



"The MA works as a springboard to the future," said **Professor Carol Gluck** ('77PhD, East Asian Languages and Cultures) in her keynote speech at the [2023 GSAS Master's Convocation](#). Professor Gluck, George Sansom Professor Emerita of History at Columbia, is a founding member and former Chair of Columbia's Committee on Global Thought and has taught in five of Columbia's MA programs. In this special edition newsletter, we seek to illustrate her words in highlighting the varied accomplishments of our master's alumni.

As a recipient of a master's degree from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, you are in community with over 30,000 living alumni all over the globe. Thank you for being a part of the Columbia tapestry. Please enjoy this first-ever GSAS Master's Alumni Newsletter, and consider attending one or more upcoming events.

Best regards,

Erin Hussein  
Director of Alumni Relations and Development  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

## **ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Graduate Career Consortium Virtual Career Expo**

*Wednesday, March 5, 12:00–4:00 pm EST*

*Online*

The Graduate Career Consortium, which represents graduate students and postdoctoral scholars from over 220 institutions and organizations across the

US, Canada, and other countries, will sponsor a free Virtual Career Expo to connect employers with graduate students and alumni from STEM, humanities, and social sciences fields. [Register here](#).

### **Celebrate International Women's Day with She Opened the Door**

*Saturday, March 8, 3:00–5:00 pm*

*The Lantern at the Lenfest Center for the Arts*

*615 West 129th Street, New York, NY*

Join [She Opened the Door](#) for an intimate fireside chat with **Sarah Hoover** ('07MA, French Cultural Studies), art historian, writer, and author of the newly released memoir [The Motherload: Episodes from the Brink of Motherhood](#). In conversation with Alex Wallace '88CC, Sarah will share her deeply personal journey of becoming a mother, offering raw and unfiltered insights into the complexities of womanhood. The event will include opportunities to network with event attendees and have Sarah's book signed. [Register here](#).

### **Creating a Blueprint For a Fulfilling Career—and a Meaningful Life**

*Tuesday, April 1, 6:30–8:00 pm*

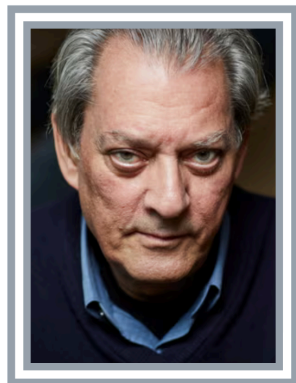
*The Graduate Student Center*

*301 Philosophy Hall on Columbia's Morningside Campus*

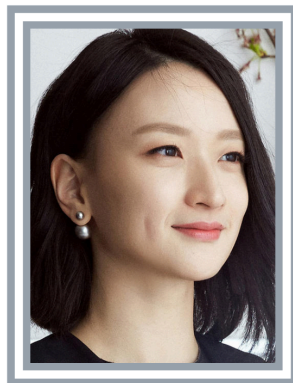
Master's alumni from 2020 to the present are invited to a fireside chat with Columbia College alumna [Elizabeth Segran](#) '05CC, author of *The Rocket Years: How Your Twenties Launch the Rest of Your Life*, in conversation with **Louisa McCullough** ('21MA, English and Comparative Literature). The discussion will cover the big decisions often made in one's twenties, ranging from careers, hobbies, and fitness, to relationships with family, friends, and romantic partners—and their lifetime impacts. Wine, beer, and light bites will be provided. [Register here](#).

### **Join Columbia Art Industry Professionals**

Columbia Art Industry Professionals (CAIP), founded by **Viktorija Prigarina** ('07MA, Mathematics of Finance), is dedicated to fostering a dynamic network for Columbia alumni who are shaping the art industry. CAIP hosts in-person and virtual events for professionals engaged in the business dimensions of the art world, spanning auction houses, galleries, museums, foundations, art fairs, and other visual arts organizations. Sign up for the [CAA Arts Access newsletter](#) here and join the [CAIP LinkedIn Group here](#) to stay informed about CAIP events.



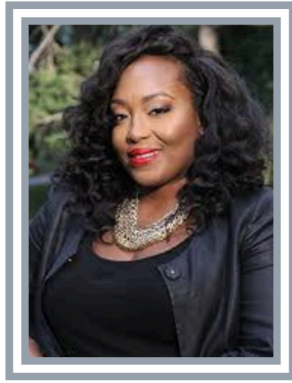
Paul Auster  
(’70MA, English and Comparative Literature)  
Photograph: Christopher Thomond/The Guardian



Christine Chang  
(’10MA, East Asian Languages and Culture)  
Photograph: Courtesy of Glow Recipe



Danielle Deadwyler  
(’06MA, American Studies)  
Photograph: Jennifer McCord/LA Times



Zinga A. Fraser  
(’05MA, African American Studies)  
Photograph: Courtesy of The Shirley Chisholm Project



Katherine Freese  
(’81MA, Physics)  
Photograph: katherinefreese.com



Takis Georgakopoulos  
(’99MA, Mathematics of Finance)  
Photograph: Courtesy of Fiserv

## ALUMNI NEWS

- Called “one of America’s most spectacularly inventive writers,” **Paul Auster** (’70MA, English and Comparative Literature) was [profiled by \*The New York Times\*](#) following his death this past spring.
- **Christine Chang** (’10MA, East Asian Languages and Culture) made the [2024 TIME100 Next](#) along with her Glow Recipe co-founder Sarah Lee. Their skincare company started as an e-commerce site and exploded over the past year, thanks in part to fun and fruity products such as Watermelon Glow Niacinamide Dew Drops and Blackberry Retinol Blemish Serum.
- [The New York Times profiled](#) **Danielle Deadwyler** (’06MA, American Studies), an award-winning actor most recently featured in Netflix’s *The Piano Lesson*, based on the play by August Wilson.
- University of California Press published *Shirley Chisholm in Her Own Words: Speeches and Writings*, edited by **Zinga A. Fraser** (’05MA, African American Studies), now Director of Shirley Chisholm Project and Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and Women’s & Gender Studies at Brooklyn College.
- [Space.com](#) reports new findings regarding the “Dark Big Bang,” a second Big Bang responsible for creating dark matter. This theory was first proposed in 2023 by **Katherine Freese** (’81MA, Physics), George E. Uhlenbeck Professor of Physics at the University of Michigan and Martin Wolfgang Winkler of the University of Texas.
- Global technology leader [Fiserv appointed](#) **Takis Georgakopoulos** (’99MA, Mathematics of Finance) as Senior Advisor, Executive Vice President, and a member of the Management Committee. Prior to joining Fiserv, Georgakopoulos served as head of J.P. Morgan Payments.
- [Newsweek](#) asked **Claudia Koonz** (’64MA, History) and other prominent historians the question, “Were Hitler’s generals loyal?” Koonz is the Peabody Family Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History in Trinity College of Arts and Sciences at Duke University.
- After twenty years on Wall Street, **Marvina Robinson** (’05MA, Statistics) founded B. Stuyvesant Champagne in 2020 and was [profiled by \*The New York Times\*](#) in 2022. Book a tasting at the Brooklyn Navy Yard tasting room and keep up with events at the [B. Stuyvesant website](#).
- **Romy Silver-Kohn** (’08MA, Modern Art, Critical and Curatorial Studies), a co-curator of the MoMA exhibition "[Lillie P. Bliss and the Birth of the Modern](#)," graciously welcomed Columbia alumni to a [private tour of the exhibition](#) on January 26. To be informed of future events, sign up for the [CAA Arts Access newsletter](#) and for email updates from [She Opened the Door](#).
- Europa Editions published *The Mortal and Immortal Life of the Girl from Milan* by National Book Award Finalist Domenico Starnone, translated by **Oonagh Stransky** (’02MA, Italian Literature). [Read her recommendation and an excerpt from the novel here](#).
- **April Kim Tonin** (’99MA, Art History and Archaeology) illustrated *How to Cook Everything Kids*, Mark Bittman’s first cookbook for kids. Purchase the book and see April’s illustrations at [HarperCollins Publishers](#).



Claudia Koonz  
(’64MA, History)  
Photograph: Courtesy of Duke



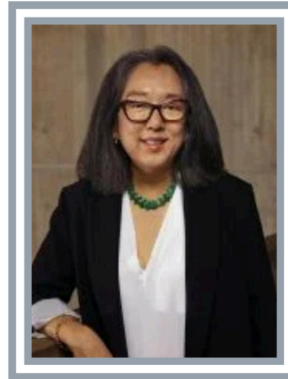
Marvina Robinson  
(’05MA, Statistics)  
Photograph: Jörg Meyer



Romy Silver-Kohn  
(’08MA, Modern Art: Critical and Curatorial Studies)  
Photograph: Courtesy of The New School



Oonagh Stransky  
(’02MA, Italian Literature)  
Photograph: oonaghstransky.com



April Kim Tonin  
(’99MA, Art History and Archaeology)  
Photograph: Courtesy of The Frick



**Melissa Garcia** (’11MA, International and World History; Dual MA/MSc with The London School of Economics and Political Science) and Line Lillevik, Director of the International and World History program, celebrate at the [2024 GSAS Awards Ceremony](#). Melissa was a recipient of the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Achievement.

*Photo credit: Sirin Samman*

**Do you have news to share?**  
**Write to us at [gsas-alumni@columbia.edu](mailto:gsas-alumni@columbia.edu).**

## ALUMNI Q&A

Meet the most recent participant in the GSAS Alumni Profile series, **[Julia Kang-Reeves](#)** (’14MA, Classics), Chief Marketing Officer at Earth Therapeutics.



Check out the profiles of the master’s alumni below:

- **[Anita Demkiv](#)** (’04MA, Regional Studies: Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe)
- **[Andrew Freedman](#)** (’09MA, Climate and Society)
- **[Johanna Goetzel](#)** (’13MA, Climate and Society)
- **[Carol Savidge Helmstadter](#)** (’57MA, History)

- [Elizabeth Hollingsworth](#) ('14MA, International and World History)
- [Jordan Kaufman](#) ('06MA, Statistics)
- [Matthew Kennis](#) ('12MA, Human Rights)
- [Robert Richter](#) ('64MA, Political Science)
- [Jim Neal](#) ('73MA, History)
- [Enrique Prieto](#) ('02MA, Statistics)
- [Oonagh Stransky](#) ('02MA, Italian Literature)
- [Laura Heymans Trimaj](#) ('13MA, Regional Studies: Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe)

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*Would you like to be profiled, or do you have someone to recommend? [Email us!](#)*

### GSAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Of the twenty-one members of our Board, seven are master's alumni. Are you interested in joining a committee of the [GSAS Alumni Association Board of Directors](#)? Write to [gsas-alumni@columbia.edu](mailto:gsas-alumni@columbia.edu) for more information.

- **Margo Adam** ('06MA, French Cultural Studies)
- **Oluwadamisi "Kay" Atanda** ('16MA, Human Rights Studies)
- **Basak Araz Nalbantoglu** ('17MA, Art History and Archaeology)
- **Jiayi Chen** ('06MA, Statistics)
- **Johanna Goetzel** ('13MA, Climate and Society)
- **Yuanrun Lin** ('16MA, Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences)
- **Emily Morris** ('02CC; '07MA, American Studies)

### CONNECT WITH COLUMBIA

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