

Brooklyn
College

Robert L. Hess

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

LISA LOWE, PH.D.

*Robert L. Hess
Scholar in Residence
2021-2022*

Brooklyn College
The City University of New York

All 2021 events will be held online. [Register here.](#)

The Robert L. Hess Scholar-in-Residence Program, established by Brooklyn College, is supported by the Robert L. Hess Fund. The program serves as a permanent tribute to the scholarly commitment of Robert L. Hess, exemplified during his tenure as president of Brooklyn College. It represents the ideal of the educated individual—knowledgeable, thoughtful, inquiring, alive to the shared purposes and concerns linking all intellectual pursuits. More particularly, it evokes the scholarly and academic virtues embodied in the Core Curriculum at Brooklyn College.

The purpose of the program is to invite to the campus each year a distinguished individual representative of an academic discipline at the college, with the selection of such scholars being rotated through the disciplines. The distinction of the scholars in residence is based on their accomplishments and stature, not on their affiliation; they may be drawn from the academy, the professions, or public life. They must be able to speak to issues of their discipline as well as significant issues of concern to the entire Brooklyn College community.

The scholar in residence engages in a variety of activities appropriate to the discipline, such as public lectures, performances, master classes, or guest lectures in undergraduate courses; participates in panels or symposia; and meets informally and socially with students, members of the faculty, alumni, and friends of Brooklyn College.

The scholar in residence is chosen by a committee composed of representatives of the Hess family, representatives of the major disciplines at the college, and such additional members as the college president may select. The committee is appointed by the board of the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities. Due to precautions against the novel coronavirus pandemic, all 2021 Hess Scholar-in-Residence events will take place online.

The Brooklyn College Library has received the Ethiopian and African history collection from the library of Robert L. Hess. A portion of the Robert L. Hess Fund is set aside for the conservation and enhancement of this collection.

Tax-deductible contributions to the Brooklyn College Foundation, Inc./ Robert L. Hess Fund may be sent to the Brooklyn College Foundation, Inc., 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11210-2889.

For more information about the Hess Scholar in Residence or the Wolfe Institute, contact us [via e-mail](#).

Monday, October 25

Glocal Asian Experiences in Brooklyn and Beyond

The formal welcoming of Professor Lisa Lowe (American Studies, Yale) by Brooklyn College administrators, followed by an opening land acknowledgment and blessing led by George Stonefish, and an overview of Asian and Asian American experiences in Brooklyn by Assistant Professor Vivian Truong (History, Swarthmore College) and Professor Zohra Saed (Asian American Studies, Macaulay Honors College). Personal reflections on Asian America by Reverend Samuel Wong and Professor Lisa Lowe. Moderated by Professor Rosamond S. King (director of the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities and professor of English, Brooklyn College).

Co-sponsored by the [Center for the Study of Brooklyn](#).

9:30–11 a.m.

Asian American Studies 101

An overview of the history of, and major topics and trends within Asian American Studies through a conversation between Professor Moustafa Bayoumi (English, Brooklyn College) and Professor Lisa Lowe. Moderated by Associate Professor Yung-Yi Diana Pan (Sociology, Brooklyn College).

12:50–2:05 p.m.

Disruptive Pedagogies

How can our teaching practices overcome centuries of what Paulo Freire calls the “banking model of education,” which treats students as empty vessels to be filled, instead of seeing them as active participants in their own learning? A panel discussion with Associate Professor Anna Gotlib (Philosophy, Brooklyn College), Associate Professor Stephanie Jensen-Moulton (Music, Brooklyn College), Associate Professor Susan Longtin (Communications, Brooklyn College), Professor Lisa Lowe (American Studies, Yale), and Professor María Scharron del Río (associate dean of the School of Education). Moderated by Associate Professor Anna Gotlib (Philosophy, Brooklyn College).

5:05–6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 26

The Subaltern Archive

The adage goes, “History is written by the victors.” If the “victors” voices appear in historical archives more often than “subaltern” voices (i.e., the voices of people who were not of the ruling class/age/gender/race/caste), how do we reclaim those voices and let the subaltern “speak”? And in archives that more regularly collect sources from powerful elites, how can we listen to the voices of more (seemingly) marginalized and (seemingly) undocumented historical figures? A

panel discussion with Associate Professor Colleen Bradley-Sanders (Library & Archives, Brooklyn College), Associate Professor Louis Fishman (History, Brooklyn College), Professor Vivian Louie (Urban Policy and Planning; Asian American Studies Program & Center, Hunter College), Professor Lisa Lowe, Associate Professor Raquel Otheguy (History, Bronx Community College), and Professor Gunja Sengupta (History, Brooklyn College). Moderated by Associate Professor Lauren Mancia (History, Brooklyn College).

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

A Reading Featuring Asian American Alumni of Brooklyn College's Creative Writing Programs

Readings by Brooklyn College's Masters of Fine Art in Creative Writing programs alumni Jai Chakrabarti (fiction writer), Cherry Lou Sy (playwright), and Yun Wei (poet). Moderated by Professor Madeleine Thien (English, Brooklyn College).

Co-sponsored by the **Brooklyn College M.F.A Program in Creative Writing** and **Asian American Writer's Workshop**.

3:40–4:45 p.m.

Asian Americans in the BC Archives

Brooklyn College students discuss their research into the history of Asian Americans and Asian American studies on campus, in the general archives, and in the COVID Archive. A panel discussion with Brooklyn College students Abby Heath, Niara Johnson, Joshua Leonard, Anunna Meem, Anum Momin, and Bridget Squitire. Moderated by Associate Professor Miriam Deutch (Library, Brooklyn College).

Co-sponsored by the **Center for the Study of Brooklyn** and the **Brooklyn College Listening Project**.

6:05–7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, October 27

Student Activist Luncheon

By invitation.

12:30–2 p.m.

The Secret History of Academic Disciplines

Many of the disciplines and departments of our modern university were formed and developed in the 19th century, at the same time that European countries were colonizing various parts of the world. Panelists will discuss how colonialism has shaped various academic disciplines, and how scholars today are attempting to fundamentally decolonize and transform age-old concepts and categories that have historically been foundational to their disciplinary methodologies. A panel discussion with Assistant Professor Yana Kuchirko (Psychology,

Professor Lisa Lowe, Ph.D.

Lisa Lowe is Samuel Knight Professor of American Studies at Yale University and an affiliate faculty in the programs of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. An interdisciplinary scholar whose work is concerned with the study of race, immigration, capitalism, and colonialism, she is the author of *Critical Terrains: French and British Orientalisms* (Cornell University Press, 1991), *Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics* (Duke University Press, 1996), and *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (Duke University Press, 2015), and the co-editor of *The Politics of Culture in the Shadow of Capital* (Duke University Press, 1997) and *New Questions, New Formations: Asian American Studies*, a special issue of *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 5:2 (Fall 1997). Lowe's teaching interests include Asian American studies and critical race and ethnic studies, colonialism and U.S. empire, and cultures of globalization.

Brooklyn College), Professor Lisa Lowe, Assistant Professor Rhea Rahman (Anthropology, Brooklyn College), Assistant Professor Christopher Richards (Art, Brooklyn College), and Professor Sophia Suarez (Biology, Brooklyn College). Moderated by Associate Professor Lauren Mancía (History, Brooklyn College).

5:05–6:20 p.m.

Thursday, October 28

Before 1492: Comparative Premodern Colonialisms

We often think about imperialism and colonialism as phenomena that happened in the world after 1500 C.E., as a result of European exploration. But how (and by whom, and of whom) was colonialism practiced before the early modern period, in the premodern world? And how does such premodern history both deepen our understanding of colonialism in modernity and enhance our understanding of the world before European hegemony? A panel discussion with Professor Lynda Day (Africana Studies, Brooklyn College), Associate Professor Jason Frydman (English, Brooklyn College), Professor Lisa Lowe, Associate Professor Hyunhee Park (History, John Jay College of Criminal Justice), and Assistant Professor Brian Sowers (Classics, Brooklyn College). Moderated by Associate Professor Lauren Mancía (History, Brooklyn College).

Co-sponsored by the **Late Antique-Medieval-Early Modern Faculty Working Group**.

9:30–10:45 a.m.

The New Nativism

How do we understand and address the growing xenophobic upsurge in the United States (and elsewhere)? Is it just a matter of economic frustrations and security-focused phobias, or are the voices of nationalist hatred emerging from deeper, and more troubling, waters? A panel discussion with Professor Alan Aja (Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, Brooklyn College), Associate Professor Anna Gotlib (Philosophy, Brooklyn College), Professor Lisa Lowe, Assistant Professor Beaudelaine Pierre (Women's Studies, St. Catherine University), and Associate Professor Chandan Reddy (Gender, Women, & Sexuality Studies, University of Washington). Moderated by Associate Professor Anna Gotlib (Philosophy, Brooklyn College)

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

The Colonial Present

The Robert L. Hess Memorial Lecture. Introduced by Professor Celina Su (Political Science, Brooklyn College). Preceded by a musical selection curated by Associate Professor Malcolm J. Merriweather (Music, Brooklyn College).

5–6:45 p.m.

Friday, October 29

Office Hours With Professor Lisa Lowe

Various Brooklyn College groups have the opportunity to have informal conversations with the Hess Scholar.

For additional information about events, contact the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities at Brooklyn College at 718.951.5847 or **via e-mail**.

Thank you to all of the professors and students whose classes attended the 2021–2022 Hess Scholar-in-Residence events.

Africana Studies 3245: Post-Colonial Literature and Theory
Moustafa Bayoumi

American Studies 1010: American Identities
Elizabeth Cooper
Justin Gallagher

Childhood, Bilingual, and Special Education 2001: Historical, Philosophical, and Cultural Foundations of Education
Michael Loeb

English 1010: English Composition I
Michelle Radtke

English 4105: Seminar in American Culture and Literature
Cherry Lou Sy

English 4113: Introduction to History and Literature
Marie Rutkoski

Sociology 2101: Classical Social Theory
Diana Pan

Sociology 3607: Working 9–5? The Sociology of Work in the U.S.
Abby Scher

History 1101: The Shaping of the Modern World
Lauren Mancía
Marybeth Tamborra

History 2001W: The Historian's Craft: Theories and Methods
Michael Rawson

History 3033: Medieval Christianity
Lauren Mancía

History 3320: The History of Childhood
Swapna Banerjee

History 3332: Comparative Industrialization, Late 18th to Early 20th Centuries
Jocelyn Wills

History 3413: African American History through 1865
Prudence Cumberbatch

History 4005: Colloquium in Political History
Benjamin Carp

History 4200: Oral History Theory and Practice
Phil Napoli

Puerto Rican Latino Studies 1001: Introduction to
Puerto Rican and Latino Studies
Gisely Colón López

Scholar's Program 3150: Interdisciplinary Topics
Anna Gotlib

**Brooklyn College co-sponsor: Asian American
Studies Working Group.**

**CUNY-wide co-sponsor: [Asian American / Asian
Research Institute.](#)**

Hess Scholar-in-Residence Library Display

An exhibit located in the main entrance of the Brooklyn College Library features the works of Professor Lisa Lowe and others in related fields. It also includes archival material about Robert L. Hess, Brooklyn College's president from 1979 to 1992 and noted scholar of Ethiopian history.

Curated by Associate Professor and Brooklyn College Librarian Helen Georgas.

Musical Selection for Robert L. Hess Memorial Lecture

The performance was filmed on stage in the Buchwald Theater in the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College.

Vianca Alejandra, mezzo-soprano, '22 M.Mus. &
Adjunct Assistant Professor Violetta Zabbi, piano perform
"When I Have Sung My Songs" by Ernest Charles (1895-1950)

Curated by Malcolm J. Merriweather.

Teaching and Research Resources

In order to help faculty formally integrate the Hess residency into their classes, and to enrich everyone interested in learning more about Lisa Lowe's work and related topics, Brooklyn College Librarian and Associate Professor Helen Georgas has provided a number of resources. Essays, videos, and e-books related to Lowe and (re)discovery, the 2021–22 Wolfe theme, can be found on our website or [here](#). The first Wolfe BC Digital Humanities Fellow, Emily Fairey, has created sample digital assignments relevant to Asian-American studies and archival studies, along with relevant readings and other resources, [here](#).

The Robert Viscusi Faculty Reading Group and Wolfe Institute Faculty Fellow

Associate Professor Lauren Mancina and Assistant Professor Brian Sowers lead the fall 2021 faculty reading group focusing on Maia Kotrosits' *The Lives of Objects: Material Culture, Experience, the Real in the History of Early Christianity*. This selection serendipitously dovetails with the research of the 2021–22 Wolfe Faculty Fellow Professor Karen Stern and her project "Judaism: An Object History." The reading group meets once a month, giving faculty an opportunity for informal, intellectual engagement with colleagues. It will meet online both before and after the Hess residency. To join the reading group, or to receive information about future events, [e-mail us](#).

Land Acknowledgement

Brooklyn College exists on unceded territory stolen from the Canarsee and the Nyack, subgroups of the Indigenous Lenape people. That ongoing theft, along with the stolen blood and work of enslaved Africans, facilitates our presence. We pay our respects to elders past, present, and future who have stewarded this land. We recognize the hundreds of Indigenous Nations who continue to resist and uphold their sacred cultures. We know that this acknowledgment is neither sufficient nor complete, but is part of a process of learning to become more thoughtful and respectful. We work toward a deeper incorporation of Indigenous and Native American cultures, philosophies, and peoples into the curriculum, student body, staff, and faculty of Brooklyn College, in line with CUNY's original mission to provide a transformative, distinctive education to the whole people of New York City.

*Hess Scholar-in-Residence
Selection Committee*

Tania Darbouze

Miriam Deutch

David Grubbs

Alexandria James

Rosamond S. King

Lauren Mancia

Emily Tumpson Molina

Tanya Pollard

Carla Santamaria



Planning Committee

Marie Lily Cerat

Prudence Cumberbatch

Tania Darbouze

Miriam Deutch

Joseph Entin

Anna Gotlib

Alexandria James

Rosamond S. King, chair

Lauren Mancia

Yung Yi Diana Pan

Priya Parmar

Wolfe Board 2021-22

Tania Darbouze

Alexandria James

Rosamond S. King

Lauren Mancia



*Robert L. Hess
Scholars in Residence*

Vartan Gregorian, 1993–1994

Ann Douglas, 1995–1996

James S. Langer, 1996–1997

Daniel Miller, 2000–2001

Robin D.G. Kelley, 2001–2002

Agnieszka Holland, 2005–2006

Marc Shell, 2007–2008

Eleanor J. Sterling, 2009–2010

Sean Wilentz, 2012–2013

Thomas Frank, 2014–2015

Rob Nixon, 2015–2016

John L. Jackson, Jr., 2016–2017

Edwidge Danticat, 2017–2018

José David Saldívar, 2018–2019

Winona LaDuke, 2020–2021