

SAWYER SEMINAR AT RUTGERS NEWARK  
**NATIVES AND NATIVISTS  
MIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANTS  
IN AN AMERICAN CITY**  
A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHO WE ARE AS A NATION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

**INSTITUTIONALIZING  
CHANGE**



SAWYER SEMINAR AT RUTGERS NEWARK  
NATIVES AND NATIVISTS  
MIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANTS  
IN AN AMERICAN CITY

**RUTGERS**  
UNIVERSITY | NEWARK

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a grant of \$225,000 dollars to Rutgers University—Newark to support a Sawyer Seminar on the Comparative Study of Cultures entitled “Natives and Nativists, Migrants and Immigrants in an American City.”

The seminar series is organized by Belinda Edmondson, professor of African American and African Studies, Kornel Chang, associate professor in History and American Studies, and Sean Mitchell, associate professor in Sociology and Anthropology.

Based at Rutgers-Newark, a university with a highly diverse student body, a highly active scholarly faculty, and deep roots as an anchor institution in the city of Newark, this seminar series examines the past, present, and future of Newark in order to examine race, inequality, and immigration in the constantly changing immigrant cultures of America’s cities.

It comes at an especially critical moment in our nation’s history, when race, immigration and inequality can no longer be ignored or sidelined.

In the project abstract, the researchers assert that during the current global pandemic, the future of US cities—of immigration and urbanization; nativism and inclusion; gentrification and urban abandonment—has been thrown into question in a way that has not been true for decades or perhaps more.

Newark, NJ has long been a microcosm of such conflicts, in both reality and in popular imaginations.

From the Jewish Newark threatened by US nativism imagined in Philip Roth’s *The Plot Against America*; to the Newark of an African American uprising and white flight of the 1960s and 1970s; to today’s Newark of diverse immigrant populations and fraught immigrant politics; to the always-on-the-cusp of gentrification Newark, imagined by developers to be “the next Brooklyn” there is no better site to think through the tensions of urbanization brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic than Newark.”

During the 2022-2023 calendar years, “Natives and Nativists, Migrants and Immigrants in an American City” comprises of a series of panels and workshops that draw on the expertise and research projects of Rutgers-Newark faculty and graduate students, local, national, and global scholars, and bring together community activists, scholars and local artists who focus on these issues.

# WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

# INSTITUTIONALIZING CHANGE

Institutionalizing Change is both the capstone and the conclusion of the yearlong discussion of race, immigration, and inequality that has been the focus of the Sawyer seminar series, Natives and Nativists, Immigrants and Migrants in an American City.

The goal of this final seminar is to have a frank conversation on how to turn scholarly insights into institutional action and create community consensus on immigration and educational access for the greater Newark community. It features a roundtable discussion with eminent leaders, migration scholars, and advocates on how to institutionalize that change, starting with the institutions of Newark.

Guiding questions for this seminar include:

- What is the philosophy that guides university policy around undocumented students/faculty/staff?
- How is that policy influenced by leading migration scholarship, or is it shaped by other influences and considerations?
- What are the challenges, priorities in institutionalizing a pro-migrant policy at a leading American university in the current political climate?

## SCHEDULE

**BREAKFAST**  
9:30-10:00 AM

### INSTITUTIONALIZING CHANGE

10:00-11:30 AM

**Nancy Cantor**, Chancellor,  
Rutgers University, Newark

**Roberto Gonzales**, Founder and  
Director, Penn Migration Initiative,  
University of Pennsylvania

**Jason Hernandez**, Rutgers  
Immigrant Community  
Assistance Project

**Peter T. Rosario**, President and  
CEO, La Casa de Don Pedro

Moderator: **Kornel Chang**,  
Associate Professor and Chair,  
History, Rutgers University,  
Newark

**POETRY AND JAZZ VIDEO**  
11:30 AM-12:00 PM

#### Readers:

**Simeon Marsalis**, Assistant  
Professor, Jazz Literature,  
Rutgers University, Newark

**Nancy Li**, Student

**Ebony Odom-Barnes**, Student

#### Jazz Performers:

**Mark Whitfield**, guitar

**Michael Dease**, trombone

**Tim Warfield, Jr.**, saxophone

**Ahmed McLemore**, bass

**Jerome Jennings**, bandleader  
and drums

**LUNCH RECEPTION**  
12:00-2:00 PM

# MEET OUR PARTICIPANTS

## SPEAKERS



### **Nancy Cantor**

**Chancellor, Rutgers University, Newark**

Nancy Cantor, Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark, is recognized nationally and internationally for her leadership in emphasizing the role of universities as anchor institutions in their communities, especially by forging diverse, cross-sector collaborations and leveraging publicly engaged scholarship to advance racial equity and equitable growth.

At Rutgers University–Newark, a diverse, urban, public research university, she leads and promulgates efforts to leverage the university's many strengths, particularly its exceptional diversity, a tradition of high-impact research, and role as an anchor institution in Newark, New Jersey, through strategic investments in five broad areas in which the university's strengths align with those of cross-sector partners: educational pathways from pre-K through college; equitable growth through urban entrepreneurship and economic development; cultivating creative expression through the arts and culture; strong, healthy and safe neighborhoods; and science in the urban environment.

### **Roberto Gonzales**

**Founder and Director, Penn Migration Initiative,  
University of Pennsylvania**

Roberto G. Gonzales is the Richard Perry University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, with appointments in the Department of Sociology and the Graduate School of Education. His research focuses on factors that both shape and reduce economic, legal, and social inequalities among vulnerable and hard-to-reach youth populations as they transition to adulthood. Professor Gonzales's work has been featured in top journals, including the *American Sociological Review*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, and *Current Anthropology*. His published research has been widely cited and has garnered awards from multiple disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, and psychology, as well as from education, law, and social work. He is an active public scholar and has advised a broad range of stakeholders in the private and public sectors, has briefed members of the U.S. Congress and has testified on matters of immigration policy before the U.S. Senate. He has also written opinion pieces for *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, and *The Guardian* and is often quoted in popular media.



### **Jason Hernandez**

**Rutgers Immigrant Community Assistance Project**

Jason manages Rutgers' free and confidential campus-based immigration legal service that provides advice, counsel, and direct representation to students currently enrolled throughout the university system. RICAP advocates for and aims to empower the immigrant community through educational presentations, community engagement programs, and legal advisories. As a campus resource, RICAP provides subject matter expertise and advises campus leadership on the ever-shifting federal and state immigration law and policy landscape.



### **Peter T. Rosario**

President and CEO, La Casa de Don Pedro

Peter T. Rosario is president and chief executive officer of La Casa de Don Pedro – New Jersey’s largest Latinx nonprofit serving Greater Newark’s most resilient Black and Brown communities.



Peter leads and serves with La Casa’s 280 employees, who collectively impact upwards of 50,000 people per year through programs that foster self-sufficiency, empowerment, and neighborhood revitalization. As La Casa celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2022, Peter’s highest priorities include racial and social justice, affordable homeownership, high-quality early childhood education, and addressing the ongoing impact of Covid-19 that continues to disproportionately impact BIPOC communities.

Throughout his 26-year nonprofit career, Peter distinguished himself in multiple executive leadership, operational and fundraising roles for the YMCA and the Boy Scouts of America.

## **POETRY READINGS**

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### **Simeon Marsalis**

Assistant Professor, Jazz Literature,  
Rutgers University, Newark

Simeon Marsalis is a writer from New Rochelle, NY, who earned a BA with honors from the University of Vermont for his thesis on Jazz and American Nationalism and an MFA in 2019 from Rutgers University-Newark, where he was the Henry Rutgers Fellow. As *Lie Is to Grin*, his first novel was published by Catapult in 2017 and was on the shortlist for the Center for Fiction’s first novel prize. His essay “Why Jazz?: A Music Festival Review” was published on Catapult.co in the same year.

His short story, “The Exterminator,” appeared in the Fall 2021 Founder’s Issue of *Lampblack*, a magazine and literary organization he helped to co-found. Marsalis is working on his second novel entitled, *End Times*, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Rutgers University-Newark.

### **Nancy Li**

Student, Rutgers University, Newark

Nancy Li is a sophomore at Rutgers University–Newark. Nancy majors in accounting at the Rutgers Business School. She is a member of the Road to CPA Cohort and serves as the Secretary for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) Chapter at Rutgers University–Newark. Nancy is a first-generation college student, and her hobbies include drawing (digital or by hand), making handicraft, and cooking.



### **Ebony Odom-Barnes**

Student, Rutgers University, Newark

Ebony Odom-Barnes will graduate in 2024 with a major in Leadership & Management with a concentration in Management Information Systems (MIS). She is the VP of events for the Rutgers–Newark chapter of National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). Ebony has been playing forward for the Rutgers–Newark women’s basketball team since her first year.

## JAZZ PERFORMANCE



### **Mark Whitfield** Guitar

*For Jimmy, Wes and Oliver*, a recording by the Christian McBride Big Band featuring Mark Whitfield and Joey DeFrancesco has received the 2022 Grammy Award for “Best Large Jazz Ensemble.” This is the most recent collaboration between Whitfield and McBride, a musical relationship that began over 30 years ago when they were both featured members of the Jazz Futures, an All-Star Jazz Band that also launched the career of the late Roy Hargrove.

In 1990 the *New York Times* dubbed Whitfield “The Best Young Guitarist in the Business.” Later that year, Warner Bros. released his debut album *The Marksman*. The success of his debut release led to a recording career that has produced a total of 16 solo recordings and a myriad of collaborative efforts with some of the most important artists in recent years; Sting, Steven Tyler, D’Angelo, Mary J. Blige, John Mayer, Chaka Khan, Jill Scott, Diana Krall, Chris Botti, Roy Hargrove, Nicholas Payton, Robert Glasper, and the aforementioned Christian McBride.

Whitfield remains extremely active as a performer, recording artist and sideman and as a highly sought after instructor and master clinician. Along with this most recent Grammy nomination, 2022 saw the release of several new projects that feature Whitfield’s talents as a guitarist, composer and producer.

### **Michael Dease** Trumpet

Michael Dease, the winner of the 69th Annual DownBeat Magazine Poll for Trombonist of the Year and multi-Grammy award winner, is also a sought-after lead, section, and bass trombonist with today’s leading jazz orchestras. His experiences include bands led by Christian McBride, Roy Hargrove, Nicholas Payton, Charles Tolliver, Rufus Reid, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band. However, it is on the frontline of quintets and sextets led by master musicians like The Heath Brothers, Winard Harper, Renee Rosnes, Bill Charlap, Claudio Roditi, and Lewis Nash, where Dease has revitalized the trombone’s image. Not content to simply improvise, Dease arranges and composes for many different bands, constantly adjusting his tone and timbre to add just the right flavor to the music.

*Best Next Thing* (Posi-Tone, 2022), Dease’s newest release, his ninth on Posi-Tone, gathers together an assemblage of exceptional musicians to help him interactively explore the essence of the blues and reframe the abstract truths of jazz as the “Best Next Thing” for today’s audience of listeners.



### **Ahmed McLemore** Bass

Ahmed McLemore is a rising talent on jazz bass. In 2020, he received honorable mention on bass for his performance at the *Essentially Ellington* High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival. Currently, he is a student at Oberlin Conservatory.



## **Tim Warfield, Jr.** Saxophone

Tim Warfield, Jr., a native of York, Pennsylvania, began studying the alto saxophone at age nine. He switched to tenor saxophone during his first year at William Penn, Sr. High School where he participated in various musical ensembles, winning many jazz soloist awards including second out of forty competitors at the Montreal Festival of Music in Canada. After high school, Warfield attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. for two years before leaving to lead and co-lead groups in the Central Pennsylvania and Baltimore/Washington areas.



In 1990 he was chosen to be a member of trumpeter and CBS/Sony recording artist Marlon Jordan's Quintet. In 1991 he was selected to record Tough Young Tenors on the Island/Antilles label, listed as one of the top ten recordings of the year by the *New York Times*. Warfield has made several television appearances including the *Today Show* and Ted Turner's 1998 Trumpet Awards. Additionally, he has made numerous stage appearances with such names as Donald Byrd, Michelle Rosewoman, Marcus Miller, Marlon Jordan, James Williams, Christian McBride, The Harper Brothers, Dizzy Gillespie, Isaac Hayes, Shirley Scott, Jimmy Smith, Nicholas Payton, Charles Fambrough, Eric Reed, Carl Allen, Terrell Stafford, Stefon Harris, Orrin Evans, The Newport Millennium All Stars, "Papa" John DeFrancesco, Joey DeFrancesco, Claudio Raggazzi, Danilo Perez, and others. Tim is currently serving as a board member for the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz as well as an artist-in-residence at Messiah College in Grantham, PA.



## **Jerome Jennings** Bandleader and Drums

Jerome Jennings is a drummer, activist, bandleader, sideman, and Emmy Award winning composer. His debut recording *The Beast* is a reflection of the everyday joys and struggles of black life in the U.S. It was named one of the top three jazz releases by NPR, received a four star rating in *Downbeat Magazine*, and was nominated for the prestigious French "Grand Prix du Disque" award for Album of the Year in 2016.

Jerome's sophomore recording, *Solidarity*, released November 2019 was recognized by NPR as "best music that spoke truth to power of 2019." Jerome earned a masters in music from the prestigious Juilliard School in Manhattan NY. He was the Resident Director of The Juilliard Jazz Orchestra from fall 2017 to 2021. Currently, Jerome is a professor of jazz history at Montclair State University. He has composed music for and is musical director for Maurice Chestnut's dance production *Beat's Rhymes and Tap Shoes*. To date Jerome has performed, toured, and recorded with legendary musicians such as Sonny Rollins, Hank Jones, Gerald Wilson, Christian McBride, Large Professor, Ron Carter, George Cables, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Wynton Marsalis, The Count Basie Orchestra, Philip Bailey, Henry Butler, and countless others. He has also made recordings and shared the stage with contemporary musicians such as Sean Jones, Camille Thurman, Jazzmeia Horn, Tadataka Unno, Christian Sands, Charenee Wade, and Endea Owens, to name a few.

# MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR TEAM:

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**Belinda Edmondson**  
Principal Investigator

Belinda Edmondson is a scholar of Caribbean literature at Rutgers University, Newark, where she holds a joint appointment in English and Africana Studies. Her most recent book is *Creole Noise: Early Caribbean Dialect Literature and Performance* (Oxford UP, 2022).

**Kornel Chang**  
Co-Principal Investigator

Kornel Chang is Associate Professor of History and American Studies at Rutgers University, Newark. His research and teaching interests include Asian American history, the United States in the Pacific world, and race, migration, and labor in the Americas. His current book project, tentatively titled *Occupying Knowledge: Expertise, Technocracy, and De-Colonization in the U.S. Occupation of Korea*, examines the role of technocrats and expert knowledge in the U.S. Occupation of Korea.



**Sean T. Mitchell**  
Co-Principal Investigator

Sean T. Mitchell is Associate Professor of Anthropology and director of Peace and Conflict Studies at Rutgers University, Newark. He writes about inequality politics in Brazil and elsewhere. He is the author of *Constellation of Inequality: Space, Race and Utopia in Brazil* (Chicago 2017) and co-editor of *Precarious Democracy: Ethnographies of Hope, Despair and Resistance in Brazil* (Rutgers 2021), among other works.

**Bernie Lombardi**  
Postdoctoral Associate

Bernie Lombardi is Postdoctoral Associate in Africana Studies at Rutgers University, Newark and has been on the team at the Newark City of Learning Collaborative since 2016. His publications have appeared or are forthcoming in *Research in African Literatures*, *College Literature*, *The Black Scholar*, and the edited collection *Langston Hughes in Context* (Cambridge UP 2023). He also blogs about books and contemporary literary culture on Instagram: @bernie.lombardi.



**Christina Strasburger**  
Department Administrator, History and Africana Studies

Christina Strasburger is an administrative and academic professional with over two decades of experience in higher education. She provides a range of education, information, and advocacy services for students, faculty, staff, and community. She is co-founder of the award-winning Queer Newark Oral History Project, a community-directed initiative dedicated to recording and preserving the history of LGBTQ+ people in and of Newark, NJ.

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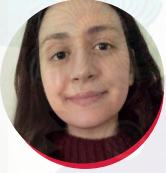


**Mi Hyun Yoon**  
Graduate Assistant

Mi Hyun Yoon is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Rutgers University, Newark. Her research looks at the history of the Korean diaspora in the United States through the transnational context of Asian America and Korea. Her latest articles are “Kung Flu and Roof Koreans: Asian/Americans as the Hated Other and Proxies of Hating in the White Imaginary” (*Journal of Hate Studies*, 2021) and “To Write in Unwellness: Documenting A/P/A Voices” (*Journal of Asian American Studies*, 2022).

**Iliana Smith**  
Graduate Assistant

Iliana Smith is an English Master’s Candidate at Rutgers University, where she focuses on Caribbean postwar literary movements and visual culture. She has presented at the 2022 Black Portraiture Conference, where she co-organized the panel “Performance, Poetics, & the Story: A Merging of Interdisciplinary Expression and Identity.” She is currently working on a profile of the Caribbean writer and one of the founders of the Caribbean Artists Movement, Andrew Salkey.



**Sara Márquez Durst**  
Graduate Assistant

Sara Márquez Durst is pursuing an MA in English here at Rutgers-Newark. Her background is in Old English Literature and Japanese Folklore Studies, which she studied at Rutgers-NB. Sara is a published short story author and combines her academic and creative interests to explore identity, time, and place.

**Esperanza Onoria Santos**  
Graduate Assistant

Esperanza Onoria Santos is a PhD student at Rutgers Newark where she received the Rutgers Presidential Graduate Fellowship. Her focus is Transgender Studies, Latinx Culture, transnationalism, and History. She is a former McNair Scholar and has a history of leadership and received awards such as the Sonoma County “Community Role Model Award” and the Rutgers Newark “LGBTQ+ Leadership Award.” She worked with the Santa Rosa Trans Latinas as a facilitator and organized a Trans Rights March in 2019.



**Arshy Hernandez**  
Social Media Associate

Arshy Hernandez has an AA in graphic design and a BFA in Graphic Design. She is experienced in visual communications, social media management, illustration, and motion graphics. As a Dominican native female, she merges a strong connection to her culture and traditions with vibrant and bright colors to create beautiful pieces with a critical approach to design. Hernandez has created designs for the Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, NJSBDC State Office as a graphic design intern.

# SCHEDULE

**RESPONDING TO  
ANTI-ASIAN HATE:  
POLITICS, ORGANIZING,  
AND EDUCATION**  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

**POLITICS ACROSS  
BORDERS:  
IMMIGRATION,  
NATIVISM, ACTIVISM  
AND TRANS-BORDER  
POLITICAL SENTIMEN**  
OCTOBER 27, 2022

**MIGRATION,  
DISPLACEMENT,  
AND THE ARTS**  
NOVEMBER 16, 2022

**BLACK CITIZENSHIP**  
MARCH 8, 2023

**INSTITUTIONALIZING  
CHANGE**  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023



**PROGRAM DESIGNED BY  
ARSHY HERNANDEZ**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO SAYA  
WOOLFALK FOR PERMISSION  
TO USE HER ARTWORK  
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CLOUD  
DIVISION (PLATE I) (2018)**

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