

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCES PRESENTS

# MASTER'S SYNTHESIS COMPETITION

*Twelve Master's students from across GSAS present their thesis research to a generalist audience in three minutes using only one slide.*

**Tuesday, May 2, 2023**  
**3:00 - 5:00 PM ET**  
**555 Lerner Hall**



# EMCEE

## **RACHEL BERNARD**

Director of Graduate Career Development,  
GSAS Compass

# OPENING REMARKS

## **CARLOS J. ALONSO**

Morris A. and Alma Schapiro Professor in the Humanities,  
Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,  
and Vice President for Graduate Education

# JUDGES

## **DHANANJAY JAGANNATHAN**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy; Director of Graduate  
Studies, Classical Studies Program, Columbia University

## **REENA JANA**

GSAS'05 MA in South Asian Studies  
Head of Content & Partnership Enablement, Responsible  
Innovation, Google

## **JAKE MORENO COPLON**

GSAS'18 MA in Human Rights  
CEO, America Needs You

## **AMY STARECHESKI**

Director, Oral History MA Program, Columbia University

## **CHIARA SUPERTI**

Lecturer in the Discipline of Political Science; Director,  
Political Science MA Program, Columbia University



# FINALISTS

*In order of presentation*

## **JACK WEST**

**American Studies**

*“there’s no Constitution now.” White Supremacy, Paramilitary Violence, Liberal State Failure, and the Hamburg Massacre*

## **BROOKE HELMICK**

**Human Rights Studies**

*Human Rights and the Rise of Extremist Hate Groups: Lessons for American Democracy*

## **ORNELLA BAGANIZI**

**Oral History**

*Umubano mu Bantu: Love among People*

## **MELISSA FEENEY**

**Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences**

*Domain Generalization Abilities of Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis Models Using Transformer Encodings through Transfer Learning*

## **BELÉN HÍPOLA**

**Economics**

*The Effect of Reducing Grade Retention on Student Performance and Dropout in Brazil*

## **XIAOKE YANG**

**East Asian Languages and Culture**

*Gift Box for the Goddess: A Buddhist Scripture Container from Twelfth-Century Japan*

## **MYLES DAVIS**

**Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology**

*The NYC Wildlife Transect: The Effect of Urban Intensity and Human Activity on Wildlife Distributions around NYC Greenspaces*

## **CINDY CHEN**

**Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences**

*Are New York State’s Cash Bail Decisions “Fair”? An Investigation into Judges and Bail Reform*

## **MARYJANE JOHNSON**

**International and World History**

*Italian “Slavery” in the United States: American Immigration Policy, Labor Relations, and the Italian Padrone System, 1885 – 1895*

## **LAETITIA MAURAT**

**Global Thought**

*The Use of Open Source Intelligence at the International Criminal Court*

## **DARCY OLMSTEAD**

**Modern and Contemporary Art: Critical and Curatorial Studies**

*Contemporary Artists’ Publications in Digital Time*

## **KAR LOK PANG**

**East Asian Regional Studies**

*The Politics Behind the Curious Case of Qi Yuling v. Chen Xiaoqi*

Cast your vote for **Audience  
Choice Award** by scanning  
the QR code below.

*\*The QR code will not work until after the  
presentations have concluded.*



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences