School of Social Science

Social Science Scholars

2022-2023
SOCIAL SCIENCE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, the seminars will take place on Mondays from 10:00-11:45am on the dates listed below. For current seminar information and topics, please check the web site at:

ias.edu/sss/social-science-seminar-2022-2023

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* 11am-12:45pm, West Lecture Hall
** Tuesday
LILA ABU-LUGHOD  
*Columbia University*  
Anthropology and Gender Studies  
West Building 334  
(609) 734-8273  
labu-lugho01@ias.edu

Lila Abu-Lughod is interested in anthropology and gender politics in/of the Arab and Muslim world. She has focused on questions of representation and ethics; the cultural politics of poetry, media, and museums; and the international circulation of rights discourses. She will be working on "Acknowledgments: Making an Anthropologist."

LORENZO ALUNNI  
*EHESS-Paris*  
Anthropology  
West Building 306  
(609) 734-8263  
alunni@ias.edu

Lorenzo Alunni is inquiring into the corporeal experience of borders. His research examines how bodies shape and are shaped by borders, and the role healthcare plays in this process. While at IAS, he will work on a book about his ethnography on the island of Lampedusa and other crucial sites of European bordering practices.
**HILLARY ANGELO**  
*University of California, Santa Cruz*  
Sociology  

West Building 317  
(609) 734-8033  
hangelo@ias.edu  

Hillary Angelo is an urban and environmental sociologist whose work includes historical and contemporary research on urban greening, sustainability planning and policy, infrastructure, and climate change. At IAS, she will be working on a book on public lands and the energy transition.

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**ALYSSA BATTISTONI**  
*Barnard College*  
Political Science  

West Building 335  
(609) 734-8256  
abattistoni@ias.edu  

Alyssa Battistoni is a political theorist with research interests in climate and environmental politics, Marxism, feminism, and the history of political and economic thought. At IAS she is completing a book on the free gifts of nature and the problem of non-value in capitalism.
David Bond investigates how the American Empire of Oil ends, with an aim to make a contribution in that direction. His current book project joins a struggle to close an oil refinery in the US Virgin Islands, a fight that productively holds together colonial histories of profitable neglect and catastrophic futures of planetary instability.

Wendy Brown is exploring how and whether political freedom can be salvaged from its historical imbrication with regimes of class, caste, race, colonial and gender subjection, and also from its sequester of humanity from the life of the planet. This involves rethinking the grounds and coordinates of democracy, including democratic socialism.
Heather Davis is interested in how the saturation of fossil fuels has shaped contemporary culture. While at IAS, she will begin a new project that investigates how the construction of modern, Western time relied upon fossil fuels, and how that sense of temporality is now coming undone through the effects of climate change.

Anne-Claire Defossez will devote this year to writing a book on migrations at the border between Italy and France, and on the forms of repression and solidarity it gave birth to, in collaboration with Didier Fassin.
Julia Dehm's research addresses international and domestic climate change and environmental law, natural resource governance and questions of human rights, economic inequality and social justice. At IAS she will be working on a project, “Accounting for Carbon,” exploring the concept of accountability in relation to the climate crisis.

Christina Dunbar-Hester's project at IAS centers on supply chain, pollution, and climate contestations, examining Los Angeles Harbor's commercial shipping and petroleum infrastructures as a local manifestation of labyrinthine global systems.
Stefan Eich's research is in political theory and the history of political thought, with a focus on the political theory of money, economic democracy, and questions of time and temporality. While at IAS, he will be primarily working on a book project on the political thought of John Maynard Keynes.

SAMERA ESMEIR
University of California, Berkeley
Law & Politics

While at IAS, Samera Esmeir will be working on "The Struggle that Remains: Between World and International." Thinking with the histories and the present of Palestinian struggle, Esmeir tracks the modern entry of the word international into legal and political lexicons and theorizes its re-configuration of horizons of struggle.
Didier Fassin
Faculty, School of Social Science
Anthropology & Sociology

West Building 303
(609) 734-8251
dfassin@ias.edu

Didier Fassin's current research, conducted at the border between Italy and France, centers on the interactions between exiles, solidarity organizations and public authorities in a historical context of increasing control of immigration and the repression of migrants. On leave for part of the year, he will be preparing his inaugural lecture on the challenges for social sciences in times of crises and his twelve-lecture course on the trials of borders, which he will give at the Collège de France.

Andreas Folkers
Justus-Liebig University Gießen, Germany
Sociology

West Building 119
(609) 734-8367
afolkers@ias.edu

Andreas Folkers is a sociologist who works on bio- and technopolitics, political ecology and economy from a social theory and STS perspective. At IAS he will be working on a book project on the rise, fall, and afterlife of the catastrophic ligature of modernity and fossil matters like coal, oil, and gas.
KIAN GOH
*University of California, Los Angeles*
Urban Studies & Planning

West Building 336  
(609) 734-8274  
kgo@ias.edu

Kian Goh investigates the spatial politics of urban climate change responses, with prior fieldwork sites in cities in the U.S., Southeast Asia, and Europe. While at IAS, she will research the implications of the global climate justice movement for more equitable and sustainable cities.

SAYGUN GÖKARIKSEL
*Bosphorus University, Turkey*  
Anthropology

West Building 311  
(609) 734-8277  
sgokariksel@ias.edu

Saygun Gökarıksel's research focuses on the themes of revolution, violence, law, justice, and neoliberal and right-wing authoritarianism in the South and East. While at IAS, he will be working on a book that explores the legal and moral-political reckoning with the communist past in Poland and the European East.
Heba Gowayed is an ethnographer who examines how race and gender intersect to shape people's mobility. She is author of Refuge (2002), which asks whether states recognize and invest in the potential of people seeking refuge. She is working on her second book, The Cost of Borders, which theorizes borders as a costly and often deadly transaction.

Maira Hayat’s research articulates anthropology, environmental studies, public administration and law, to examine a postcolonial “politics of provision” of public goods in a climate-changing world. Her current book project shows how Pakistan's plans for postcolonial modernity are crafted with water and sustained by everyday bureaucratic labor.
**LYNNE HUFFER**  
*Emory University*  
Philosophy

West Building 308  
(609) 734-8283  
lhuffer@ias.edu

While at IAS, Lynne Huffer will work on her book-length project, “The Ethics of the Anthropocene.” Her book builds on traditions of interdisciplinary experimentation in philosophy, poetry, and the visual arts to reconfigure ethics as a question whose stakes are the existence of species.

**NATASHA ISKANDER**  
*New York University*  
Sociology

West Building 315  
(609) 734-8365  
niskander@ias.edu

While at IAS, Natasha Iskander is using material analysis of low-carbon concrete to look at climate change and the future of work. She explores how labor, immigration, and racial politics shape the adoption of strategies to slow global warming.
Adil Hasan Khan will be completing a monograph titled, “Learning International Laws of the South.” It describes an encounter between a pluralist Islamic Indo-Persian tradition of international laws and an emergent colonial modern tradition of international law. The narrative is emplaced in South Asia and focuses on rival practices of legal education.

Philippe Le Billon works on the environment, development and security nexus, with a focus on the politics of extractive industries. While at IAS he will research the reframing of resource extraction for climate mitigation purposes.
Since the onset of COVID-19, 1 in 5 Asian Americans experienced a hate incident—reflecting an underrecognized legacy of anti-Asian bigotry and violence. In *Reckoning with Asian America*, Jennifer Lee links the past to the present to unveil how science, medicine, and law produced race, group threat, moral deservingness, and citizenship.

Minhua Ling’s research focuses on the ramifications of migration and urbanization. While at IAS, she will examine through the lens of food the lived experiences of socioecological transformation in rural China and address health and environmental inequalities facing village children amid massive migration and state-led urbanization.
Nayanika Mathur teaches Anthropology and South Asian studies at the University of Oxford. Her research at IAS is centered on how the climate crisis requires a rethinking of the method/s of anthropology as a discipline. This project emerges from--and is rooted in--her longstanding research in the Indian Himalaya.

Timothy Mitchell's interests include the politics of energy and the history of economic ideas. He is currently studying the two-hundred-year history of mechanisms for extracting income from the future—a future we inhabit precariously today. At IAS he will be co-leading the School of Social Science theme seminar on Climate Crisis Politics.
Jonathan Morduch is interested in relationships between inequality, poverty, and finance. While at the Institute, Morduch is developing a framework for incorporating instability into understandings of poverty, and he is working on the design of experiments to assess the external validity of randomized controlled trials.

Catalina Muñoz is interested in integrating the knowledge and skills of historians into the critical thinking and practice of transitional justice in Colombia. While at IAS, she will study historians’ interventions in transitional justice processes around the globe comparing forms of engagement and theoretical assumptions behind them.
ALONDRA NELSON  
*Faculty, School of Social Science  
Sociology  
West Building 318  
(609) 734-8309  
anelson@ias.edu*

Drawing on a case study of the Obama administration, Alondra Nelson’s research explores how federal science and technology initiatives are utilized as modalities of governance and politics. In a second project, she is developing a sociology of “bioethics,” examining this field of study as an object of empirical and theoretical inquiry. She is also at work on *Society after Pandemic*, a series of essays exploring how the social conditions exposed, exacerbated, and created by the novel coronavirus compel reconsideration of prevailing ideas of society, institutions, technology, and politics.

NICHOLAS OCCHIUTO  
*Emlyon Business School  
Sociology  
West Building 117  
(609) 951-4527  
nocchiuto@ias.edu*

Nicholas Occhiuto is an economic sociologist whose research interests include corporate political activity, work and occupations, and public policy. While at IAS, he will be working on a project that explores the work of lobbyists in Washington DC and the production of political inequality in the United States.
K-Sue Park
Georgetown University
Law

West Building 331
(609) 734-8269
kpark@ias.edu

K-Sue Park's scholarship examines the development of American property law and the creation of the American real estate market through the histories of colonization and enslavement. While at IAS, she will be working on a book on the history of the land system and how it produced a racialized society in America.

Sara Pursley
New York University
History

West Building 310
(609) 951-4565
spursley@ias.edu

Sara Pursley's research focuses on how experiences of time, space, and selfhood were reconfigured in 20th-century Iraq, including through political insurgencies and in projects of economic development. At IAS, she will be working on a book rethinking Iraq's formation in the 1920s through the interplay of insurgency and law.
J. T. Roane
*Rutgers University-New Brunswick*
Africana Studies and Geography

West Building 333  
(609) 734-8268  
jroane@ias.edu

J. T. Roane completed a forthcoming book that shows how Black communities built a significant if under-appreciated terrain of geographic struggle shaping Philadelphia between the Great Migration and Black Power. At IAS, he will work on a new project about the political ecology of fire and social incineration from 1980-1995 in Philadelphia.

Matthew Salganik
*Princeton University*
Sociology

West Building 313  
(609) 734-8258  
msalganik@ias.edu

Matthew Salganik is interested in computational social science and social networks. While at IAS, he will be doing research about the limits of machine learning for making predictions about social systems, both individual outcomes (i.e., what is going to happen to a specific person) and collective outcomes (i.e., onset of war).
JOAN WALLACH SCOTT  
*Faculty Emerita, School of Social Science  
History*

West Building 338  
(609) 734-8280  
jws@ias.edu

Joan Scott is working on two projects. One examines the international backlash against feminist, gender, and sexuality studies. The project asks why gender and sexuality have become such hot button items for populists, rightists, and secularists. What are the psychic as well as the political appeals of this backlash? The second project is on academic freedom. It asks whether, in the light of the changed nature of higher education, what the use is, if any, of appeals to academic freedom.

MICHAEL WALZER  
*Faculty Emeritus, School of Social Science  
Political Science*

West Building 327  
(609) 734-8253  
walzer@ias.edu

Michael Walzer will finally be fully retired this year; he won't be attending School seminars, but he will be happy to meet regularly with any members who share his interests. His book on the adjective "liberal" will be coming out early in 2023; he expects to be writing about an assortment of issues, with no big project in hand: war, social justice, the nation-state, the idea of a minimum morality, and the problem of "dirty hands."
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE STAFF

Munirah Bishop
Academic Assistant to
Professors Fassin, Mitchell and Nelson;
Member Liaison

West Building 305
(609) 734-8281
mbishop@ias.edu

Miriam Harris
Administrative Officer

West Building 307
(609) 734-8250
mharris@ias.edu

Laura McCune
Special Projects Coordinator;
Academic Assistant to Professors
Brown, Scott, and Walzer

West Building 329
(609) 734-8216
lmccune@ias.edu
OTHERS

Marcia Tucker
Head Librarian, Historical Studies/Social Science Library
(609) 734-8276
tucker@ias.edu

Karen Downing
Interlibrary Loan
(609) 734-8371
kd@ias.edu

Nancy Sullivan
Acquisitions Librarian and Firestone Library Services
(609) 734-8374
nsullivan@ias.edu

Jennifer Hansen
Visitor and Visa Services
(609) 734-8206
hansen@ias.edu

Jonathan Peele
IT Manager
(609) 734-8207
jmpeele@ias.edu

Brian Farkas
Computer Support Specialist
(609) 734-8044
askitg@ias.edu

William Vafides
Computer Support Specialist
(609) 734-8044
askitg@ias.edu