

September 21, 2020

Dear GSAPP Community,

It has been a tumultuous and consuming period leading up to start of this extraordinary academic year, and I am so glad to see that after so much planning and anticipation our studios, seminars, and courses are now running in full gear—whether online, on campus, or in some cases a combination that invites many of you to join in-person sessions from afar.

I would like to take this moment to return our focus to the important work that is underway to support and shape our vision of what an antiracist GSAPP looks like and provide you with an update on progress made. The team from Diversity Dimensions Consulting (DDC), a Washington, D.C.-based organization dedicated to bringing effective and long-lasting diversity and inclusion practices to companies and institutions, have started their work with us. They are meeting with faculty, staff, and students to better understand the challenges we are collectively and individually grappling with. They will be offering concrete ways for us to increase diversity and equity in recruitment and admissions, increase transparency in our communications throughout this process, and support us in shaping our vision of what an antiracist GSAPP looks like. Since the start of the semester, DDC has already met with GSAPP leadership and staff and the GSAPP Anti-Racism Task Force, and has meetings scheduled with the Black Student Alliance at GSAPP as well as the School's Program Directors. The DDC team is committed to hearing from as many student voices as possible, and as our collective actions unfold in partnership with DDC, we invite you to share your perspective: Kim D'Abreu, Eugene Anderson, Gloria González, and Natalie Radolinski will be holding virtual coffee hours on September 30 at 3pm and October 5 at 12pm, and would very much welcome your input. You can read more about the DDC team, their approach, and the work's initial focus on the newly updated [Anti-Racism Action Page](#).

As a School committed to addressing Climate Change and its impact on the built environment, I also feel an urgency to acknowledge the horrific devastation currently being experienced on the west coast of the United States. The loss of life and of neighborhoods, forests, wildernesses, fields, and more, is devastating. As architects and planners, urban designers and preservationists, scholars, critics and real estate developers, we understand how these events are intimately tied to human behaviors and a heating climate. This gives us an extraordinary perspective and responsibility: our disciplines and practices can be a reminder of despair, or they can be engaged as powerful acts of hope. Even as we are reminded of how unsustainable building practices and inequitable modes of planning and development have deeply contributed to climate change, we are simultaneously made aware of our capacities to change these disciplines and practices, arming ourselves with the critical and practical knowledge, and bringing together new technologies with considered historical approaches to carefully but powerfully, assess where we can contribute, to protect the most vulnerable people, communities and species, and lessen the impact of our changing world.

As we gather to collectively address all of these urgent issues and more, I need to stress the importance of staying safe and healthy. Please protect one another and our academic community by following the University's public health protocols regarding testing and screening, face covering and PPE, physical distancing, cleaning, and more. You will find details on [COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Columbia Community](#) and can reference [GSAPP's COVID-19 Resources](#) for additional information.

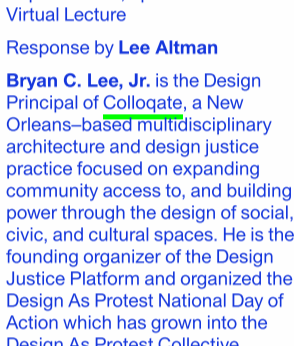
We've had tremendous turnout for our first public programs of the semester, and I am happy to see so many of you joining and participating with questions in the important discussions "Site and History: On the Question of Repair" and "Race and Modern Architecture," as well as my conversation with designer Stephen Burks. In case you weren't able to join live, you can find the recordings archived on our website. Please be sure to take full advantage of this week's activities outlined below, from tonight's lecture by Bryan C. Lee, Jr.—whose work is an important example for how we can shape our practices to advocate for racial, social, and cultural equity—through Friday's discussion on "The Preservation of Disability."

I want to close by also acknowledging the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whose emphasis on working tirelessly so that others may have better lives can remain a beacon for us all.

Sincerely,

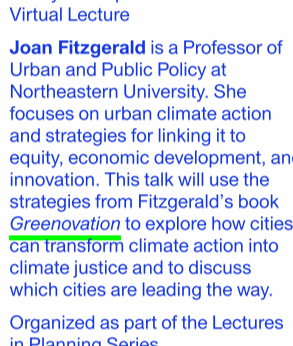
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## SEPTEMBER 21-25



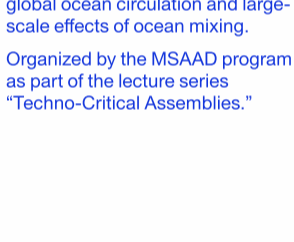
**BRYAN C. LEE, JR.**  
September 21, 6pm  
Virtual Lecture

Response by **Lee Altman**  
**Bryan C. Lee, Jr.** is the Design Principal of Colloqate, a New Orleans-based multidisciplinary architecture and design justice practice focused on expanding community access to, and building power through the design of social, civic, and cultural spaces. He is the founding organizer of the Design Justice Platform and organized the Design As Protest National Day of Action which has grown into the [Design As Protest Collective](#).



**JOAN FITZGERALD**  
Today at 1:15pm  
Virtual Lecture

**Joan Fitzgerald** is a Professor of Urban and Public Policy at Northeastern University. She focuses on urban climate action and strategies for linking it to equity, economic development, and innovation. This talk will use the strategies from Fitzgerald's book [Greenovation](#) to explore how cities can transform climate action into climate justice and to discuss which cities are leading the way. Organized as part of the Lectures in Planning Series.



**SPENCER JONES**  
September 24, 9am  
Virtual

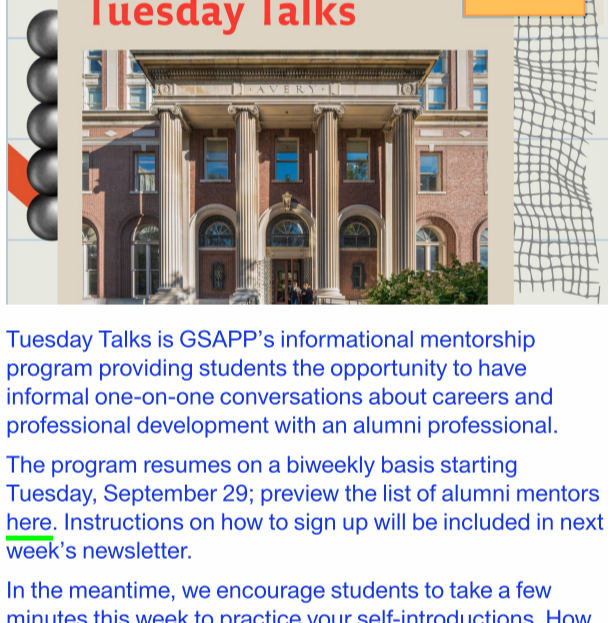
**Spencer Jones** is a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in Ocean and Climate Physics at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) at Columbia's Earth Institute. Working in the Ocean Transport Group at Lamont, Jones studies large-scale effects of ocean mixing. Organized by the MSAAD program as part of the lecture series "Techno-Critical Assemblies."



**THE PRESERVATION OF DISABILITY**  
September 25, 1pm  
Virtual Lecture

A presentation of the special issue of [Future Anterior](#) on Disability and Preservation, which critically examines the concept of disability—in all its myriad definitions—through the historical and theoretical lens of preservation and on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Organized and moderated by **David Gissen**, in discussion with **Georgina Kleege**, **Rosemarie Garland-Thomson**, **Rob Thomson**, **Sun Young Park**, and **Wanda Katja Liebermann**.

## CAREER SERVICES



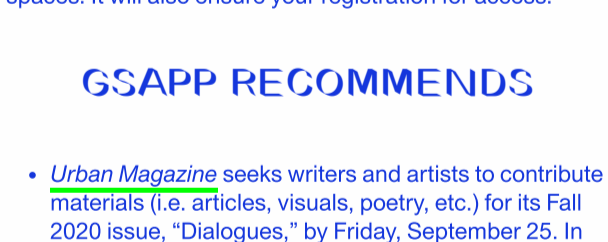
**Fall 2020 Tuesday Talks**  
9 am est

Tuesday Talks is GSAPP's informational mentorship program providing students the opportunity to have informal one-on-one conversations about careers and professional development with an alumni professional.

The program resumes on a biweekly basis starting Tuesday, September 29; preview the list of alumni mentors [here](#). Instructions on how to sign up will be included in next week's newsletter.

In the meantime, we encourage students to take a few minutes this week to practice your self-introductions. How you introduce yourself helps set the tone for many interactions, whether you are meeting an alumni mentor, studio critic, or potential employer. Review a few helpful tips from these resources: [Ideas.TED.com](#), [Indeed](#), and [Zety](#).

## GLOBAL CENTERS NETWORK



The University and [Columbia Global Centers](#) are creating student access to spaces in a number of cities around the world—to study, work, collaborate, convene, and meet fellow Columbia students. These free spaces will bring together the Columbia community in your home city to connect with one another, and with campus and New York City.

If you are in any of the following cities, please register by completing the [survey of interest](#) as soon as possible: Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, Taipei, Mumbai, London, Athens, Paris, Istanbul, Tel Aviv, Amman, Tunis, Nairobi, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago. Doing so will help the Global Centers determine where to create access to study and community spaces. It will also ensure your registration for access.

## GSAPP RECOMMENDS

- [Urban Magazine](#) seeks writers and artists to contribute materials (i.e. articles, visuals, poetry, etc.) for its Fall 2020 issue, "Dialogues," by Friday, September 25. In light of these past months, the fall issue is dedicated to conversations on racial and spatial inequity in urban planning and design fields. If you are interested, please send a short pitch of your ideas to [urban.submissions@gmail.com](mailto:urban.submissions@gmail.com).
- Columbia's Earth Institute is co-organizing the 2020 International Conference on Sustainable Development between September 21–22. View the list of presenters [here](#).
- The virtual seminar series on Race, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice continues on Tuesday, September 22 with a lecture by **Mona Hanna-Attisha, MD** titled "Environmental Racism in the US." Learn more and RSVP [here](#).
- The [2020 Exhibit Columbus Symposium](#) continues with free virtual talks on futures and technologies; resiliency and climate adaptation; arts and community; and indigenous thinking and radical thinking. Professor **Kate Orff** participates in a conversation with designer **Iñaki Alday** on September 29.
- Faculty **Bryony Roberts** participates in the event "New Books in the Arts & Sciences: Celebrating Recent Work by Victoria Rosner" hosted by the Heyman Center on September 23 at 6:15PM. [Register here](#).
- Faculty **Sarrah Khan** is participating in the Future of Design NYC 2020 symposium on Thursday, September 24, respectively. Learn more and register [here](#).
- The [Lexus Design Award](#) invites submissions for design proposals across the categories of Industrial Design, Architecture, Technology/Engineering, Interior Design, and Fashion Design by October 11. Register for an information session on either [September 22](#) or [September 29](#).

News: FACULTY ALESSANDRO ORSINI'S FIRM ARCHITECTS FEATURED IN ARCHITECTS MAGAZINE'S NEXT PROGRESSIVES SERIES →

News: MSAAD PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANDRÉS JAQUE PARTICIPATES IN "COVID X CLIMATE RAPID RESPONSE WORKSHOP: PANDEMICS, URBAN HEALTH AND THE GLOBAL INTERIOR" AT UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA →

News: GALEN PARDEE "16 MARCH OPENS INSTALLATION "THE GREAT LAKES ARCHITECTURAL EXPEDITION" AT OSU'S KNOWLTON SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE →

News: FACULTY SARRAH KHAN SPEAKS AT FUTURE OF DESIGN NYC 2020 SYMPOSIUM AS PART OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION "TAILORED APPROACHES: CUSTOMIZING FUNCTION" →

News: HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR JORGE OTERO-PAILOS' INSTALLATION "WATERSHED MOMENT" REVIEWED IN THE ART NEWSPAPER →

Columbia University  
Graduate School of Architecture,  
Planning and Preservation  
1172 Amsterdam Avenue  
New York, New York 10027  
(212) 854-3414

[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)