



ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Oral History & The City

2017 Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic
Region Conference

April 27 - 30, 2017 | New York



ORAL HISTORY
MASTER OF ARTS
COLUMBIA

Co-Sponsored by the Columbia University
Oral History MA Program

#OHMAR2017 | @OHMidAtlantic

www.ohmar.org

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ORAL HISTORY & THE CITY PROGRAM

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Please note that there is an open wifi network in Knox Hall via Columbia University.
Questions? Contact us at ohmar.conference@gmail.com or contact@ohmar.org.

To review individual presentation abstracts, please visit the conference website at www.oralhistoryandthecity.org.
More information about OHMAR can be found at www.ohmar.org.

ORAL HISTORY & THE CITY

2017 Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region Conference

April 27-30, 2017

Columbia University | New York

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SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Inside Voices: An Oral History Exhibition

Columbia University MA Program

Created by the 2016 OHMA cohort and curated by Emma Courtland & Amy Starecheski

The Social Hall | Union Theological Seminary

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

OPENING PLENARY: Interviewing Across Social Difference in Urban Spaces

James Chapel | Union Theological Seminary

Moderated by Mario Alvarez & Benji de la Piedra of the GSAS Life Histories Project, in conversation with oral historians

Robert Snyder, Terrell Frazier, Cynthia Tobar, and Alisa Del Tufo

10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

Session 1: Concurrent Conference Presentations

Knox Hall | Columbia University

Featuring the project design team and narrators of the Robert Rauschenberg Oral History Project

12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Pogue Award Lunch & OHMAR Business Meeting

James Chapel | Union Theological Seminary

Honoring Mary Marshall Clark, Columbia University Center for Oral History Research

2:15 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.

Session 2: Concurrent Conference Presentations

Knox Hall | Columbia University

4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Session 3: Concurrent Conference Presentations

Knox Hall | Columbia University

Featuring a live interview with Gillian McCain & Legs McNeil, co-authors of Please Kill Me: An Uncensored Oral History of Punk

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

The Martha Ross Prize Rent Party

James Chapel | Union Theological Seminary

Featuring performances by Gary Samuels & The Continentals and Judith Sloan of Earsay

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Session 4: Concurrent Conference Presentations
Knox Hall | Columbia University

11:15 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

Session 5: Concurrent Conference Presentations
Knox Hall | Columbia University

2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

KEYNOTE LECTURE: Jimmie Briggs, The Ferguson Moment
10T | The Riverside Church

3:45 P.M. – 5:15 P.M.

Session 6: Concurrent Conference Presentations
Knox Hall | Columbia University

5:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Closing Ceremony
Sakura Park | Rain location in Knox Hall 509
Facilitated by conference co-chairs Erica Fugger & Cameron Vanderscoff

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

Oral History Open House
Site visits to community partners around New York

Manhattan

10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.: Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Pier 86, W 46th St. & 12th Ave.

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.: Middle Way Sangha, 888 Broadway

1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.: Art Makers | La Lucha Continua / The Struggle Continues: 1985 & 2017, 10 E 9th St.

Brooklyn

11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.: The Free Portraits Project: Crown Heights Portrait Diaspora, 663 Classon Ave.

1:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.: Brooklyn Navy Yard at BLDG 92, 63 Flushing Ave.

3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.: Intersection | Prospect Heights, 632 Vanderbilt Ave.

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to Oral History & The City, the 2017 Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region conference. And for those joining us from outside the five boroughs: welcome to New York!

We have a dynamic conference prepared, with representatives—from throughout the Mid-Atlantic and beyond—presenting groundbreaking work on topics ranging from the story of Ferguson, Missouri, to punk rock, urban art, and women in congress. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response of over one hundred presenters, and we are confident this long weekend will provide an education in the diverse applications of oral history in urban contexts.

We gather in a moment of heightened political consciousness, where we as oral historians and community members join in the nationwide conversation about pressing issues of social justice, inclusivity, and rising nationalisms. It is our hope that this conference engages with this broad context, and serves as a generative site for the interchange of ideas and the building of collaborations. We look forward to learning more about your approaches to connecting oral history with community service, social impact, and the imperative for listening across lines of social difference.

Oral history, with its commitment to exploring memory, meaning, and the dialectic between the present and past, is a powerful tool in this historic moment. Here at the intersection of oral history and the city, we seek to build our capacity for carrying forward and reinventing what this tool can do, so that we may return to our work with refreshed creativity and renewed spirit.

This conference is itself already a remarkable collaboration, and we want to pause and express our deep gratitude to the many supporters who have brought substance and form to this endeavor. First, we'd like to thank the OHMAR Board, with whom we have worked closely in returning the OHMAR tradition to New York—after nearly a decade! A special thanks goes out to President David Caruso, Development Director Samantha Blatt, and Communications Director Zack Biro for their unflagging efforts in establishing the conversations and partnerships that have made this event possible.

We'd also like to thank our co-sponsor, the Oral History MA program at Columbia University, for helping secure conference space here in Knox Hall and Union Theological Seminary. A special acknowledgement to the program's co-directors, 2017 Pogue Award Honoree Mary Marshall Clark and Amy Starcheski, who originally converged dialogue on these themes through the Fall 2016 OHMA Workshop Series.

Gratitude goes out to our tireless Organizing Committee and Advisory Board, who have mobilized connections, donations, and volunteers to keep the conference running. We've had enormous local and regional support, for which we'd like to thank our Community Partners and our Sponsors, who you can learn more about in the subsequent pages of this program.

And finally, we want to offer thanks to you, our program presenters and attendees, for sharing your projects, time, and insights for our shared practice of oral history in city spaces. Your work deeply inspires us and the world needs more of it. Looking forward to listening deeply, this week and beyond.

In solidarity,
Erica & Cameron

Erica Fugger & Cameron Vanderscoff
Co-Chairs, Oral History & The City
2017 OHMAR Conference

CONFERENCE MISSION



The 2017 OHMAR conference is dedicated to examining the power and capacity of oral history to be a catalyst for revealing truth, seeding compassion, and driving social justice in urban settings.

We find ourselves at a time when the value of and need for oral history, with its emphasis on communication across all lines of social difference, whether those of race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, class and geography, immigration status or otherwise, has rarely been clearer.

In a political moment characterized with debates about whose stories and experiences matter, the commitment of oral history to amplifying new or marginalized voices—and to the profound act of listening itself—has gained a new immediacy and purpose.

Oral History & The City intends to create a welcoming space for all people within a framework of anti-oppression and decolonization, intersectionality and accessibility, inclusion, collaboration, and exchange. We seek to uphold the organizational mission of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR), and principles and best practices of the Oral History Association.

The 2017 OHMAR Conference is a place to reflect on the impact of oral history in our cities and to explore not only what this work has been doing, but what it can do next. We encourage participation from oral historians and cultural workers, artists and activists, documentarians and journalists, filmmakers and performers, students and educators, archivists and academics, engaged practitioners and community members of all varieties, with a nexus in the Mid-Atlantic—from New York to Washington, D.C. and all areas in between.

We see this not only as a space to share work but the beginning of a conversation to sustain it, building local networks of support and exchange. All are welcome regardless of geographic location, and it is our goal for this conversation to resonate throughout our home region and beyond.

ABOUT THE HOSTS



Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and improvement of oral history. This body responds to the needs of those actively practicing or otherwise interested in oral history in the Mid-Atlantic region.

OHMAR provides a forum for sharing information about the techniques and application of oral history, promotes standards of quality among practitioners, and assists those interested in the subject. Members include public and academic historians, librarians, archivists, teachers, folklorists, and independent researchers.

Our vision is to support established and emerging oral historians in the practice of oral history by providing information and resources, an accessible community of expertise, and a vibrant professional and social network. Identified by our leadership and affirmed by our members, all priorities and actions will be guided by these five values: openness, passion, community, education, and expertise.

OHMAR runs an annual conference at a rotating location each year. For the first time in nearly a decade, we are in New York! In 2018, we will be meeting at American University in Washington, D.C. Stay tuned for more information.

David Caruso, President | contact@ohmar.org | www.ohmar.org



Columbia University's Oral History Master of Arts Program (OHMA) is the first program of its kind in the United States: a one-year interdisciplinary MA degree training students in oral history method and theory.

Through the creation, archiving, and analysis of individual, community, and institutional histories, we amplify the critical first-person narratives that constitute memory for generations to come.

Our innovative curriculum combines professional and academic education. Academics learn to communicate with the public and produce knowledge of broad relevance; other professionals benefit from research experience and grounding in the history of our field.

Jointly run by the Columbia Center for Oral History Research, one of the preeminent oral history centers in the world, and INCITE, a lively hub for transdisciplinary research in the humanities and social sciences, OHMA connects students with both the intellectual resources of a major research university, and the intimate society of a small cohort of talented students.

We are excited for OHMAR to visit NYC this spring, to be a part of the conference planning process, and to introduce you to our local oral history community!

Mary Marshall Clark & Amy Starecheski, Co-Directors | ohma@columbia.edu | www.oralhistory.columbia.edu

CONTRIBUTORS

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2017 Pogue Award

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Student Conference Scholarships

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Our generous Martha Ross Prize Raffle sponsors (see listing on p. 26)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Artmakers

Brooklyn Navy Yard at BLDG 92

The Free Portrait Project

Intersection | Prospect Heights

Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum

Middle Way Sangha

Turnstile Tours

CONFERENCE VENUES



ORAL HISTORY & THE CITY

Thursday, April 27 – Sunday, April 30, 2017

Special programming on Thursday and Friday will be held at Union Theological Seminary
The Social Hall & James Chapel, 3041 Broadway at 121st Street

The concurrent conference presentations on Friday & Saturday will take place at Columbia University
Knox Hall, 606 W 122nd Street between Broadway and Claremont Avenue
Knox C01, 101, 103, 104 & 509

Special programming on Saturday will occur at The Riverside Church & Sakura Park
Riverside Church 10T, 91 Claremont Avenue between 120th and 122nd Street
Sakura Park, 122nd Street between Claremont Avenue and Riverside Drive

The Open House on Sunday will offer site visits
at oral history projects across Manhattan and Brooklyn

The closest subway stop to the conference venues is 125th Street on the 1 train.

*OHMAR seeks to create a safe, inclusive, and welcoming space for contributors in this conference.
All venues are wheelchair accessible and we will be helping to direct participants between programming locations.
Gender neutral and family restrooms will be available throughout the conference in Knox Hall.*

*Please note that all conference proceedings may be documented, recorded, and/or shared via social media.
If you have any questions or requests, please contact us at ohmar.conference@gmail.com.*

NEIGHBORHOOD

Oral History & The City will be taking place in the neighborhood of Morningside Heights, between the Upper West Side and Harlem in New York City. It boasts famous sites from the General Grant National Memorial to Tom's Restaurant, and enjoys access to public spaces like Central Park and the Hudson River Greenway.

While Morningside has the feel of a college town within a global city, it is also a space for ongoing struggle. Riverside Church has hosted some of the greatest influencers in civil rights and social justice, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela. Student activism has also long been a tradition in the neighborhood, spanning the Columbia Riots and anti-apartheid divestment campaigns to the more recent social action of Carry That Weight, #StudyingWhileBlack, and graduate student unionization.

However, educational institutions in Morningside Heights further impact the surrounding communities, with Columbia University recently opening its Manhattanville campus amidst protest by residents in public housing projects like the Grant Houses, while Union Theological Seminary faces the prospect of selling its airspace in order to sustain maintenance costs. Gentrification and displacement remain immediate realities, impacting the cohesion of communities and quality of life.

It is our hope that we can use this location as a foundation to engage in dialogue with the history of these institutions, experiences of the residents, and contested memories of our neighborhood.

LOCAL SITES & PARKS

Apollo Theater, 253 W125th St. between Frederick Douglass & Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvds.

General Grant National Memorial, W122nd St. & Riverside Dr.

The Riverside Church, 91 Claremont Ave. at W121nd St.

Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Ave. at W112th St.

Riverbank State Park, 679 Riverside Dr. at W138th St.

Riverside Park & West Harlem Piers, entry at W125th St. & Riverside Dr.

Sakura Park, W122nd St. between Claremont Ave. & Riverside Dr.

Morningside Park, W123rd to W110th St. between Morningside Dr. & Manhattan Ave.

LUNCH, COFFEE & SNACKS

Bahamas Deli, 3137 Broadway at La Salle Ave.

Kuro Kuma, 3139 La Salle between Broadway & Claremont Ave.

Broadway au Lait, 3070 Broadway & W122nd St.

Halal Carts, W120th St./W114th St. & Broadway

Artopolis Espresso, 1090 Amsterdam Ave. between W112th & 113th St.

Hungarian Pastry Shop, 1030 Amsterdam Ave. & W111th St.

Roti Roll, 994 Amsterdam Ave. at W109th St.

Shahi Biryani, W110th St. & Columbus Ave.

Max Caffè, W122nd St. & Amsterdam Ave.

DINNER, RESTAURANTS & DRINKS

Falafel on Broadway, 3151 Broadway, between Tiemann Pl. and La Salle Ave.

El Porton, 3151 Broadway #2, between Tiemann Pl. and La Salle Ave.

Pisticci, 125 La Salle Ave. between Broadway & Claremont Ave.

Massawa, 1239 Amsterdam Ave. at W121st St.

Symposium, 544 W113 St. between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave.

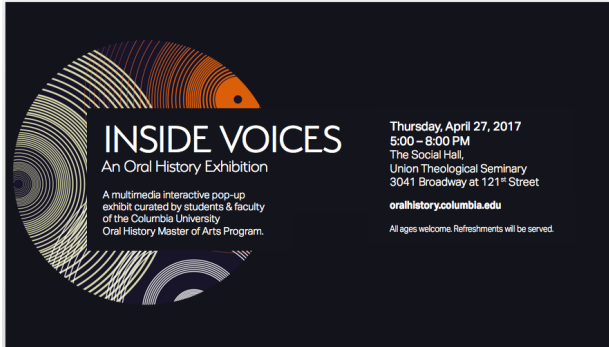
Bernheim and Schwartz, 2911 Broadway at W114th St.

Mill Korean, 2895 Broadway at W113th St.

Tom's Restaurant, 2880 Broadway at W112th St.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Thursday, April 27, 2017



5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

INSIDE VOICES: AN ORAL HISTORY EXHIBITION
The Social Hall | Union Theological Seminary

Created by the 2016 OHMA cohort and curated by Emma Courtland & Amy Starecheski, *Columbia University*

Oral history is a dialogic encounter. Unlike other historical documents, an oral history source is not found, but created during an interview—a record unique to the time and place of its creation, and the relationship of its authors.

On Thursday, April 27, “Inside Voices,” a multimedia pop-up exhibit curated by the students and faculty of Columbia’s Oral History Master of Arts program, will invite a new element into each dialogic encounter: you.

This event is free, open to the public, accessible, and open to all ages! Conference sign ins will officially begin on Friday, so no ticket is required. Questions? Please contact ohma@columbia.edu.

Friday, April 28, 2017

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

OPENING PLENARY: INTERVIEWING ACROSS SOCIAL DIFFERENCE IN URBAN SPACES
James Chapel | Union Theological Seminary

Moderated by Mario Alvarez, *Columbia University* & Benji de la Piedra, *DC Oral History Collaborative*
In conversation with Robert Snyder, *Rutgers University-Newark*, Terrell Frazier, *Columbia University* & Cynthia Tobar, *Bronx Community College*, Alisa Del Tufo, *Threshold Collaborative*

This opening plenary to the 2017 OHMAR conference will include a panel discussion about how urban contexts can impact the ways that identity categories like race, gender, class, age, and geographic origin are shared within an oral history interview.

The plenary moderators, Benji de la Piedra and Mario Alvarez, will introduce the framework of the GSAS Life Histories Project at Columbia University as an experiment in using life history methods to collect complicated narratives and spark innovative dialogue about intersectional identities. The conversation will then develop into a reflection on the lessons panelists have learned about how cities influences both the physical space of the interview and process of narration.

The plenary will conclude with a discussion of what methods can be used to navigate the complex intersubjective terrain of asking narrators to speak about their social identities.

Friday, April 28, 2017

12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

POGUE AWARD LUNCH & OHMAR BUSINESS MEETING

James Chapel | Union Theological Seminary

Honoring Mary Marshall Clark, *Columbia Center for Oral History Research*

Since 1979, OHMAR has recognized and promoted high standards in the field of oral history through the Pogue Award, an annual award for outstanding and continuing contributions to oral history. The award honors Forrest C. Pogue. Pogue pioneered the use of oral history in combat during World War II and also served as an early president of the Oral History Association.

This year's recipient, Mary Marshall Clark, has been involved in oral history since 1991 and has directed projects on the Carnegie Corporation, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Council of Foreign Relations, the Japanese Internment on the East Coast, the Apollo Theater, and Women in the Visual Arts.

She was also the co-principal investigator of the September 11, 2001 Oral History Narrative and Memory Project which documented the experience of eye-witnesses and immigrants in over 1,000 hours of interviews. Mary Marshall worked at the *New York Times* as an oral historian and filmmaker. She served as the president of the Oral History Association from 2001-2002 and has served on the International Oral History Association Executive Council.



*Gospel & blues singer
Gary Samuels*

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

THE MARTHA ROSS PRIZE RENT PARTY

James Chapel | Union Theological Seminary

Featuring performances by Gary Samuels & The Continentals and Judith Sloan of Earsay, oral history exhibitors and interactive installations, a public interview conducted by conference co-chair Cameron Vanderscoff, raffles with charitable donations totaling \$2000+, and more.

The Martha Ross Prize Rent Party serves as a citywide community showcase for projects and practitioners working on the frontiers of storytelling and advocacy. Rent parties first arose in neighboring Harlem in the 1920s as a vibrant community gathering of jazz and blues and as a means of sustenance and support.

We seek to honor this tradition by engaging local musicians and raising funds for a new oral history student scholarship as our collective way of “paying rent” to our cities—by creating a future that acknowledges and strengthens an emerging generation of compassionate, engaged, and intersectional listeners.

With participants ranging from BET Award nominee Gospel and blues singers to radical grassroots oral history groups, the Martha Ross Prize Rent Party will be an event for an interchange of ideas and the cultivation of collaboration in our growing field.

This programming is open and free to Oral History & The City attendees. Tickets for the evening are also available to the public on our conference website as a \$10 donation towards OHMAR's Martha Ross Prize, which seeks to recognize and support promising students of oral history. Refreshments are generously contributed by the Brooklyn Brewery.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017



2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

KEYNOTE LECTURE: JIMMIE BIGGS, THE FERGUSON MOMENT
10T | The Riverside Church

Since the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown during a fateful encounter with police officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014, Ferguson, Missouri has come to represent a nascent moment in the history of the movement for racial civil rights in America. Slogans such as “Black Lives Matter,” “Hands up, don’t shoot,” and others tied to Michael Brown’s killing are now part of a bigger lexicon of charged phrases meant to galvanize attention, mobilize action, and foment discontent. Yet, Ferguson was a community in crisis long before Michael Brown’s birth. Since his death and the nationwide mobilizations recognizing it, the community continues to struggle with a pernicious trans-generational legacy of violence, trauma, and social paralysis.

The Ferguson Moment returns the people who live in and around Ferguson to leading roles in their own story. Readers will hear from activists, pastors, police officers, sports coaches, elected officials, retirees, teachers, social service agents, academics, journalists who covered Michael Brown’s death and its aftermath, as well as businesspeople who lost their livelihoods during civil unrest. The project asks: How and why did the history of Ferguson’s residents and Ferguson’s evolution as a community spark these public protests in response to Michael Brown’s death?

Jimmie Briggs is a documentary storyteller, writer and advocate for racial and gender equity. A member of the New York City Mayor’s Gender Equity Commission, a nonprofit consultant, and lecturer, he is also an instructor in social change journalism at the International Center of Photography in New York.

He was the founding executive director of Man Up Campaign, a globally-focused organisation to activate youth to stop violence against women and girls. This led to his selection as the winner of the 2010 GQ Magazine “Better Men Better World” search, and as one of the Women’s eNews ‘21 Leaders for the 21st Century.’ Jimmie has served as an adjunct professor of investigative journalism at the New School for Social Research, and was a George A. Miller Visiting Professor in the Department of African and African-American Studies at the University of Illinois: Champaign-Urbana.

*He’s a National Magazine Award finalist and recipient of honors from the Open Society Institute, National Association of Black Journalists and the Carter Center for Mental Health Journalism. His 2005 book *Innocents Lost: When Child Soldiers Go To War* took readers into the lives of war-affected children around the world. His next book project is an oral history of Ferguson, Missouri in the wake of Michael Brown’s death in 2014. Jimmie holds a Medal of Distinction from Barnard College.*

5:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Sakura Park | Rain location in Knox Hall 509

Facilitated by Conference Co-Chairs Erica Fugger, *Columbia University* & Cameron Vanderscoff, *Vanderscoff Oral History*

This final session of the 2017 OHMAR conference will revisit the framework of Oral History & The City and offer a space for closing reflections on our core questions like, “How do oral historians respond to contemporary historical moments and create impact in diverse urban environments?”

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

10:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

ORAL HISTORY OPEN HOUSE

10T | Riverside Church

The Oral History Open House offers an interactive opportunity to visit pre-existing projects, exhibitions, tours, and communities relevant to oral history practice around New York City. This programming is open and free to Oral History & The City attendees. Tickets for the full day are also available to the public on our conference website as a \$10 donation to OHMAR's Martha Ross Prize, which seeks to recognize and support promising students of oral history.

For all site visits, sign ups ahead of time are required on the registration page of our conference website. Please wear your conference nametag or show a copy of your ticket order in order to gain entry to all Open House events. Note that there are also additional discounted ticket offers for conference attendees that must be separately paid as a purchase from the hosting organization.

MANHATTAN

INTREPID SEA, AIR & SPACE MUSEUM | 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. : Join Jessica Williams, curator of history and collections, on a tour highlighting the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum's oral histories. The tour will focus on the exhibition *City at Sea: USS Intrepid*, which integrates interviews with former crew member into historic spaces.

MIDDLE WAY SANGHA | 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.: In the hectic bustle of NYC, the Middle Way Sangha comes together to practice mindfulness in the Plum Village tradition of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. We practice bringing mindfulness to our breathing, walking, reading, listening, and speaking, which help foster practices of self-care and compassion for oral historians. We hope you'll consider joining us.

ARTMAKERS | 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.: Curator Jane Weissman will lead a gallery and garden tour of Artmakers' exhibition *La Lucha Continua / The Struggle Continues: 1985 & 2017*. The exhibition celebrates the 26 political murals from 1985 that addressed six political issues: gentrification, police brutality, immigration, feminism, and opposition to U.S. interventions in Central America and apartheid in South Africa.

BROOKLYN

THE FREE PORTRAIT PROJECT: CROWN HEIGHTS PORTRAIT DIASPORA | 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.: Today, portrait Artist Rusty Zimmerman's collection of oil-painted portraits and recorded oral histories of Crown Heights residents in 2016 will have their diaspora, as the 200 subjects of these paintings gather once more to collect the paintings that now belong to them. In this humble ceremony of a mandala swept away, this collection of 200 paintings will go their separate ways.

BROOKLYN NAVY YARD CENTER AT BLDG 92 | 1:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.: "Brooklyn Navy Yard: Past, Present and Future" introduces the generations of people who worked, or were stationed, at the Yard, who lived in the communities surrounding it, who shaped the Yard over time and who now are creating its future. Co-led by Visitor Services Associate Shawna Claxton and Navy Yard Archivist Elizabeth McGorty, this guided exhibit tour will highlight oral histories from our collection. There is also an option for a discounted guided tour of the Yard itself via Turnstile Tours that features more oral histories.

INTERSECTION | PROSPECT HEIGHTS | 3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.: Join us for a storytelling walk to talk about neighborhood, gentrification, and the meaning of place in Brooklyn and across New York. This tour of the sites in the Intersection | Prospect Heights guidebooks, led by artist Gabrielle Bendiner-Viani, will culminate with an opportunity to tell your own stories, in partnership with Brooklyn Public Library.

@OHMidAtlantic
#OHMAR2017 | 15

FEATURED PANELS

Friday, April 28, 2017

10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

RAUSCHENBERG'S NEW YORK

Knox Hall 509 | Columbia University

With an introduction by Sara Sinclair, *Columbia Center for Oral History Research*

Moderated by Julia Blaut and Helen Hsu, *Robert Rauschenberg Foundation*

In dialogue with Virginia Dwan, Julie Martin, Susan Weil, and David White, contributors to the *Robert Rauschenberg Oral History Project*

During his formative years as a young artist, the city and specifically New York became artist Robert Rauschenberg's adopted home and essentially his muse. He valued New York as a place of "unorganized experiences peopled by the unexpected."

From 1949, it provided him with an expansive palette of unconventional materials and a fertile milieu of artists and art in which he was exposed to the prevalent Modernist aesthetic; he quickly rejected this mode of heroic painting in favor of a messier and inclusive art with a distinctly urban sensibility.

The Robert Rauschenberg Oral History Project, which was organized by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation in collaboration with the Columbia Center for Oral History Research and which comprises sixty interviews, includes a number of accounts by Rauschenberg's intimates and colleagues during this early period.

Recollecting their shared experiences, several discussed the topic of New York as context and backdrop of their endeavors, recounting its particular inspirations and challenges. This panel will explore this topic in further depth and conjure a collective memory of the city when Rauschenberg was known as the "enfant terrible" of the New York art world.



4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

PLEASE KILL ME: A LIVE INTERVIEW ON POPULAR ORAL HISTORY

Knox Hall 509 | Columbia University

Live interview with authors Gillian McCain & Legs McNeil, conducted by Cameron Vanderscoff, *Vanderscoff Oral History*

This session will explore key questions in Legs McNeil's and Gillian McCain's seminal work *Please Kill Me: An Uncensored Oral History of Punk*, considering the methodological and thematic aspects of their oral history approach. We'll start with a live reading, transition into an interview conducted by conference co-chair Cameron Vanderscoff, and expand out into a full Q&A to directly engage the Oral History & The City audience with the work of these two groundbreaking authors and practitioners.

Legs McNeil was the Resident Punk at Punk Magazine, a senior editor at Spin, and currently a contributor to Vice. His other books include *The Other Hollywood: The Uncensored Oral History of the Porn Film Industry*. He currently lives in Schwenksville, PA.

Gillian McCain is the author of two books of poetry, *Tilt* and *Religion*. Along with Jeffery Conway and David Trinidad, McCain recently coauthored *Descent of the Dolls, Part I*, an epic poetic conversation meshing Dante's *Inferno* with the 1967 Hollywood camp classic *Valley of the Dolls*. She lives in New York City.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

ORAL HISTORY & THE CITY

2017 Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region Conference
Co-Sponsored by the Columbia University Oral History MA Program

April 27-30, 2017
Columbia University | New York

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Inside Voices: An Oral History Exhibition

The Social Hall | Union Theological Seminary

Created by the 2016 OHMA cohort and curated by Emma Courtland & Amy Starecheski, *Columbia University*

Note: This event is free and open to the public. No ticket or conference registration are required.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

OPENING PLENARY: Interviewing Across Social Difference in Urban Spaces

James Chapel | Union Theological Seminary

Moderated by Mario Alvarez, *Columbia University* & Benji de la Piedra, *DC Oral History Collaborative*;

In conversation with Robert Snyder, *Rutgers University-Newark*, Terrell Frazier, *Columbia University*, Cynthia Tobar, *Bronx Community College* & Alisa Del Tufo, *Threshold Collaborative*

10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

Session 1: Concurrent Conference Presentations

Knox Hall | Columbia University

EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT | KNOX HALL C01

Collecting Together: NYC Public Library Approaches to Community Oral History

Natalie Milbrodt, *Queens Public Library*

Taina Evans, *Brooklyn Public Library*

Alexandra Kelly, *New York Public Library*

Cassie Mey, *New York Public Library*

IDENTITY & COMMUNITY DIALOGUE | KNOX HALL 101

Invisible Stories and Lost Voices Unsilenced

Hearing the Homeless: Oral Histories from Washington, D.C.

James Deutsch, *Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage*

Work Days: Stories of Employment and Activism in the Krueger-Scott Oral History Collection

Katie Singer, *Rutgers University-Newark*

Weeping for Another's Woe: A Modern Iteration of 20th Century Hospice Care on the Lower East Side

Dominic Decker, MD, MS, *Brown University*

Chair: Abigail Perkiss, *Kean University*

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

PLACE-BASED MEMORY & SOCIAL JUSTICE | KNOX HALL 103

Legacies of Housing Discrimination in Brooklyn

The Red Line Archive

Walis Johnson, *The Red Line Archive*

East New York Oral History Project

Sarita Daftary-Steel, *East New York Oral History Project*

From Shiloh to Nehemiah: A Story in East New York and Brownsville in the 1970s

Jessica Roseberry, *Baylor Institute for Oral History*

URBAN METHODS & COLLABORATION | KNOX HALL 104

Global and Local Perspectives on Urban Oral History

Robert Snyder, *Rutgers University-Newark*

ORAL HISTORY ART & PRACTICE | KNOX HALL 509

Rauschenberg's New York

Julia Blaut, *Robert Rauschenberg Foundation*

Helen Hsu, *Robert Rauschenberg Foundation*

With an introduction by Sara Sinclair, *Columbia Center for Oral History Research*

Virginia Dwan, *Robert Rauschenberg Oral History Project*

Julie Martin, *Robert Rauschenberg Oral History Project*

Susan Weil, *Robert Rauschenberg Oral History Project*

David White, *Robert Rauschenberg Oral History Project*

12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Pogue Award Lunch & OHMAR Business Meeting

James Chapel | Union Theological Seminary

Honoring Mary Marshall Clark,

Director of the Columbia Center for Oral History Research

Co-Founder & Co-Director of the Columbia University Oral History MA Program

Lifetime member of OHMAR

Note: This is a ticketed lunch. Conference attendees are able to bring their own meal if they did not order catering.

2:15 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.

Session 2: Concurrent Conference Presentations
Knox Hall | Columbia University

EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT | KNOX HALL C01

Oral History in the Classroom: Implementing Student Projects

Military Influence in Cumberland County

Austin Karper, *Shippensburg University*
Stone Hockenberry, *Shippensburg University*

1977 Johnstown Flood

Becca Justinus, *Shippensburg University*
Meriah Swope, *Shippensburg University*

Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF) Strike

Emily Keating, *Shippensburg University*

Chair: John Bloom, *Shippensburg University*

IDENTITY & COMMUNITY DIALOGUE | KNOX HALL 101

Reframing Narratives of Immigration

Immigrant Alexandria: Recognizing the Immigrant Experience in Alexandria, Virginia

Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, *Office of Historic Alexandria*

Protecting People, Revealing Truths When Documenting Immigrant Stories

Judith Sloan, *Earsay*

Calling All Cabs: Voices of South Asian Drivers in New York City

Rohma A. Khan, *University of Rochester*

Chair: Anne Rush, *University of Maryland, College Park*

PLACE-BASED MEMORY & SOCIAL JUSTICE | KNOX HALL 103

Urban Impact: Displacement and Renewal

Oral Histories of Urban Renewal: The 98 Acres in Albany Project

David Hochfelder, *University of Albany, SUNY*
Ann Pfau, *Independent Scholar*
Stacy Sewell, *St. Thomas Aquinas College*

Lost Rondout: A Story of Urban Removal

Lynn Woods, *Lost Roundout*
Stephen Blauweiss, *Lost Roundout*

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

URBAN METHODS & COLLABORATION | KNOX HALL 104
International Cityscapes in Social and Historical Context

Cities as Spaces of Social Conflicts in 1970s Italy: Paths, Experiences, and Memories of the Feminist Collectives in the Roman Suburbs
Paola Stelliferi, *Columbia University*

Love Never Dies
Wu Chen, *Columbia University*

Representing The Politics of Nostalgia: Reflecting on Oral History via Audio Documentary
Laura J. Murray, *Queen's University*

Camp Joy's Storytelling Circle
Sylvie St-Jacques, *Columbia University*

Chair: Ron Grele, *Columbia University*

ORAL HISTORY ART & PRACTICE | KNOX HALL 509
Freelance Forum

Cameron Vanderscoff, *Vanderscoff Oral History*
Liz Strong, *New York Preservation Archive Project*
Sarah Dziedzic, *Storm King Art Center*

4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Session 3: Concurrent Conference Presentations
Knox Hall | Columbia University

EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT | KNOX HALL C01
Harlem History and Hearsay

Rev. Malika Lee Whitney, *Pickney Productions*
Cal Jones, *Manhattan Historian Emeritus*
The Significant Others

IDENTITY & COMMUNITY DIALOGUE | KNOX HALL 101
Making Meaning through Art & Story

A Life in NYC Theatre: The Performing Arts Legacy Project at the Actors Fund
Joan Jeffri, *The Actors Fund*

Encountering the Sacred in the Everydayness of Existence: Oral History and Phenomenology of Practice
Geraldo Jay Scala, *Columbia University*

We Know the Stories, But Not the History: The City in Context
Nyssa Chow, *Columbia University*

Chair: Janneken Smucker, *West Chester University*

PLACE-BASED MEMORY & SOCIAL JUSTICE | KNOX HALL 103

Contested Spaces: New York City

“Cities for People, Not for Profit”: Gentrification and Housing Activism in Bushwick

Cynthia Tobar, *Bronx Community College*

Ours to Lose: Claiming Space in the City with History

Amy Starecheski, *Columbia University*

How Do Community Voices Physically Manifest in Real Estate Development?

Deeba Zivarid, *Columbia University*

Murder Avenue: How Home Ownership Transforms Neighborhoods

Karen Schmidt, *Columbia University*

Chair: Liz Strong, *New York Preservation Archive Project*

URBAN METHODS & COLLABORATION | KNOX HALL 104

Oral History Across a City: The DC Oral History Collaborative

Anna F. Kaplan, *American University*

Benji de la Piedra, *DC Oral History Collaborative*

ORAL HISTORY ART & PRACTICE | KNOX HALL 509

Please Kill Me: A Live Interview on Popular Oral History

Legs McNeil, *Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk*

Gillian McCain, *Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk*

Interviewed by Cameron Vanderscoff, *Vanderscoff Oral History*

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

The Martha Ross Prize Rent Party

Union Theological Seminary | James Chapel

Featuring performances by Gary Samuels & The Continentals and Judith Sloan of Earsay

Exhibitors from Audio Transcription Center and OHMAR Communications

And interactive oral history installations by:

Show Me Your Hands: A Multimedia Oral History Exhibit About One Woman’s Story of Motherhood, Migration, and Detention

Fanny Garcia, *Columbia University*

Making the Personal Historical: Oral Histories in the Classroom

Gerrie Bay Hall, *Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum*

David Dzendzel, *Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum*

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

La Lucha Continua The Struggle Continues: 1985 & 2017

Jane Weissman, *Artmakers Inc.*

Demonstrating Brooklyn Historical Society's Oral History Portal using WordPress, XML, and OHMS

Julie May, *Brooklyn Historical Society*

Brett Dion, *Brooklyn Historical Society*

Note: This is a ticketed event, available free to conference attendees and open to the public for \$10.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Session 4: Concurrent Conference Presentations

Knox Hall | Columbia University

EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT | KNOX HALL C01

Oral History & Public Dialogue

Intersection | Prospect Heights: Dialogue in the Supermarket

Gabrielle Bendiner-Viani, *Buscada*

Storytelling For Social Justice: Oral History, Libraries and Communities in Crisis

Renate Chancellor, Ph.D., *Catholic University of America*

Shari Lee, Ph.D., *St. John's University*

#WeAreCrownHeights: The Free Portrait Project

Rusty Zimmerman, *The Free Portrait Project*

The Life We March For: Oral Histories of the Freddie Gray Demonstrations in Baltimore, MD

Erin Durham, *University of Maryland, College Park*

IDENTITY & COMMUNITY DIALOGUE | KNOX HALL 101

Transmitting Cultural Heritage

What Will You Do With the Inheritance?: On Interpretations of Legacy

Christa Whitney, *Yiddish Book Center*

Being A Carrier of Pakistani Culture in Post-9/11 New York

Shandana Waheed, *New York University*

Day and Night

Xiaoyan Li, *Columbia University*

Chair: Mary Marshall Clark, *Columbia University*

PLACE-BASED MEMORY & SOCIAL JUSTICE | KNOX HALL 103

#LoveInAction:Voices in Social Justice

Kristine Chong, *Union Theological Seminary*

Tabatha Holley, *Union Theology Seminary*

Elizabeth Call, Burke Library, *Columbia University*

URBAN METHODS & COLLABORATION | KNOX HALL 104

Oral History as Cartography:The Voices of Crown Heights

Zaheer Ali, *Brooklyn Historical Society*

Amaka Okechukwu, *Brooklyn Historical Society*

ORAL HISTORY ART & PRACTICE | KNOX HALL 509

Listening Deeply to the Voices of a City: A Reflective Workshop

Erica Fugger, *Columbia University*

11:15 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

Session 5: Concurrent Conference Presentations

Knox Hall | Columbia University

EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT | KNOX HALL C01

Preserving New York

Memory in Urban Landscapes: Building Oral History Tools for New York City's Preservation Movement

Liz H. Strong, *New York Preservation Archive Project*

The Expected and the Unexpected in Chronicling Wall Street Through the Lives of Those Who Worked There

Melanie Shorin, *The Narrative Trust*

Michael Ryan, *New-York Historical Society*

20th Century Bronx Oral History

Dr. Janet Butler Munch, *Lehman College*

Chair: Eylem Delikanli, *Columbia University*

IDENTITY & COMMUNITY DIALOGUE | KNOX HALL 101

Gender, Community, and Identity in A Century of Women in Congress

Kathleen Johnson, *Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives*

Michael J. Murphy, *Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives*

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

PLACE-BASED MEMORY & SOCIAL JUSTICE | KNOX HALL 103

The Oppression Olympics: Explorations of One Mixed-Race Black Woman's Place within Baltimore's Black Activist Community in 2017

Eve Austin, *Center for the Mixed Voice*

Tia Price, *Wide Angle Youth Media*

URBAN METHODS & COLLABORATION | KNOX HALL 104

NYC Working Group

Erica Fugger, *Columbia University*

Sarah Dziedzic, *Storm King Art Center*

Sara Sinclair, *Voice of Witness*

Mary Marshall Clark, *Columbia University*

Cameron Vanderscoff, *Vanderscoff Oral History*

ORAL HISTORY ART AND PRACTICE | KNOX HALL 509

"Noisy Recordings," or, Oral History & its Ecologies: An Experimental Listening Workshop

Jess Lamar Reece Holler, *Growing Right Project*

2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

KEYNOTE LECTURE: Jimmie Briggs, *The Ferguson Moment*

The Riverside Church | 10T

Note: This event is free to all conference attendees and includes light refreshments provided by the Columbia Center for Oral History Research. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and space is limited to the first 100 people. There will also be live streaming of the lecture in Knox Hall 509 to accommodate all remaining participants.

3:45 P.M. – 5:15 P.M.

Session 6: Concurrent Conference Presentations

Columbia University | Knox Hall

EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT | KNOX HALL C01

Amplifying Unheard Voices: Voice of Witness Editors on Place, Identity & Social Justice Storytelling

Jimmie Briggs, *Voice of Witness*

Sara Sinclair, *Voice of Witness*

Luke Gerwe, *Voice of Witness*

IDENTITY & COMMUNITY DIALOGUE | KNOX HALL 101

"We Were from New York and We Didn't Take Any Crap from Anybody": Harlem and the 369th in WWII

Chad Dell, *Monmouth University*

Judith Samuels, *Monmouth University*

Hettie Williams, *Monmouth University*

Melissa Ziobro, *Monmouth University*

PLACE-BASED MEMORY & SOCIAL JUSTICE | KNOX HALL 103

Oral History as Transformative Practice: Truth and Reconciliation in a Southern City in the Early Days of Trump and the Rise of White Nationalisms

Alisa Del Tufo, *Threshold Collaborative*

Michelle Fine, *Graduate Center, CUNY*

Chinyere Okafor, *Graduate Center, CUNY*

Loren Cahill, *Graduate Center, CUNY*

Jill Bradbury, *University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg*

URBAN METHODS & COLLABORATION | KNOX HALL 104

Listening to Brooklyn: Establishing Oral History at an Under-Funded, Public, Urban University

Joseph Entin, *Brooklyn College*

Maddy Fox, *Brooklyn College*

Philip Napoli, *Brooklyn College*

Jessica Siegel, *Brooklyn College*

ORAL HISTORY ART & PRACTICE | KNOX HALL 509

From Interview and Archive to Podcast: An Introduction to Radio Storytelling in the City

Molly Graham, *Rutgers University*

Cory Fischer-Hoffman, *Lehigh University*

5:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Closing Ceremony

Sakura Park | Rain location in Knox Hall 509

Facilitated by Erica Fugger, *Columbia University* & Cameron Vanderscoff, *Vanderscoff Oral History*

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

Oral History Open House

Site visits to community partners around New York

Manhattan

10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.: Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Pier 86, W 46th St. & 12th Ave.

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.: Middle Way Sangha, 888 Broadway

1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.: Art Makers | La Lucha Continua / The Struggle Continues: 1985 & 2017, 10 E 9th St.

Brooklyn

11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.: The Free Portraits Project: Crown Heights Portrait Diaspora, 663 Classon Ave.

1:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.: Brooklyn Navy Yard at BLDG 92, 63 Flushing Ave.

3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.: Intersection | Prospect Heights, 632 Vanderbilt Ave.

Note: This is a ticketed event, available free to conference attendees and open to the public for \$10. For each Open House session, sign ups ahead of time are required on the registration page of our conference website.

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Linda Shopes

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Immigration & Oral History Fall Workshop

**Presented by
OHMAR & IEHS**

**MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**

In collaboration with the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and hosted by Monmouth University, OHMAR presents a workshop on Immigration and Oral History. Registration will open on OHMAR's website early summer; space is limited. Please contact Anne Rush, arush1@umd.edu, for more details.



[HTTP://IEHS.ORG/ONLINE](http://iehs.org/online)
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The Columbia University Center for Oral History (CCOH) is one of the world's leading centers for the practice and teaching of oral history. CCOH achieves its mission from the union of the Columbia Center for Oral History Research (CCOHR) and Columbia Center for Oral History Archives (CCOHA).

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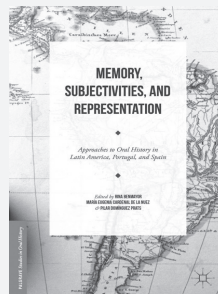
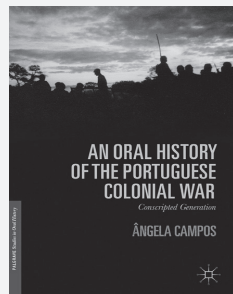
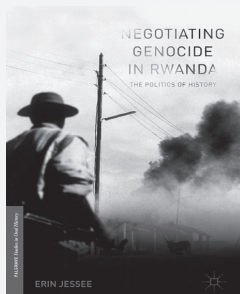
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NOTES & AUTOGRAPHS

ORAL HISTORY & THE CITY

2017 Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region Conference

April 27-30, 2017
Columbia University | New York

*From global metropolises to local hubs, urban spaces echo with historical memory and ongoing struggle.
The 2017 OHMAR conference is an exploration of how oral history answers to the voices of a city.*



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