

Fall/Winter 2020

Dear GSAS Alumni,

Community has taken on new meaning over the past year. As we at the Graduate School reflect on these months, we know that of our 44,000 alumni in 117 countries around the world, not one of you has been untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic. You are in our thoughts as we close this year of challenges and hardships and look with hope to a brighter new year.

Although in-person events came to a halt, more of you than ever before have engaged with GSAS and Columbia, regardless of country or time zone, through our virtual [GSAS Conversations](#) series and the [Columbia Alumni Association's Bringing Columbia to You](#) offerings. The virtual format of the [Doctoral Convocation](#) and [Master's Convocation](#) ceremonies gave you a glimpse of the variety of intellectual accomplishments of our newest alumni.

Many GSAS alumni across the professional spectrum have [expressed interest in connecting](#) with these recent alumni, as well with as our current MA and PhD students, to create a meaningful professional network. We are grateful for your part in building community at this critical time, when we need each other the most. We hope to meet hundreds more of you in the new year, both virtually and—when we can gather again—on campus.

Until then, I wish you all the peace of the winter season.

Be well, and stay well.

Warm regards,

Carlos J. Alonso, Dean
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

GSAS NEWS

GSAS around the World

Do you have a bar, café, hotel, or restaurant? A farm or vineyard? [Please help us](#) build a database of alumni-owned-and-operated establishments to share with the entire GSAS community.

Meet [Onagh Stransky](#) ('02MA, Italian Literature), a translator of Italian literature who produces extra virgin olive oil at [Cuculaia Farm](#) in Tuscany, one of the first entries in our database.

Episode 9 of GSAS Conversations

Kobi Abayomi ('08PhD, Statistics), Senior Vice President, Data Science and Analytics, Warner Music Group

A little bit about inequality: measurement and example.

Wednesday, January 27 | 7:00–8:00 p.m.

There is concord between classical work on measuring economic inequality and the contemporary zeitgeist. People these days well understand the dependency across what is economically measured and personally felt. Recognized data science expert, statistician, and author Kobi Abayomi will share a brief history of the statistics that measure inequality, and how these measurements of inequality affect business growth and operations. Abayomi will pay particular attention to the metrics of ad impressions and consumption impressions that are important to media companies.

[Register here.](#)

Information about future Conversations and recordings of past Conversations can be found [on our website.](#)

Survey of PhD-level STEM Professionals

Gabriella Sanguinetti ('16PhD, Chemistry), alongside Dr. Marcus Lambert from Weill Cornell and Dr. Dustin Thoman from San Diego State University, is recruiting participants for a study entitled "Understanding the career decision-making process of PhD-level STEM professionals" (IRB File #2020-0631) to understand the career decision-making process of STEM PhDs. Your participation in this study will assist higher education administrators design interventions that positively influence persistence and motivation of underrepresented scientists who choose to pursue a STEM-related career. If you are interested in participating, please [complete a short survey](#) to determine your eligibility for the study.

Connect with Columbia

Connect with GSAS on [LinkedIn](#) and [update your contact information](#) with the University. All GSAS in person events have been canceled. The [University's COVID-19 website](#) posts up-to-date information on COVID-19 generally and on Columbia's response.

ALUMNI NEWS

- Meet [Carolina Ferrerosa Young](#) ('18PhD, Political Science), Future of Work Policy Advisor in the Office of US Senator Mark R. Warner.
- **More than 140** GSAS alumni leaders were among the 2,000 participants from across Columbia who came back to campus virtually for the **Columbia Alumni Leaders Experience (CALE)** over five weeks in October and November. **Ángel Muñoz** ('16PhD, Earth and Environmental Sciences), Associate Research Scientist at the International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Earth Institute, Columbia University, was a panel member for "[Columbia at Home: Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Communities](#)", and **The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright** ('76PhD, Political Science) spoke with Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger [in the closing session](#). After an introduction by **Michael Cornfeld** ('73MA, Political Science), **Dean Carlos J. Alonso** presented the [GSAS State of the School](#). [Join us](#) for the Fall 2021 event.
- On October 28, Columbia alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents, and friends came together on [Columbia Giving Day](#) to change lives that change the world. GSAS raised a record \$212,000 from 247 gifts in just 24 hours— [thank you!](#) GSAS was the only Columbia school to receive a gift from Iceland on Giving Day.

- **Milo Beckman** ('20MA, Philosophy and **Physics**) published his book *Math Without Numbers*, described by the CAA as “a vivid, conversational, and wholly original guide to the three main branches of abstract math—topology, analysis, and algebra.”
- **Arline Bronzaff** ('66PhD, Psychology), Professor Emerita, CUNY, and GrowNYC.org board member, was interviewed on the economics of noise for the Freakonomics Radio podcast *Sound and Noise*, which is broadcast nationally and available to [stream here](#).
- GSAS Alumni Award winner **Andrew Freedman** ('09MA, Climate and Society), Deputy Weather Editor of *The Washington Post*, moderated *Engaging the World's Future Now*, a discussion with **Alex Halliday**, Director of Columbia University's Earth Institute, and **Maureen Raymo** ('89PhD, Earth and Environmental Sciences), Interim Director of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. The event was hosted by [ColumbiaDC](#). Find the [Columbia alumni club](#) near you.
- **Nelly Furman** ('72PhD, French and Romance Philology) published *Georges Bizet's Carmen*, in the Keynotes Series of Oxford University Press.
- **Jennifer C. Lena** ('03 PhD, Sociology), Associate Professor of Arts Administration at Teachers College, has published her third book, *Measuring Culture*, with Columbia University Press.
- **Naeem Mohaiemen** ('19PhD, Anthropology) was named a 2020-23 Mellon Fellow in the Society of Fellows in the Humanities at Columbia University, and a 2020 Senior Fellow at Lunder Institute of American Art, Colby College, Maine. As a Mellon Fellow, Mohaiemen will be a Lecturer at the Department of Anthropology and the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University.
- **Judith Ann Schiff** ('59 Barnard; '84MA, History), Chief Research Archivist of Yale University Library, freelance “Old Yale” history columnist for the *Yale Alumni Magazine*, and pro bono New Haven City historian, was honored with the [2020 Yale Medal](#).
- **Rae Wynn-Grant** ('16PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), Large Carnivore Ecologist at the National Geographic Society, was one of six female STEM pioneers and AAAS IF/THEN Ambassadors represented by statues displayed at the Central Park Zoo as part of a pop-up preview of *#IfThenSheCan – The Exhibit*, a new monumental 3D-printed display of 122 female statues.

Do you have news to share? Write to us at gsasalumni@columbia.edu.

GSAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

The GSAS Alumni Association bids farewell to two retiring board members: **Judith N. Glass** ('73SIPA; '85PhD, Political Science) and **George Khouri** ('69MA, Classics; '72LAW), each after serving two full terms. Please join us in expressing our gratitude for their years of dedicated service to GSAS.

You can assist the [GSAS Alumni Association Board of Directors](#) in advancing the vision of GSAS Dean Carlos J. Alonso in [a number of ways](#), including by joining one of four alumni committees: Awards, Professional Development, Recent Alumni and Students, and Stewardship and Engagement. Write to gsas-alumni@columbia.edu for more information.

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