THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
RE-IMAGINING GENDER, PLACE AND RACE IN THE MAKING OF AMERICA
Tebiah Wiley, University Professor and Chair, Photography, and Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis
In this lecture Professor Wiley will consider a comparative perspective of the historical firm and the city, photography and all placed in remembering and reimagining events from the Civil War and American Slavery before and after Emancipation. This talk examines the public memory of slavery through photography and how images influenced the making of the film. Professor Wiley will weave a narrative on the history of American photography during its early years with iconic moments in the film.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
THE BRAIN IS HEALED? EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE ON RECONCILIATION
Dundula Dulac, Assistant Professor of Politics and Economics
Some of our greatest traumas are of our own making—a genocide in Rwanda, a brutal civil war in Sierra Leone, and an ugly war in Sri Lanka. These conflicts do not take lives and destroy a physical country—they wear scars around our psyches, emotions and human capacities. From how we think, to how we act in society in these post-conflict contexts? Professor Dulac will describe a large-scale truth and reconciliation design effort to achieve this goal in Sierra Leone, which marks a new chapter in the post-conflict truth-telling. The results shed light, but also raise questions, around how we can heal the wounds of war.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
DOES TIME GO BY?
David Edelman, Professor of Philosophy and Bioethics and Director of Undergraduate Studies for Philosophy
We experience time as moving—as passing, or going by. But it’s very hard to say what that means. Could it be that time doesn’t go by? In this lecture Professor Edelman will explore possible answers to these questions.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
SURPRISES IN EXPERIMENTAL EVOLUTION
Eli Kussell, Associate Professor of Biology and Physics
Can we watch evolution happen in the lab? Experiments in recent years have pushed the boundaries on what we thought was possible, using microbes as model systems to study evolution. Can we predict the outcome of evolution? Is evolution predictable at all? What can we learn from an evolutionary experiment? In this lecture Professor Kussell will survey some of the highlights of experimental evolution from the last three decades.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
CAN SYSTEMS APPROACHES HELP US UNDERSTAND COMPLEX SUGARS IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE?
Lara Mahal, Professor of Chemistry
Cell surface carbohydrates play crucial roles in diverse areas of biological processes and are central targets to better diseases. Applying systems-based analytical and biology approaches, including examining mRNAs regulatory networks and kinetic information, we have developed vascular targeted therapies that give insights into HIF-1 biology and observed associations between the glycans and microRNAs. The new technologies are enabling us to decode information encoded in the glycans.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
CONTINGENT MIGRATIONS: OF BIRDS AND BALLAST IN THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY NOVEL
Irene Fernando, Professor of English
Global events of the nineteenth century catalyzed the genocide and displacement of indigenous people and the migration and settlement of Europeans. They also tell stories of more recent migrations of great consequence. In this lecture Professor Fernando focuses on texts in Canada, India, and Portugal on migration and their subsequent historical fates, and the problem of ballast, and what it transports suddenly, severing significant work on recovered slave ships.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
THE MIND AS A MEANING MACHINE: UNCOVERING THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF COMBINATORY SEMANTICS IN LANGUAGE PROCESSING
Seth Pufall, Associate Professor of Linguistics and Psychology and Director of Graduate Studies for Linguistics
The infinite creative power of language is one of the most impressive feats of the human brain. While the unthinking neurobiology of our ability to understand the meanings of word combinations and how our brains create such messages when we don’t stop to question how linguistic is the brain’s combinatorial capabilities. Professor Pufall will discuss her research characterizing the rapid unfolding of the brain’s combinatorial capacities.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
IMAGINING A MODERN IRAN AND THE HUMAN SCIENCES
Ali Mirsepassi, Professor of Sociology and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies and Director of the Iranian Studies Initiative
Why have the “human sciences” become the target of a major government crackdown in Iran today? In this lecture Professor Mirsepassi will focus on a specific bleed-through contemporary Iran. Today’s intellectual environment has been shaped by the struggles of social change from the 1979 revolution onwards through philosophy, reflecting complex political questions we have about the efficiency that has long dogged any embrace for modernity and democracy that shaped the twentieth century. The terms of public discussion have shifted from the post-revolutionary medicine grounded in the Majles (the Iranian parliament) to an open-ended pragmatic politics. Human sciences, in this context, embody ideas of autonomy and liberty and a means of accommodating.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23
THE PACIFIC SOLUTION: HISTORICAL AND LITERARY PERSPECTIVES ON AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE DETENTION
Joan Kir Waddington, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Director of Undergraduate Honors for English
Since the 1970s, Australia has been attempting to reach Australia from countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Sri Lanka have been incarcerated in offshore camps such as Manus, Lombrum and Nauru. Historically, these are arrangements known as The Pacific solution. While Australia’s initial response to asylum seekers has been much criticized from the standpoint of international law and human rights, it has led to the development of an academic field called Australia Studies, as well as a larger quest of geopolitical sovereignty. To this end, this lecture examines three key literary texts by Pacific western—Witi Ihimaera, Garth Gilmour, and Fiyat Maglo—among which exploration of colonial and neo-colonial relationships in the Pacific. These reveal important shifts in the configurations of sovereignty and territory that Professor Waddington argues, have created new imaginaries of the asylum seeker as a new form of a function and global currency.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22
THE ECONOMICS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY
Hunt Allcott, Assistant Professor of Economics
Energy efficiency programs? Are they achieving their goals? How can we make them work better? In this lecture, Professor Allcott will discuss the role that behavioral economics can play in helping to improve energy efficiency programs.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
REVOLUTIONARY DREAM: THE FOUNDING GENERATION AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH
Stephen D. Solomon, Associate Professor of Journalism and Associate Director, Center: Journalism and Liberty
Americans today enjoy an unprecedented First Amendment freedom to express themselves free of restrictions imposed by government. But the freedom was not easy won. The Founding generation and the people that made it possible were willing to criticize public officials as they fought against British authority and another riddled with a culture of censorship. Using contemporary literature, film, comics, graphic novels, posters, pamphlets, posters, songs, sermons, ofﬁces, cartoons, brochures, lively town and tavern conversations to open fora of public discussion offiﬁcials. Ultimately, their unbridled expression gave meaning to the First Amendment and helped establish the nascent political dialogue on our time. Utilizing research from his upcoming book, Revolutionary Dreamers: Professor Solomon will examine the origins of America’s commitment to freedom of speech and press.

The Scholars Lecture Series is designed to encourage and promote the exchange of ideas among our faculty and students in the College of Arts and Science. The lecture series enhances the intellectual experience and social consciousness of the NYU community.
Lecturers

- Konrad Morgen: The Conscience of a Nazi Judge
- Edo KusSELL: On Statistical Mechanics and Population Biology
- Hari Om: Indian Philosophy of Law
- Michaela Mitchell: On the History of Gender
- Stephen D. Solomon: On the First Amendment

Scholars

- Naoko Shibusawa: On Globalization and Development
- Jini Kim Watson: On the Politics of Race and Identity
- Lisa Cooper: On Photography and Imaging
- Konrad Morgen: On Nazi Law
- Edo KusSELL: On Statistical Mechanics
- Hari Om: On Indian Philosophy of Law
- Michaela Mitchell: On the History of Gender
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