

2023 Fall Forum: Teaching Now

Presenter Bios

Ellen Berkovitch is a Visiting Associate Professor at Pratt Institute and a working journalist of 30 years' standing. Over her career, she has been a newspaper investigative reporter, a magazine editor in chief, a public radio station news director and a freelance documentary radio producer. She also is an award-winning journalism entrepreneur who conceived of, launched and ran the Rocky Mountain West's first daily online arts magazine from 2008-2015. Her expertise lies in investigating journalism's changing role in US society. She specializes in teaching students the foundational practices of inquiry and investigation, and is committed to bringing forward the principles of new community journalism in the context of Pratt and our Brooklyn neighborhoods. She was a member of the inaugural 2019 Ford Foundation cohort, #50WomenCan (Change the World in Journalism.) She belongs to Women's Media Group, JAWS (Journalism and Women Symposium), IRE (Investigative Reporters and Editors) and ONA (Online News Association). At Pratt, she was a member of the Center for Teaching and Learning's Participatory Learning cohort, and is collaborating with the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment on evolving the new course she designed, Reporting the City.

Kim Bobier is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Pratt Institute's Department of History of Art and Design. She specializes in modern and contemporary art historical periods. Her work takes a social justice lens while emphasizing critical race studies and gender and sexuality studies. Bobier is the recipient of fellowships from institutions such as the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program, the Mellon Black Metropolis Research Consortium, and the Luce American Council of Learned Societies. Her writing appears in *Afterimage*, *Art Journal*, *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art*, *Panorama: Association of Historians of American Art*, Routledge's anthology *Social Practice Art in Turbulent Times, Women & Performance*, and elsewhere. She is currently at work on the book project *Monitoring and Modeling Citizenship: Racializing Surveillance in Contemporary Art*. Her related article will be published in the spring 2024 issue of *American Art*, the Smithsonian American Art Museum's scholarly journal.

Christina Katopodis, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Research Associate and the Associate Director of [Transformative Learning in the Humanities](#), a three-year initiative at the City University of New York (CUNY) supported by the Mellon Foundation. She is the winner of the 2019 Diana Colbert Innovative Teaching Prize and the 2018 Dewey Digital Teaching Award. She has authored or co-authored articles published in [English Language Notes](#), *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*, [Hybrid Pedagogy](#), [Inside Higher Ed](#), *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, MLA's [Profession](#), [Times Higher Ed](#), and [Zeal: A Journal for the Liberal Arts](#).

Nat Mesnard is a writer and game designer. Published in places such as *Kenyon Review Online*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Journal*, and others, Nat also co-designed *DemocraSea*, an IndieCade-selected board game now forthcoming from Game Salute.

Dr. Erica Morawski is dedicated to exploring the intersection of design, politics, and identity. Her research and writing center on the history of design in the Americas, with a particular focus on the Hispanic Caribbean. Her work traverses the nature of these relationships across different scales, from a designed object to larger national or international frameworks of trade, manufacture, and knowledge systems. She is presently completing a book that examines design and development policy in Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Cuba from roughly 1900-1950. This project focuses on design related to the tourism industry as a means to analyze Hispanic Caribbean responses to and engagement with the co-constitutive projects of imperialism/colonialism and modernity. She is also researching a second book project on the institutionalization and role of design, specifically industrial design and architecture after the



1959 Cuban Revolution as well as other ongoing projects. Dr. Morawski is currently lead editor on the latest volume to come out of [Interior Provocations](#), an ongoing symposium and publishing collaboration between the History of Art and Design and Interiors Department at Pratt Institute.

Pirco Wolfram is a designer, design educator, and designer of education. She works with faculty to advance the curriculum and has developed many tools for faculty to easier navigate and thrive in this educational setting. Similarly, supporting students on their individual and collective educational journeys where needed is a just as important focus of her work. Pirco earned a diploma in Visuelle Kommunikation from the Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach, an M.F.A. degree in Graphic Design from CalArts, and a M.P.S. in Arts and Cultural Management from Pratt Institute. She is the recipient of two Faculty Development grants, the Taconic Fellowship, the RIDE Fellowship, and Strategic Initiative sponsorship from the Provost's Office. She co-authored the book *Eva Zeisel: Life, Design, and Beauty* and co-curated the exhibition *Multiple, Obsessed, and Meaningful: The Web of Contemporary Communication Design Practices*.