

2014-15 University Seminars

The Civil War Project

*Conveners: Leslie Jacobson, Department of Theatre & Dance and Classical Acting MFA Program; Alan Wade and Jodi Kanter, Department of Theatre & Dance; Karen Ahlquist, Department of Music; Tyler Anbinder, Erin Chapman, Andrew Zimmerman, and Richard Stott, Department of History; Mary Buckley, Women's Leadership Program & Department of Theatre & Dance; Christopher Sten, Department of English; James Miller, Department of English & American Studies Program; Jennifer James, Africana Studies Program; Kerric Harvey, School of Media & Public Affairs; Fran Buntman, Department of Sociology; Paul Hoyt-O'Connor, Undergraduate Research & Fellowships; Nina Seavey, GW Documentary Film Center; Nathan Kalmoe, graduate student in SMPA; Zinhle Essamuah and Nicholas Ong, undergraduate student playwrights participating in Arena Stage's production of **Our Wars***

In our a third year, this seminar will continue to explore the American Civil War and civil wars in other parts of the world both current and past, through performative and scholarly lenses. We will deepen our exploration into the innovative ways that artists and scholars can collaborate to transform complex ideas into stories which audiences will find compelling and illuminating to watch in performance. This cross-pollination will lead to new ways of working for scholars and artists, as well as new and deeper understanding of the material being explored.

Our plans for the year include:

1. The review of Student Proposals for Research/Performance Projects addressing the seminar's generative impulse: The American Civil War and its commemoration;
2. Two scholarly/artistic events ;
3. Examination of the work generated by the three other Theatre/University partnerships for The Civil War Project
4. Presentation of the student commissions on campus, as staged readings, followed by post-show discussions.

Community Health Innovation

Conveners: Freya Spielberg, Community Oriented Primary Care & Department of Prevention & Community Health; Jehan El-Bayoumi, Department of Medicine

This Seminar is focused on Community Health Innovation (CHI) and will bring together university, community, government and technology experts to conceptualize new ways to use innovative technologies and new health care delivery systems to improve community health and diminish health disparities in Washington DC. The CHI seminar will facilitate cross-disciplinary and cross-community collaborations to develop research proposals to apply for funds to evaluate and disseminate community health innovations. This group will work in concert with the GWU Rodham Institute for Healthcare Provider Education to Eliminate Health Disparities, so that best practices can quickly be integrated into GWU training programs for health care students and providers.

Forecasting

Convener: Tara M. Sinclair, Department of Economics

This seminar brings together researchers and practitioners to discuss important issues in forecasting. Advancing forecasting requires research in a number of interrelated areas including forecast evaluation, statistical modeling, the role of forecasts in decision-making, and the use and development of new software for forecasting. Participants include GW faculty and students along with forecasters throughout the DC area and beyond through our online webinar. For more information regarding the seminar, including a full schedule of events and directions for how to join via webinar, please visit: <http://cer.columbian.gwu.edu/forecasting-news-events>

Future of Mental Well-Being

Convener: Tad Zawidzki, Department of Philosophy; Paul Marvar, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology

This University Seminar seeks to bring together scholars in a number of fields, including neuroscience, various therapeutic disciplines, philosophy, and other humanities, from the GWU community and beyond to address issues raised by mental wellbeing from as diverse a range of perspectives as possible. Given the high public profile that mental wellbeing currently garners – one that is likely to increase in the future – the time seems ripe for rigorous, interdisciplinary discussion of the many difficult, multi-faceted issues it raises. There is clear potential for establishing more formal collaborations between GWU departments and schools, as well as other DC area organizations, with many potential external sources of funding, like the National Institutes of Mental Health and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Hence, this University Seminar is a potential incubator in which more long-term, established collaborations might germinate.

Health Workforce

Conveners: Patricia Pittman and Merle Cunningham, Department of Health Policy, Milken Institute School of Public Health

The GW Health Workforce Research Center (HWRC) is one of four HRSA-funded centers that collects, analyzes, and reports data on the health workforce. The Centers' research agenda is focused specifically on the novel and flexible use of workers to improve health care delivery and efficiency. This speaker series invites nationally renowned speakers to examine new workforce configurations, their outcomes and associated challenges. The goals of this series are to help shape and influence the health workforce policy discussion and to provide important networking opportunities between students and faculty, and with faculty in other GW schools, other academic centers, and foundations.

Internet Freedom

Conveners: Susan Aaronson, Elliott School of International Affairs; Arturo Carrillo, Law School; Lance Hoffman, Department of Computer Science; Dawn Nunziato, Law School; William Youmans, School of Media & Public Affairs

"Emerging Issues in Internet Freedom and Governance" covers interrelated areas of international Internet policy prominent in public and scholarly debate because they will shape the contours of the global Internet. The selected issues highlight the intersection between technology, policy, the private sector and the prospects of a global public sphere. Running themes include the tensions between freedom and security, privacy and publicity, and commercial development and the public good. The debates the seminar will address include: 1) net neutrality; 2) privacy and the right to be forgotten; 3) new ideas to achieve internet governance in a more democratic, equitable and accountable manner; and 4) Internet surveillance and national security. Each will frame the underlying issues and address competing prescriptive measures, such as industry self-regulation and transparency reporting. The seminar will bring together leading industry experts, policy advocates, scholars both in and external to the GWU community. Outcomes include a collection of position papers, short student-produced reports of each event and videos of each discussion. They will be hosted on the seminar's website. For more information, please visit <http://cspril.wix.com/gwifg>.

mHealth Research

Conveners: Lorien Abrams, Department of Prevention & Community Health; Richard Katz, Department of Cardiology; Bianca Frogner, Department of Health Services, Management & Leadership

The growth of the field of mHealth--using mobile technology to promote health--has been recognized as an important development for public health and medicine. The seminar in mHealth has three aims. (1) Providing a forum to address pressing questions related to the design, evaluation and dissemination of mHealth programs; (2) Providing the opportunity for researchers across GW in public health, medicine, psychology, engineering and others to come together to build common research projects and research infrastructure for mHealth at GW. (3) Providing a forum to examine existing curricular offerings in mHealth across GW and consider the development of an mHealth track within the Milken Institute School of Public at GW. For more information regarding the seminar, please visit <http://smhs.gwu.edu/mhealth/>.

Physics of Living Cells

Convener: Ganhui Lan, Department of Physics

The George Washington University Physics of Living Cells Seminar aims to present the latest discoveries of physical principles underlying cellular behaviors crossing multiple spatiotemporal, force, and energy scales. We will focus on the biological mechanisms

and their inherited physical principles governing intra- and inter-cellular processes that are hallmarks of living cells. We plan to devote our efforts to the multi-scale regulations in living cells, in particular, to cross-talks between different molecular machineries within individual cancer cells as well as between the cancer cells and their surrounding healthy tissue cells. The overarching goal of this seminar series is to provide a dynamic platform for faculty across multiple disciplines (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, medicine and more) to communicate with each other, to cultivate collaborative interests, to establish and enhance the synergy between GWU and other local research institutions, and to promote GWU's reputation as a research hub in the greater Washington DC metropolitan area.

Frontiers in Sustainability

Conveners: Kathleen Merrigan, Executive Director Sustainability Collaborative and Lisa Benton-Short, Academic Program Director for Sustainability Collaborative

The Sustainability Collaborative is excited to announce its 2014-2015 University Seminars Series: *Frontiers in Sustainability*. It will provide faculty, staff, students, and guests the opportunity to explore the ways in which higher education can coalesce ecology, economics, and social equity throughout curriculum, research efforts, and community relationships. Over the course of this year, we will be hosting research presentations, multidisciplinary panel discussions, and interactive workshops on topics such as energy and climate, water, and urban sustainability. A new topic for this year is food. Learn more at <https://sustainability.gwu.edu/frontiers-sustainability>