

THE PEER MENTORS

A student-led group for students. Email us at gchistorymentors@gmail.com. Do not hesitate to send us your questions or say hello when you see us in the history lounge!



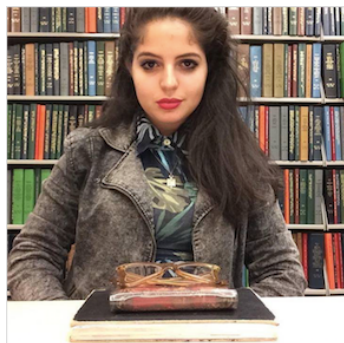
Madeline DeDe-Panken, Co-Coordinator

I'm a fourth-year Americanist with a focus on women and gender. My current research explores gender and botanical work at the turn of the twentieth century. I am a Graduate Teaching Fellow at Lehman College and co-chair the Public History Collective. I am happy to chat about teaching, organization strategies for life and research, managing grad student anxieties, maintaining that tricky work/life balance, and anything else that may come up. Please also contact me if you have questions, thoughts, or ideas about the Peer Mentor Program generally - we're here for you! mdedepanken@gradcenter.cuny.edu.



Adam Kocurek, Co-Coordinator

I am a fourth-year American History PhD student who focuses on 20th century social movements, LGBT history, and history of labor, sexuality and gender. In addition to the American History PhD, I am pursuing the certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies offered at The Graduate Center. I currently am a Teaching Assistant at Hunter College for Modern American History. I can be reached at akocurek@gradcenter.cuny.edu. I'm happy to answer any and all questions regarding my experience at The Graduate Center, living in NYC, etc.



Arinn Amer

I'm a sixth-year fellow working on a cultural history of tarring and feathering in early America. My research areas include eighteenth century Anglo-Atlantic culture and the theory and history of violence. I also teach at Hunter College and co-chair the CUNY Public History Collective. I'm happy to discuss interdisciplinarity, student-centered pedagogy, exploiting library resources, New York living, entering the program with a less clearly delineated research area, or anything else that might be helpful! aamer2@gradcenter.cuny.edu.



Oscar Aponte I'm a second-year PhD student in Latin American history, focusing on state formation and nation building in twentieth-century Colombia and the greater Amazonas region. I'm also interested in the history of the press, labor history, Latinx history, and critical theory. Please feel free to reach out to me with any question you have about your first year, I'll be more than happy to help! Email: oaponte@gradcenter.cuny.edu



Maayan Brodsky I'm a fourth-year modern Americanist interested in secrecy in government, with a focus on the 60s and 70s. My current project is on Richard Nixon's interest in secrecy, intelligence operations, and control of information. I've been teaching modern American history at Baruch College for the past two years. I'll be happy to discuss any GC and non-GC issues you might be facing. Also, I have lots of advice on the somewhat less-official aspects of the GC (that sentence will make sense when you get to know me). You can often find me at the history-lounge and you can always contact me at mbrodsky@gradcenter.cuny.edu



David Campmier

I am a sixth-year doctoral student in the History Department. I study military history, specifically I conduct research about the American Civil War. As a teaching fellow and adjunct at Lehman, Brooklyn, and Queens Colleges, I have instructed courses including the first half of the American history seminar, a seminar on the history of the State of New York, and a writing course. I can speak to a variety of concerns such as teaching issues and preparation, research questions, and exam preparation (first year and oral exam). You can reach me at any time at dcampmier@gradcenter.cuny.edu.



Davide Colasanto

I'm a sixth-year History PhD student specializing in post-war European History. I have a strong interest in the history of sexuality in relation to war and violence. My research investigates how Fascism, and World War II influenced Italian masculinity from the late 1940s to the early 1970s. I have taught for the past four years at Queens College and at LaGuardia Community College. I was a Summer Peer Mentor for the GC Teaching and Learning Institute for the past two years. I'm happy to help with any question on student oriented pedagogy, first/second year requirements, orals' preparation,

and international students' adjustment to US academic system and life.

dcolasanto@gradcenter.cuny.edu.



Erin Cully

I'm a sixth-year PhD student researching US banking and finance in the late 20th century. I moved here from Canada, so if you are coming from abroad I can answer your questions about dealing with the International Students Office. As a peer mentor, I look forward to speaking to new students about teaching, first year exams, attending conferences, academic anxieties, student activism, living in New York, and anything else that comes up. You can reach me at ecully@gradcenter.cuny.edu



Phelim Dolan

I'm a sixth year PhD candidate who works on early modern Ireland and Europe. I have returned to grad school after a career in the film and television business. My undergraduate degree was in English Literature, and I continue to take an interdisciplinary approach to my research. As a mentor I think I have (hopefully) valuable experience with pursuing graduate studies after / while pursuing another career. pdolan@gradcenter.cuny.edu



Jiwon Han I'm a fourth year Europeanist at the Graduate Center who studies 18C Anglo-Dutch financial relations. As a Graduate Teaching Fellow, I'm teaching a microhistory course at John Jay. I'm happy to talk with my fellow students about first/second year experiences, archival research, living in New York, life as an international student, or any other issue. Reach me at any time at jhan1@gradcenter.cuny.edu!



Kate Kelley

I am a third-year Modern European historian at the Graduate Center and Graduate Teaching Fellow at Hunter College. My research centers around arts and politics in the German Democratic Republic with a focus on ballet and modern dance. I am happy to discuss any and all first-year concerns from administrative woes to exam prep as well as adjusting to the joys and stresses of graduate school in general. I've been living in NYC for over ten years so I can also speak to any concerns about life in the big apple! Feel free to reach out anytime to

kkelley@gradcenter.cuny.edu.



Idan Liav I'm a second-year modern Europeanist with background in International Relations and Conflict Research. I'm interested in the history of memory and I'm no stranger to history of sexualities; I also teach early modern European history at Queens College. I thoroughly enjoyed my first year in the program and I'm excited to give any advice I can on how to make your first year interesting, manageable and non-suicidal. I will also fight for our right to eat pizza with no toppings! For any questions you may have, catch me in the hall, in the library or at the department. You can also email me at

iliav@gradcenter.cuny.edu but what ever happened to face-to-face communication?

**Maddy Lafuse**

I'm a third-year Americanist interested in the history of emotions in the early republic, and I teach at Lehman College. I can talk from experience about coming to the history program with little undergraduate preparation in the discipline, but I am also always ready to grab lunch, get coffee or lend a ready ear. Feel free to contact me at mlafuse@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

**Miriam Liebman**

I am a sixth-year History PhD candidate with a focus on early US History. My dissertation looks at the ways American women acted in diplomatic capacities abroad, specifically in London and Paris, during the Age of Revolutions. I teach US History at Queens College and am a Writing Across the Curriculum Fellow at the CUNY Law School. I am one of the co-founders, along with Davide, of the GC mentor initiative, "Teaching Conversations." I served as co-chair of EARS for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years. Feel free to email me at mliebman@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

**Tamara Maatouk**

I am a second-year history Ph.D. student with a focus on the modern Middle East. I am interested in both the interpenetration between Egyptian cinema and twentieth-century politics as well as the use of films as serious vehicles for understanding, conceptualizing, and reconstructing the past. I am happy to chat about first-year concerns, requirements, and experience. I can be reached at tmaatouk@gradcenter.cuny.edu

**Stephanie Makowski**

I'm a fourth-year modern Europeanist. I'm particularly focused on how gender, race, and sexuality intersect with national identity in 20th century Britain and its colonies. Come talk to me about any part of the first-year experience – from getting through your first year exams to adjusting to a grad student schedule. smakowski@gradcenter.cuny.edu



Yanara Schmacks I'm a second-year modern Europeanist focusing on the history of twentieth-century Germany, specifically on National Socialism and its aftermath as well as on the politics of reproduction and motherhood. This year, I am teaching early modern European history at Lehman. I am happy to talk about the first-year experience in general, also from the perspective of an international student, about the first-year exam, about grad school anxieties etc. Feel free to reach out to yschmacks@gradcenter.cuny.edu.



Carli Snyder

I am a third-year History PhD student (focusing on the history and memory of the Holocaust), a Graduate Teaching Fellow at Brooklyn College, and an Education intern at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. As a peer mentor, I'm happy to talk to new students about the first year experience at the Graduate Center, preparation for written exams, and the transition to living in New York. I can also speak about the first year of teaching. You can reach me at csnyder1@gradcenter.cuny.edu.



Sophie Tunney

I am a 4th year history Ph.D. student that focuses on early modern France and its colonies. I look at the production of travel narratives, scientific/botanical knowledge and natural history in France and its colonies, with a focus on the connections between science, colonization, and the state. I also focus on the institution of slavery in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as well as the intellectual life of the Atlantic World. I am happy to discuss teaching, balancing academic and personal life, researching abroad,

and how to best live in this chaotic, anxious, wonderful, and beautiful city.

stunney@gradcenter.cuny.edu



Helena Yoo

I am a third-year History PhD student and focus on early America. I am particularly interested in questions about imperial connections, communication networks, and provincial identity. I am happy to talk about anything and everything about my experiences thus far at the GC and can answer questions about the first year experience (settling in, preparing for exams, etc) and about living in NYC! You can reach me at hyoo@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

Mentors Emeriti

Chris Rominger

I am a 2018 GC graduate and Assistant Professor at the University of North Florida. I study migration and political consciousness in the early 20th century Middle East and North Africa, with a focus on Tunisians during and following the First World War. I'm eager to help my fellow students with teaching, honing in on a dissertation topic, applying for grants, presenting at conferences, and overcoming the stresses and challenges of life as a graduate student. Feel free to email me at crominger@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

Katrina Wheeler

I am a sixth-year PhD Candidate in early modern European history. My dissertation is on French Protestant (Huguenot) religious experience during the French Revolution, particularly their use of the Psalms in liturgical and devotional practices. I am happy to offer advice using library resources, preparing for the oral exams, writing at different stages of the program, and the WAC experience. kwheeler@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

Katie Uva

I'm an ABD student whose dissertation focuses on urbanism at the 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs. I've taught for several semesters at Brooklyn College, Lehman College, and Baruch, and worked previously as a WAC Fellow at Lehman and a Mellon Predoctoral Fellow at the Museum of the City of New York. I'm also Associate Editor of the Gotham Blog and active in the Public History Collective. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have questions about teaching, public history, or working during grad school: katie.uva@gmail.com.