615**

The purpose of these monthly gatherings is to present and promote new research in Iranian studies from pre-Islamic times to the present. The seminar provides an opportunity for scholars and researchers in the greater metropolitan area to meet regularly and exchange views and discuss the topics of their research interests.

Please contact:

**Co-Chairs**

Ahmad Ashraf  
Associate Research Scholar, Columbia University, Center for Iranian Studies, SIPA  
[aa398@columbia.edu](mailto:aa398@columbia.edu)

Vahid Nowshirvani  
[vfn1@columbia.edu](mailto:vfn1@columbia.edu)
The seminar on *The History of Columbia University, #667*

This seminar provides a forum where issues that define the institutional, intellectual and social history of Columbia University will be given scholarly consideration. Speakers will consist of a mix of “outside” specialists in American academic history and Columbia “insiders” who have had a direct involvement with a particular issue and a familiarity with recent Columbia folkways.

Please contact:

**Chair**
Chauncey G. Olinger, Jr.
Editor, Columbia and the City
cgolinger@verizon.net
The seminars on **Full Employment, Social Welfare, and Equity (#613)** & **Globalization, Labor, and Popular Struggles (#671)**

**613** - The seminar focuses on the analytical and policy issues related to full employment, social welfare, and equity. These include cross-national perspectives, primarily in other industrialized economies. The purpose is to identify and clarify the more difficult and central intellectual questions which relate to and affect the national commitment and capability to assure full employment, social welfare, and equity over long periods.

**671** - The seminar seeks to clarify the boundaries of what might be broadly understood as labor politics and the labor movement by examining theoretical and historical developments in order to clarify what has been learned and what needs to be learned in the current world-historical moment of global capitalist reorganization. Included in the purview of the seminar are broader issues in popular politics as well as forms of popular action that are often identified by such alternative labels as “social movements” or “contentious” politics. Presentations, by specialists from the academic and labor communities, focus on issues in contemporary labor and popular politics, on a thematic basis, in settings around the world, and bring to bear a strongly comparative focus, which challenges a common division between specialists on labor in the industrialized world and labor in less developed areas. Debate is facilitated by the provision of papers in advance.

Please contact:

**Co-Chairs**
Dr. Sheila Collins
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Dr. Helen Lachs Ginsburg
Professor Emeritus of Economics, Brooklyn College, City University of New York
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Dr. Gertrude S. Goldberg
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Dr. David Bensman
Professor and Director of Credit Programs, Rutgers University, Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations
dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu
The seminar on **Defense and Security, #759**

The Columbia University Seminar on Defense and Security (CSDS) advances understanding of global military issues through sustained analysis. The seminar addresses the most urgent problems of our time; assesses strategies to resolve, mitigate, and meet these challenges; and initiates specific courses of action.

This seminar is co-sponsored by University Seminars and the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies.

Queries may be sent to defensesecurity@columbia.edu or CSDS Co-Chairs. All are welcome to participate.

Please contact:

**Co-Chairs**

Nancy Walbridge Collins  
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