To the Penn Community,

Yesterday, President Magill convened and charged our University Task Force on Antisemitism, a key component of Penn’s Action Plan to Combat Antisemitism. A full listing of task force membership can be found here. I am writing today as chair of the task force to share a few important messages.

First, I join the President in reemphasizing the urgency of our work and Penn’s shared commitment to counter antisemitism on our campus and more broadly in our nation and throughout the world.

Second, I am grateful to the faculty, students, staff, and alumni who have stepped forward to serve as task force members, and I look forward to working with them. Many others volunteered their time and commitment as well, which does them and this University enormous credit.

Third, the President has charged the task force to engage broadly and deeply, identify best practices for countering antisemitism, and recommend programmatic strategies. As we pursue these goals, I encourage and welcome your participation. You can submit your ideas, experiences, and perspectives to antisemitism-taskforce@upenn.edu. We will keep the Penn community updated on other opportunities to engage.

Please keep in mind that this task force does not serve a bias reporting or public safety function, nor does it adjudicate disciplinary issues. If any Penn affiliates experience an act of bias or discrimination, including antisemitism or Islamophobia, please report it through Penn’s Bias Incident Reporting process. If there is any threat to your physical safety, or you are being harassed online, please contact the 24/7 PennComm Emergency Call Center at (215) 573-3333 immediately. Additional information on University resources for safety and support can also be found on Penn’s website.

Among leading universities, Penn is distinguished by our proud history as a welcoming place for all communities. So, it is even more incumbent upon Penn that we take a leadership role in combatting antisemitism on our own campus and campuses everywhere. With this action plan and this task force—which I am proud to lead with the combined expertise of our entire community, students, faculty, staff, and alumni—I believe we will succeed.

—Mark S. Wolff
Morton Amsterdam Dean,
School of Dental Medicine

The Office of the Vice Provost for Research has provided nearly $1 million in funding to support research through Discovering the Future and Accelerating From Lab to Market research grants. Both funding opportunities are financially supported and overseen by the OVPR.

The Discovering the Future Grant Program aims to fund exciting research that traditional funding sources may find too high risk. The aim is to strike a balance between what more conservative funders might avoid with supporting research that has the potential to be transformative and offer a high reward. The Discovering the Future Grant Program will continue to award funds to Penn faculty for targeted, creative, outside-the-box ideas with the potential to alter the trajectory of research across many fields.

The Accelerating From Lab to Market Grant Program provides pre-seed funding for research with commercialization potential. Penn makes significant commitments to academic research one of its core missions, including investment in faculty research programs. In some disciplines, discovery makes an impact on society through commercialization. Pre-seed grants are often the limiting step for new ideas to cross the “valley of death” between federal research funding and commercial success. Accelerating From Lab to Market pre-seed grants are awarded to Penn faculty for promising inventions disclosed to Penn Center for Innovation (PCI) and to Penn faculty with existing Penn spinout companies based on Penn-owned intellectual property.

2023 Awards

Discovering the Future
George M. Barskim
Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics
Perelman School of Medicine
Intracellular Protein Editing
Joshua B. Plotkin
Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor of the Natural Sciences, Department of Biology
School of Arts and Sciences
Studying Language Evolution with GPT3: A New Frontier

Accelerating From Lab to Market
Chinedum Osuji
Eduardo D. Glandt Presidential Professor, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
School of Engineering and Applied Science
Large Area Fabrication of Precise Self-Assembled Membranes
Andrew Tsourkas
Professor

(continued on page 2)

President Liz Magill Announces Membership of the University Task Force on Antisemitism

November 17, 2023

Advancing Penn’s Action Plan to Combat Antisemitism, Penn President Liz Magill has announced the members of the University Task Force on Antisemitism. The task force, a centerpiece of the plan President Magill announced earlier this month, is charged with engaging broadly and deeply with all members of the Penn community to better understand how antisemitism is experienced on campus and to provide critical feedback and actionable solutions as part of Penn’s ongoing efforts to counter and combat antisemitism.

Guided by the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, the task force will work in close consultation with campus leaders, as well as local, regional, and national subject matter experts to identify best practices for countering antisemitism. The task force will use these insights and its collective expertise to recommend programmatic strategies to counter antisemitism on campus.

Chaired by Mark S. Wolff, the Morton Amsterdam Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, the task force is comprised of faculty, students, staff, alumni, and members of Penn’s Board of Trustees.

“Penn’s campus cannot and will not be a comfortable or uncontested space for antisemitism,” said President Magill. “The task force is critical to Penn’s commitment to counter this threat. I am grateful to Dean Wolff and the members of the task force for committing their time and expertise to this work. I also encourage the Penn community to engage with the task force’s efforts.

I believe Penn can become a higher education leader in the fight against antisemitism, but it will take all of us working together to make serious and lasting change.”

The task force will provide regular updates to President Magill. The task force will submit a preliminary status report to President Magill no later than February 15, 2024 and a final report no later than May 17, 2024. Input and suggestions for the task force can be sent to antisemitism-taskforce@upenn.edu. Additional opportunities to engage with the task force will be shared soon.

“I am honored to be leading this critical effort for Penn,” said Dean Wolff. “As we listen to and learn from voices across campus, I am eager to put insights into action so that members of our
Sarah Kavanagh: Director of the Collaboratory for Teaching and Teacher Education

Sarah Kavanagh, an associate professor in the learning, teaching, and literacies division of the Graduate School of Education, has been appointed director of the Collaboratory for Teaching and Teacher Education. The collaboratory is committed to advancing teacher education and supporting the K-12 educator community. As a center and a lab, it provides hands-on training, relevant research, and teacher education programs.

Dr. Kavanagh’s new position aligns well with her commitment to educators, research, and continuing education. “I have always strongly advocated for partnerships that bring together educators, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners,” she said. “I saw this role as an opportunity to foster meaningful partnerships that can amplify our impact.”

As educators face new pressures in the classroom and their field, they need more training and support than ever. The collaboratory, Dr. Kavanagh noted, provides essential resources, including teacher training, related research, events, and conferences.

“The collaboratory’s commitment to conducting meaningful research and fostering public discourse means that our work has the potential to influence policies and practices that shape the future of education,” Dr. Kavanagh said.

Dr. Kavanagh hopes to expand the collaboratory’s lineup of events, including the biannual Research Exchange event, focused on pressing issues in teaching and educator learning, and December’s Research Designs & Measurement for Teacher Education conference, a partnership with several universities, to explore improving research methodologies in teaching and teacher education.

The center’s mission comports with Dr. Kavanagh’s view that long-term strategies are essential to address teacher shortages and nurture educators. “Investing in teacher professionalism is key to the lasting improvement of education systems,” she said.

Call for Programs for the 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium on Social Change

We invite your organization/department to plan a program in conjunction with this year’s symposium. Programs can include reflection, action, and response on/to contemporary issues and should raise issues of social change and social justice while incorporating Dr. King’s challenging visions to end racism and poverty, to strengthen and embrace diversity, and to support free expression.

For date availability, visit arc.upenn.edu/events.

If you are interested, contact the African-American Resource Center no later than December 15, 2023 with your program idea. Email Colleen Winn at cowinn@upenn.edu or call (215) 898-8010.

—African-American Resource Center

Office of the Vice Provost for Research: 2023 Discovering the Future and Accelerating From Lab to Market Research Grant Recipients

(continued from page 1)

Co-director, Center for Targeted Therapeutics and Translational Nanomedicine (CT3N), Department of Bioengineering, School of Engineering and Applied Science

Mark Anthony Selmyer, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, Perelman School of Medicine

Development of GMP eDHFR Vector for Clinical Monitoring of Cell Therapies

Rahul M. Kohli, Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine

Next-Generation Liquid Biopsy Diagnostics with DNA Modifying Enzymes
Deaths

Edgar Luizete Monteiro, School of Arts and Sciences

Edgar Luizete Monteiro, a graduate student in department of biology in the School of Arts and Sciences, died on October 29.

Mr. Monteiro was born in Brazil and graduated from the University of Brasilia, where he earned a bachelor’s degree and teaching degree in biological sciences. During his time at the University of Brasilia, Mr. Monteiro received a Science Without Borders scholarship, which brought him to Penn for a year of academic research.

As a graduate student in the School of Arts and Sciences’ department of biology, Mr. Monteiro conducted research in the Perelman School of Medicine’s Institute for Regenerative Medicine, focusing on identifying pioneer transcription factors’ domains responsible for chromatin interaction. His research played an integral role in the gene regulatory research of Kenneth Zaret, the Joseph Leidy Professor and director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

“Edgar was creative and diligent on his projects, which revealed fundamental new insights into gene regulation and biology,” Dr. Zaret said. “He selflessly helped others in the lab. He successfully managed collaborations with other labs. He wrote a published review article virtually all on his own and was highly appreciated by all who knew him. His main thesis project was near completion. Our hearts go out to him, his family, and his friends.”

Penn’s biology department held a gathering for community support on November 1.

University Task Force on Antisemitism Membership

(continued from page 1)

In addition to the work of the task force, President Magill will soon convene and charge a Presidential Commission that will examine the interconnectedness of antisemitism and other forms of hate, including Islamophobia.

“It is critical,” said task force member Charles L. Howard, University Chaplain and Vice President for Social Equity and Community, “that we educate our community on antisemitism and how it relates to other forms of hate and bias so that we can combat it together and make Penn a safer and more inclusive place for everyone.”

The full membership of the task force is:

Chair
Mark S. Wolff, Morton Amsterdam Dean of the School of Dental Medicine

Faculty Representatives
Eric A. Feldman, Heimbold Chair in International Law and professor of law; professor of medical ethics and health policy; chair-elect, University Faculty Senate
Karen Glanz, George A. Weiss University Professor, School of Nursing and Perelman School of Medicine

Joshua Teplitzky, Joseph Meyerhoff Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History; director of the Jewish Studies Program
Steven Weissman, Abraham M. Ellis Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages and Literatures; Ella Darivoff Director of the Katz Center of Advanced Judaic Studies
Beth S. Wenger, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of History; associate dean of graduate studies, School of Arts & Sciences
Beth A. Winkelstein, deputy provost; Eduardo D. Glantd President’s Distinguished Professor, School of Engineering and Applied Science
Abraham J. Wyner, professor of statistics and data science, Wharton School

Student Representatives
Maya Harpaz, C’25
Michael Krone, C’19, L’24, WG’24

Rev. Charles (Chaz) Lattimore Howard, University Chaplain and Vice President for Social Equity and Community
Susanna Lachs, C’74, ASC’76, Former Trustee
Rev. Marshall H. Mitchell, Commonwealth Trustee
Joann Mitchell, Senior Vice President for Institutional Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer

Ex-Officio
Vijay Kumar, Professor and Nemirovsky Family Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Science
Katharine O. Strunk, dean of the Graduate School of Education and the George and Diane Weiss Professor of Education
Wendy S. White, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Staff to the Committee
Seth Zweifler, Office of the President

To read Penn’s Action Plan to Combat Antisemitism in its entirety, visit https://antisemitism-action-plan.upenn.edu/.

Provost’s Predoctoral Fellows Program: Penn Fellowship Opportunity 2024-2025

The University of Pennsylvania invites applications for the 2024-2025 Provost’s Predoctoral Fellows Program. These awards are designed to provide mentorship and access to Penn’s resources for doctoral students in the humanities or social sciences enrolled in graduate or professional programs at universities other than Penn, as they complete their dissertations. The fellowships are intended to support talented scholars with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

These residential fellowships support graduate students in the final stages of dissertation research or writing at Penn for an academic year. They offer an opportunity for scholars planning an academic career to leverage Penn programs and faculty expertise, as well as access to libraries and resources in the Philadelphia region. Each scholar will be selected and hosted by a department or school and work with a faculty mentor. Recipients must be in the stage of advanced dissertation research or writing.

The fellowship provides a stipend of $42,000, health insurance, library privileges, and a $5,000 research and travel fund. The application deadline is January 16, 2024.

This year, up to five fellowships will be awarded.

Qualifications
Candidates for the fellowship must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, enrolled in a PhD program in the humanities or social sciences at an accredited university graduate or professional school other than Penn. Candidates must have passed any PhD qualifying examinations and be in an advanced stage of research and writing on an approved dissertation topic.

Candidates must be students of exceptional academic merit with a commitment to advancing inclusive excellence in higher education and improving understanding of the perspectives and experiences of diverse populations.

Application
Applicants should submit:
• A letter from a Penn faculty member with compatible research interests stating their agreement to serve as a mentor for the duration of the fellowship.
• Two letters of recommendation, signed and on official letterhead. One must be from the dissertation advisor, commenting on the student’s performance, potential, and expected time to degree. At least one of the letters must address the applicant’s contribution to advancing inclusive excellence and improving understanding of the perspectives and experiences of diverse populations.
• Graduate transcript(s).
• Current curriculum vitae.
• Responses to Predoctoral Fellowship Application Questions in Interfolio:
  • Describe your dissertation’s aims and methodology. (No more than 500 words)
  • Explain how your dissertation advances knowledge in the field of study. (No more than 250 words)
  • Explain how your dissertation contributes to understanding the perspectives and experiences of diverse populations. (No more than 250 words)
  • Describe your future research and professional goals. (No more than 250 words)
  • Explain how the Penn fellowship will support your goals. (No more than 250 words)
  • Indicate your expected date of graduation. (Month and year)

Applications will be accepted at: http://apply.interfolio.com/136522.
Questions can be addressed to the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty at: provost-fac@upenn.edu.
Penn Nursing Fall 2023 Awards and Honors

Throughout the fall semester, the following Penn Nursing faculty have been honored with national awards and appointments.

Kathryn H. Bowles, a professor of nursing and the van Ameringen Chair in Nursing Excellence in the department of biobehavioral health sciences, received the Welch/Weinerth Path-Paver Award from the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research. The award is given to a mid-to-late career nurse scientist who has achieved one or more breakthroughs in theory development, research methods, instruments, or subject matter that has paved the way for other scientists and who has influenced and mentored the next generation of nurse researchers.

Kenrick Cato, a member of the standing faculty on the clinician-educator track in the department of family and community health and a professor of informatics at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics. Fellows represent excellence from academia, government, and industry, demonstrating thought leadership, stellar experience, and established scholarship.

Charlene W. Compher, a professor of nutrition science in the department of biobehavioral health sciences, received the 20th Annual Elaine R. Monsen Award for Outstanding Research Literature by The Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Sara F. Jacoby, an associate professor of nursing in the department of family and community health and the Calvin Bland Fellow, was honored with the Trustees Council of Penn Women Award for Undergraduate Advising. This award recognizes faculty advisors who have distinguished themselves in providing assistance and advice to their undergraduates and who have made a significant impact on the academic experience of these students.

Laura Starbird, an assistant professor in the department of family and community health, was awarded the 2023 Marianne Marcus Award by the Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA). This award is given to a registered nurse who is a first-time AMERSA conference attendee and who is committed to clinical practice, research, policy development, and/or education related to substance use disorders.

Colleen Tewksbury, an assistant professor of nutrition science in the department of biobehavioral health sciences, was inducted as a fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. This designation recognizes academy members who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues and in their communities with their service to the dietetics profession and by optimizing the nation’s health through food and nutrition.

Erin Purvis: 2023 Next Generation Award

Erin Purvis was named the predoctoral recipient of the 2023 Next Generation Award by the Society for Neuroscience. She received the award on November 14 at the Society for Neuroscience (SfN)’s annual international meeting.

The Next Generation Award recognizes SfN chapter members who have made outstanding contributions to public communication, outreach, and education about neuroscience through activities such as classroom engagement, social media campaigns, etc., typically at the high school level or below.

Ms. Purvis is a doctoral candidate in the neuroscience graduate group, specifically in the Cullen Neural Engineering and Neurotrauma Lab in the Perelman School of Medicine. She is also a 2022-2024 Provost’s Graduate Academic Engagement Fellow (GAEF) at the Netter Center for Community Partnerships. Through GAEF, Ms. Purvis has worked with Loretta Flanagan-Cato to launch a graduate certificate in community-engaged STEM and also developed an academically based community service course for graduate students called biomedical science in the urban curriculum.

SP2: Third Cohort of Social Justice Scholars

This fall, Penn’s School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2) welcomed its third cohort of Social Justice Scholars, a competitive scholarship program that aims to enhance SP2’s ongoing commitment to the recruitment and retention of students with a particular interest in, and demonstrated capacity for, social justice leadership in their field.

Social Justice Scholars receive full tuition benefits, are supported through an enriched structure of mentorship and additional training opportunities, and are part of a dynamic cohort of scholars. SP2 associate professor Yoosun Park is the faculty director of the program and Jessie Harper is the director of the program.

SP2 welcomed the first cohort of three Social Justice Scholars in the fall of 2021, and the program has since experienced tremendous growth, with nine students in the 2023-2024 cohort. Scholars’ social justice leadership interests range from socioeconomic inequality to anti-racism to community development. To be eligible for consideration for the Social Justice Scholars program, a student must apply by the priority deadline to one of SP2’s three master’s degree programs, demonstrate financial need, and demonstrate an interest in and capacity for social justice leadership. The priority deadline in 2023 is December 1 for all three master’s programs.

New Scholars

Myles Browne

MSSP Program

Interests: civic engagement, LGBTQ+, and community organizing

Education: Hampton University, international relations and minor in Spanish

Marcia Edokwe

MSSP Program

Interests: criminal justice reform and racial equity

Education: Middlebury College, BA in sociology and minor in education studies

Matthew Encarnacion

MSSP Program

Interests: economic inequality, guaranteed income, and affordable housing

Education: Mercer University, BS in psychology

Hallela Hinton-Williams

MSSP Program

Interests: educational justice, anti-racism, and community development

Education: Grinnell College, BA in Spanish and religious studies with a concentration in American studies

Shug Miller

MSW Program

Interests: abolitionist social work

Education: University of Chicago, BA in sociology; University of Miami, MSEd in education and social change

Aisneer Russell Hopkins

MSW Program

Interests: women’s reproductive rights, socioeconomic equity, and anti-racism

Education: Rutgers University-New Brunswick, BS in public health with a concentration in medical ethics and Africana studies

Davina Scott

MSW Program

Interests: mass incarceration, school-to-prison pipeline, urban poverty, and trauma

Education: Howard University, BA in political science and minor in criminology

Breanna Sheehan

MSSP and NLP Programs

Interests: Tribal sovereignty, community development, and cross-cultural engagement

Education: Dartmouth College, BA in anthropology and Native American studies

Tamarra Sonora Serrano

MSW Program

Interests: Education equity and accessibility, community organizing, and anti-racism research

Education: Florida State University, BSW and minor in psychology and education

Returning Scholars

Mayowa Fageynibo

MSSP Program

Interests: education policy, economic justice, anti-racism, international education, and public health

Education: Howard University, BS in psychology and minor in sociology

Sparsh Maheshwari

NLP and MSSP+DA Programs

Interests: socioeconomic inequality

Education: Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, bachelor of engineering; Indian School of Development Management, MBA

Joelle Lingat

MSW and NPL Programs

Interests: immigration, health access, transformative justice, and community care

Education: Oberlin College, BA in environmental studies and comparative American studies and minor in gender, sexuality and feminist studies with a concentration in peace and conflict studies; CUNY School of Law, JD

Erin Purvis
ACADEMIC CALENDAR

11 Last day of classes.
21 Fall Term ends.

CHILDREN’S EVENTS

Penn Museum

Unless noted, online webinars. Info and to register: https://www.penn.museum/calendar.

1 At-Home Anthro Live: Ludus Duodecim Scripta: Make and Play an Ancient Roman Game; similar to backgammon, ludus duodecim involves moving pieces across a board while trying to capture the opponent’s pieces; 1 p.m.

8 At-Home Anthro Live: Coins from Around the World; students will learn about the history of coins around the world, including the materials, symbols, and process of making coins and the messages they carry; 1 p.m.

15 At-Home Anthro Live: Celebrate Winter With Light; students will learn about the ancient pagan Festival of Lights and how parts of this tradition continue today to mark the Winter Solstice; 1 p.m.

26 Winter Break: a multi-day festival that takes place around the Penn Museum’s various galleries, including arts and crafts, board games, and engaging tours of the museum’s most storied artifacts; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Penn Museum. Through December 28.

29 40th Annual Kwanzaa Children’s Festival; celebrate the magic of Kwanzaa in-person with holiday activities for the whole family, including a traditional Kinara of Kwanzaa candle ceremony, stilts ballet performances, games, and food; noon-5 p.m.

CONFERENCES

1 When Media Put Social Justice at Risk; a symposium examining what happens when media practices, values, infrastructures or ownership pose risks to social justice; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Info: https://tinyurl.com/annenberg-conf-nov-30 (Center for Media at Risk, Annenberg Center for Collaborative Communication).

Conceptualizing Otherness with Aristotle in Early Modern Europe and America; gathering leaders expert from different fields to discuss using gender theory and post-colonial studies to analyze the reception of Aristotelianism in the early modern period; 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Class of 1978 Pavilion, Van Pelt Library (Italian Studies).

2 Penn Vet Shelter Medicine Symposium 2023; will provide continuing education while facilitating connections and community collaboration among animal shelter leadership, staff, volunteers, and veterinarians in the Philadelphia area sheltering community; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Hill Pavilion; register: https://tinyurl.com/penn-vet-conf-dec-2 (Penn Vet). Also December 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Upcoming

6 12 @ 12 with the Curators: talk about an item in the exhibit Goya: Prints from the Arthur Ross Collection with curators Lynn Marsden-Atlass and Emily Zimmerman; noon; Arthur Ross Gallery, Fisher Fine Arts Library (Arthur Ross Gallery).

Now

Laurence Salzmann: A Life with Others; explore the major themes of Laurence Salzmann, one of Philadelphia’s most renowned photographers, and his remarkable and ongoing fifty-year career; his photographs and films challenge us to meet his subjects on their own terms, to defend those who are vulnerable to ignorance and stereotype, and to transcend cultural and psychological barriers in the pursuit of human dignity; Goldstein Family Gallery, Van Pelt Library. Through December 4.

Agit-Prop at Common Press; sheds light on this powerful use of the letterpress studio, showcasing projects created over the past four years with themes of social justice, protest, and political action, building on the term agitprop, which has been used for more than a century to describe art and media created to influence public opinion; Common Press, Fisher Fine Arts Library. Through December 15.


From Fox to Wolff: The Impact of W.D. Miller’s Work on Systemic Health, from Cariology to Cardiology; learn about the importance and impact of Penn Dental alumnus W.D. Miller’s contributions to the field of dentistry through his seminal work on dental caries, or cavities, in the late 19th century, featuring the works of dental pioneers such as Fox, Parmly, and Lavagna; Levy Dental Medicine Library, Evans Building. Through December 15.

David Antonio Cruz: When the Children Come Home; an artistic milestone and homecoming for painter and performance artist David Antonio Cruz, encompassing paintings, drawings, sculpture, and performance that center on the experiences of underrepresented communities; Noon; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Central Courtyard. Through December 17.

Moveables; artworks by Jee Fan, Nikita Gale, Hannah Levy, Ken Lum, and Oren Pinhasi that invite us to imagine new possibilities for the objects that shape our daily lives, including who they are made for and how they might be used; many works playfully draw from common household objects like a lighting rig, toothbrush holder, or chandelier; Institute of Contemporary Art. Through December 17.

Goya: Prints from the Arthur Ross Collection; showcases Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes’ series Disasters of War, one of the most powerful and unflinching artistic depictions of war, documenting the atrocities of the Napoleonic invasion of Spain and the Spanish War of Independence (1808-1814); Arthur Ross Gallery. Through December 4.

On December 4, the Center for East Asian Studies, the department of cinema and media studies, and the Penn Japan Forum will host a screening of Naomi Kawase’s award-winning film, Sweet Bean. See Films.

New Italian Cinema, 2023 Edition


1 La Prima Regola (The First Rule); noon.
2 La Cena Perfetta (An Italian Gourmet Crime Story); 3 p.m.
3 La Lunga Corsa (Jaiibird); noon.
4 Scordato; 7 p.m.
5 Acqua e Anice (Olimpia’s Way); noon.
6 Il Sol dell’Avventure (A Brighter Tomorrow); 7 p.m.
7 Stranizza d’Amuri (Fireworks); noon.
8 La Stanzetta Stranenganess); 3 p.m.
9 Amandri; 7 p.m.

FITNESS & LEARNING

6 Exploring Living Options in Retirement; a panel of speakers will discuss key issues to consider when making residential choices following retirement by comparing a wide range of arrangements; 3:30 p.m.; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/pasef-workshop-dec-6 (Penn Association for Senior & Emeritus Faculty).
Mind & Mood Recharge Powered by Penn Medicine; an uplifting array of health-centric happenings, including a botanical bar, wellness marketplace, and a monthly rotation of all-levels wellness activities from local practitioners of yoga, meditation, expressive arts, and more; 5-8 p.m.; Penn Museum; included with museum admission; register: https://tinyurl.com/museum-recharge-dec-6 (Penn Medicine).

7 Master of Professional Nursing Information Session; learn about Penn Nursing’s new program, the Master of Professional Nursing (MPN), including application requirements, admissions timeline, and graduate program options; 6 p.m.; online webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/mpn-info-session-dec-7 (Penn Nursing).

The Deep Dig: Pachacamac, The Oracle of the Ancient Andes; in-depth 4-week course that covers the history of the site of Pachacamac, from its heritage as an important ancient Andean pilgrimage center to a Spanish occupation in the 16th century to an invaluable Penn Museum excavation site in the late 19th century; 6:30 p.m.; online webinar; price for 4 sessions: $175/general, $125/public; register: https://tinyurl.com/museum-deep-dig-dec-7 (Penn Museum). Also December 14, 21, January 4.

GRIP 2024: Info Session for Seoul, Singapore, and Tokyo Programs; Penn Global hosts a session for students interested in Media in Seoul (Sponsored by the Kim Center), Business Development in Singapore, or International Business in Tokyo placements; 6:30 p.m.; Zoom webinar; register: https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/event/grip-2024-info-session-seoul-singapore-and-tokyo (Penn Abroad).

11 Info Session - Pulitzer International Reporting Student Fellowship in Latin America and the Caribbean; noon; room 473, McNeil Building (Center for Latin American & Latinx Studies).

12 Working Dog Center Tour; see firsthand what it takes to train leading detection dogs; watch as the Working Dog Center staff explains the step-by-step process of preparing a dog to serve in explosive detection, search & rescue, cancer detection, and more; 10 a.m.; Working Dog Center; RSVP: pwwdcourceach@vet.upenn.edu (Penn Vet).

College of Liberal & Professional Studies

Online webinars. Info and to register: https://www.lps.upenn.edu/about/events.

5 Master of Environmental Studies Virtual Café; noon.
6 Master of Behavioral and Decision Sciences Virtual Information Session; 5 p.m.
7 Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Virtual Information Session; 6 p.m.
6 Fels Institute of Government Virtual Information Session; noon.
7 Master of Science in Applied Geosciences Virtual Café; noon.

Human Resources

Unless noted, online events are for Penn faculty and staff only. Info and to register: https://www.hr.upenn.edu/.

1 30-Minute Guided Meditation; noon. Also December 8, 15.
2 30-Minute Chair Yoga Plus Core; noon. Also December 11, 18.
5 How to Make Yourself Indispensable; 12:30 p.m.
6 Virgin Pulse Wellness Platform Demo; noon.
7 Health Advocate Presents: Your Holiday Game Plan - Handling Holiday Stress; 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
8 Self Compassion: Being Your Own Best Caregiver for the Holidays; noon.
9 Your Career at Penn; 12:30 p.m.
12 Simple Breath: Secrets for Holiday Joy and Stress Reduction; noon.
13 Bright Horizons Care Benefit - A Marketplace for Discounted Family Supports; noon. Chair Yoga; noon. Deskercize; noon.
14 The Gift of Feedback; 12:30 p.m.
15 Creating and Maintaining Your LinkedIn Profile; 12:30 p.m.
19 Bright Horizons Care Benefit - Quality Care for Your Family; noon.

Penn Libraries

Online webinars. Info and to register: https://www.library.upenn.edu/events.

Workshop Series: Support for Publishing; learn the ins and outs of the publishing process through a series of workshops covering citation management, impact metrics, promoting your work, selecting the right publishing venue, fair use, and more. Sessions all month.

Coffee With a Codex; Kislak Center curator Dot Porter hosts an informal Zoom meeting to present a manuscript from Penn’s collections, followed by questions and conversation. Thursdays at noon.

1 How to Transcribe a Million Manuscripts with eScriptorium; learn about the possibilities and challenges of applying machine-learning technologies to transcription of potentially millions of images of digitized premodern manuscripts; noon.

Weitzman School of Design

Online webinars. Info and to register: https://www.design.upenn.edu/.

1 Admissions Web Chat; 8 a.m.
5 Financial Aid Webinar; 6:30 p.m. Also December 13, noon.
6 Virtual Alumni Panel; 6 p.m.

MUSIC

2 Penn Glee Club Sings Holiday Classics; bring the whole family for some holiday cheer; 1 p.m.; Sugarman Sculpture, Morris Arboretum & Gardens
A number of Penn music department groups will give fall semester recitals in December. The Wind Ensemble (above), will perform in Irvine Auditorium on December 2. Also on December 2, the Penn Glee Club (below) brings its unique brand of holiday cheer to the Morris Arboretum & Gardens. See Music.
**TALKS**

1. **Protecting Health Care & Cyberphysical Systems - Wicked Bizarre Semiconductor Physics of Sensor Security;** Kevin Fu, Northeastern University; 10 a.m.; room 307, Levine Hall (PRECISE Center).

2. **Sampling-Based Task and Motion Planning;** From Robotic Manipulators to Intelligent CAD to Analyzing Proteins; Nancy Amato, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; 10:30 a.m.; Wu & Chen Auditorium, Levine Hall, and Zoom webinar; join: https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92506655697 (GRASP Lab).

3. **It's (Another) Christmas Story! Colonel Thomas W.E. Chrisma**s and Penn Libraries' Hidden Collections; Samantha Dodd, Penn Libraries; noon; online webinar; register: https://www.library.upenn.edu/events/kislak-stacks-colonel-christmas (Penn Libraries).

4. **What Happened to the Nursing Workforce?** David Benton, National Council of State Boards of Nursing; Bianca Frogner, University of Washington; Gopi Shah Goda, Stanford University; Karen Lasater, Penn Nursing; noon; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/ldi-talk-dec-1 (Leonard Davis Institute).

5. **“Love Happens for a Reason in This World, So Does Hatred”: Affection Spaces as an Analytical Framework for the Study of Contemporary China;** Shih-Diing Liu, University of Macau; 12:30 p.m.; room 418, PCPSE (Center for the Study of Contemporary China).

6. **Exploring Earth’s Ice to Imagine Extraterrestrial Worlds;** Jill Mikucki, University of Tennessee; 3 p.m.; room 358, Hayden Hall (Earth & Environmental Science).

7. **Inventing a Pictorial Miscellany for the US;** Gleason’s Pictorial Drawing Room Companion; Michael Leja, history of art; 3 p.m.; room B3, Meyerson Hall (History of Art).

8. **Exploring Stem Cell and Germ Cell Niches in the Tapeworm Hymenolepis Diminuta;** Tania Rozario, University of Georgia; noon; room 132, Hill Pavilion, and Zoom webinar; join: http://upenn.zoom.us/j/91485597704 (Penn Vet).

9. **Spatial and SES Inequalities in Health and Mortality: An Ever-Widening Future?** Jennifer Tejada, University of California, Berkeley; 12 p.m.; room 101, PCPSE (Center for the Study of Social Inequality).

10. **The Shape-Shifting Mitochondrion of Toxoplasma Gondii;** Gustavo Arribalzaga, Indiana University; noon; room 132, Hill Pavilion, and Zoom webinar; join: https://upenn.zoom.us/j/91485597704 (Penn Vet). 

11. **Engineering Posttranslational Regulation of Ion Channels;** Basic Mechanisms to Translation; Henk M. Colenbrander, Columbia University; 3 p.m.; Austrian Auditorium, CRB (Physiology).

12. **Women as Sexual Beings Under Socialism;** Katerina Lisková, Masaryk University, Czech Republic; 5:30 p.m.; room 200, PCPSE (Russian & East European Studies).

13. **Seeing the Unseen: How AI Redefines Bioengineering;** Dorin Comaniciu, Siemens Healthineers; 1 p.m.; Wu & Chen Auditorium, Levine Hall (Bioengineering Herman P. Schwan Distinguished Lecture).

14. **The Electron-Ion Collider;** Bernd Surrow, Temple University; 3:30 p.m.; room 2C8, DRL (Physics & Astronomy).

15. **Patient-Provider Communication and Potential Inequities in the Current Era of HIV Biomedical Prevention;** Sarah Calabrese, George Washington University; noon; Class of 62 Auditorium, John Morgan Building (Center for AIDS Research).

16. **Crustaceans as a Trojan Horse for Vibrio Infection of Hosts;** Hyuntae Byun, microbiology; 4 p.m.; room 209, Johnson Pavilion (Microbiology).

**Economics**

In-person events. Info: https://economics.sas.upenn.edu/events/

17. **Understanding Gender Disparities in STEM Major and Occupation Choices: A Structural Model Approach;** Shasha Wang, economics; noon; room 100, PCPSE.

18. **The Core of Bayesian Persuasion;** Laura Doval, Columbia University; 4 p.m.; room 101, PCPSE.

19. **The Effects of the Legal Minimum Working Time on Workers, Firms and the Labor Market;** Pauline Caroline, University of Chicago; 3:30 p.m.; room 101, PCPSE.

20. **Price Heterogeneity as a Source of Heterogenous Demand;** Gereit Tserenjigmid, University of California, Santa Cruz; noon; room 101, PCPSE.
Division of Public Safety
University of Pennsylvania Police Department Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are the Crimes Against Persons and/or Crimes Against Property from the campus report for November 6-12, 2023. The Crime Reports are available at: https://almanac.upenn.edu/sections/crimes. Prior weeks’ reports are also online. –Eds.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety (DPS) and contains all criminal incidents reported and made known to the Penn Police, including those reported to the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) that occurred within our patrol zone, for the dates of November 6-12, 2023. The Penn Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from 30th Street to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police.

In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call DPS at (215) 898-7297. You can view the daily crime log on the DPS website.

Penn Police Patrol Zone
Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from 30th Street to 43rd Street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
<td>11:31 PM</td>
<td>1 Convention Ave</td>
<td>Hospital Security Officer assaulted by guest/Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>11/07/23</td>
<td>1:25 PM</td>
<td>100 S 40th St</td>
<td>Unknown offender spat on complainant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>11/11/23</td>
<td>9:41 PM</td>
<td>3700 Spruce St</td>
<td>Automobile left running, stolen from highway and recovered in 12th district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Theft</td>
<td>11/09/23</td>
<td>9:20 PM</td>
<td>231 S 34th St</td>
<td>Secured scooter taken from bike rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
<td>6:30 AM</td>
<td>216-224 Market St</td>
<td>Commercial burglary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassment</td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
<td>11:51 AM</td>
<td>3601 Walnut St</td>
<td>Antisemitic writing found at location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assault</td>
<td>11/10/23</td>
<td>4:27 PM</td>
<td>3700 Spruce St</td>
<td>Threatening emails sent to complainant by unknown offender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Offense</td>
<td>11/10/23</td>
<td>9:52 AM</td>
<td>3600 Sansom St</td>
<td>Offender threatened complainant and displayed a firearm during a verbal altercation; offender identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Theft</td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
<td>10:29 AM</td>
<td>3420 Walnut St</td>
<td>Unknown offender sent a threatening message to complainant, who was defrauded $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
<td>12:31 PM</td>
<td>4233 Chestnut St</td>
<td>Retail theft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery/Gun</td>
<td>11/10/23</td>
<td>1:41 AM</td>
<td>4200 Walnut St</td>
<td>Attempted robbery on sidewalk; offender fled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Building</td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
<td>5:51 PM</td>
<td>3901 Locust Walk</td>
<td>Cell phone stolen from secured locker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft Other</td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
<td>12:20 PM</td>
<td>3900 Locust Walk</td>
<td>Theft of a package from mailroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>11/07/23</td>
<td>1:24 AM</td>
<td>3701 Locust Walk</td>
<td>Theft of a secured scooter from bike rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/07/23</td>
<td>12:48 PM</td>
<td>3909 Spruce St</td>
<td>Unknown offender attempted to take secured scooter from bike rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/07/23</td>
<td>7:06 AM</td>
<td>3400 Spruce St</td>
<td>Secured scooter taken from bike rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/06/23</td>
<td>6:46 AM</td>
<td>3400 Spruce St</td>
<td>Secured scooter taken from bike rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/10/23</td>
<td>8:02 AM</td>
<td>3451 Walnut St</td>
<td>60 U.S. flags stolen from lawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/07/23</td>
<td>4:28 PM</td>
<td>3900 Baltimore Ave</td>
<td>Clothing taken from vehicle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Philadelphia Police 18th District
Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 11 incidents were reported for November 6-12, 2023 by the 18th District, covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

The Division of Public Safety offers resources and support to the Penn community. DPS has developed a few helpful risk reduction strategies outlined below. Know that it is never the fault of the person impacted (victim/survivor) by crime.

- See something concerning? Connect with Penn Public Safety 24/7 at (215) 573-3333.
- Worried about a friend’s or colleague’s mental or physical health? Get 24/7 connection to appropriate resources at (215) 898-HELP (4357).
- Seeking support after experiencing a crime? Call Special Services (support and advocacy resources) at (215) 898-4481 or email an advocate at specialservices@publicsafety.upenn.edu.
- Use the Walking Escort and Riding services available to you free of charge.
- Take a moment to update your cell phone information for the UPennAlert Emergency Notification System.
- Download the Penn Guardian App, which can help police better find your location when you call in an emergency.
- Access free self-empowerment and defense courses through Penn DPS.
Update
November AT PENN

FITNESS AND LEARNING

28 T32 Best Practices Discussion: special session on training grants and the SCOTUS decision on Students For Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College AND SFFA v. University of North Carolina; 3:30 p.m.; Zoom webinar; register: https://www.survey-monkey.com/r/3FWLBRN (Perelman School of Medicine).

29 Behind the CV: Stories from Faculty; Rakesh Vohra, economics and electrical & systems engineering, share his stories, with a focus on the unspoken challenges of a life in academia; 5 p.m.; Café 58, Irvine Auditorium (Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships).

30 You Do-Nut Have to Be in STEM; join humanities & social science RPAs to discuss opportunities and enjoy donuts; 7-9 p.m.; RDDSx, first floor, Van Pelt Library (Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships).

Graduate School of Education


30 Mid-Career Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership Virtual Information Session; 7 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

26 Family Game Day: learn more about games played around the world: Challenge the family to a friendly game of mancala, learn how to play the ancient games of knucklebones (Greece/Rome) and Senet (Egypt), and design your own board game to take home; 11 a.m.–4 p.m.; Penn Museum; included with admission (Penn Museum).

TALKS

27 Dawn of the Anthropocene: How Humans in a Warming Climate Drive Pleistocene Mammal Extinctions and Re-shaped California’s Landscapes; Emily Lindsey, La Brea Tar Pits and Museum; noon; room 345, Penn Museum (Anthropology).

Increasing Human Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Tobacco and Smell Science; Patrick Hubert, Monell Chemical Senses Center; 3 p.m.; room 302, CRB, and Zoom webinar; join: https://pennmedicine.zoom.us/j/98960742438 (Global Health).

28 Advancing Bioadhesive Technologies with Mechanical Principles; Jianyu Li, McGill University; 10 a.m.; Wu & Chen Auditorium, Levine Hall (Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics).

29 How Design Can Make a Positive Impact on Health, the Environment, and Education; Raja Schara, Drexel University; noon; Zoom webinar; register: https://tinyurl.com/schara-talk-nov-29 (Nursing).

Inherent Interpretable via Language Model Guided Bottleneck Design; Mark Yatskar, computer & information science; noon; room 307, Levine Hall (ASSET Center).

Adventures at the Nexus of Synthetic, Analytical and Biological Chemistry With an Enzymatic Sub-Theme; David Berkowitz, National Science Foundation; noon; Chemistry Complex (Chemistry).

To submit events for a future AT PENN calendar or update, send details to almanac@upenn.edu.

No Almanac Next Week

The next issue of Almanac will be published on Tuesday, December 5.

10 www.upenn.edu/almanac

ALMANAC November 21, 2023
Viral Videos and Vaccines

Jennifer Punt

Over the years, I have spent many enjoyable hours as an immunology professor working to make complex information more accessible to students. Because the immune system is confoundingly complex, with hundreds of different types of cells traveling through all corners of the body and making thousands of different contacts with proteins and pathogens, this is an important challenge for me and my students. The study of the immune system, immunology, reflects this complexity and, with its daunting vocabulary and array of abbreviations that describe these cells and their contacts, can be impenetrable.

A basic understanding of the immune system, however, is as important to the public as it is to the undergraduates I teach. As my students go on to careers as scientists and clinicians, they will be responsible for communicating this information to audiences outside of Penn. Misinformation about vaccines is particularly harmful and this danger underscores the importance of helping immunology students to share their understanding as clearly as possible to the broadest of audiences—peers, family, and the public.

The remarkable development of the mRNA vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic presented me with a wonderful opportunity to highlight the importance of communication in my advanced undergraduate immunology course (BIOL3008). Remote teaching during the pandemic also inspired me to experiment with the use of video assignments as one way to enhance students’ abilities to articulate their understanding in ways that were accessible to a wide range of audiences.

After spending the first weeks of the semester introducing students to basic cells, tissues, and events that initiate an immune response, I gave them the following assignment:

Please upload a no more than 5 minute video (.mp4 file, preferably) that describes how a vaccine works to an audience of your choice. This assignment is designed to allow you to synthesize and communicate some of what you have learned—and to help inform and even entertain and excite your audience about how vaccines take advantage of our own immune systems.

1. This project can be done individually or in pairs. If you work with a partner, try to creatively incorporate your collaboration in the video. For example, the video could highlight a conversation between two people where the two people take on distinctive roles (e.g. talk show host-style).
2. You may choose to use slides (best to use no more than five), but this is not required.
3. Select an audience and identify it for us at the beginning of your presentation. Your audience can be almost anyone, ranging from elementary school students, CDC specialists, biology undergraduates, etc.
4. Be accurate, but tailor your vocabulary to the audience. e.g. An elementary school student will not understand the same range of knowledge as an undergrad.
5. Use your imagination and your own judgment about format. We look forward to seeing your ideas.

I was very curious about their choices of audience and couldn’t have been happier with the results. Their projects revealed an enviable fluency with multi-media technologies. Students chose a wide range of audiences—from elementary students, to ‘worried parents,’ to senior citizens, to “YouTube viewers,” to peers not majoring in biology. Their presentations also ranged from formal PowerPoint presentations to mock interviews with scientists who had developed vaccines, to town hall-like events. Some of their videos were accompanied by music, with podcast-like features, and one pair created a very engaging presentation aimed from the perspective of a virus itself.

Assessing such a variety of formats can be challenging. However, I found that a rubric I originally generated for written work could be useful with some modifications. I refer to this rubric as the “CARIE” system, where (briefly) “C” refers to clarity and organization, “A” to accuracy, “R” to research and referencing, “I” to insight and “E” to engagement of an audience. I have now used this system relatively successfully for oral, written, and recorded assignments, weighing each category differently, depending on the emphasis I have shared with the students.

To make this approach more transparent to the class, I also preceded this assignment by asking the class to apply the same rubric to “grade” a short video themselves—in this particular case, a TED talk with Penn’s own Carl June about CAR-T cells. Students seemed to have fun with this task, which, most importantly, took some of the mystery out of the assessment criteria. To help them consider how they could critically evaluate their own efforts, I also gave them time in small groups to review a short podcast (on oral vaccinations) and share thoughts about what might be missing and what could be improved.

My wonderful TA, a senior Penn undergraduate, and I both comment-ed on each video—focusing not just on how accurately the students conveyed information, but on how effectively they might have reached their audience. Perhaps one of the most gratifying outcomes of this assignment was the opportunity it gave to less talkative students to shine—and the opportunity it gave us to discover their talents. I admit that I was once exceptionally quiet and would have enjoyed a chance to share ideas without some of the social pressures that arise in the classroom; my own experiences have certainly motivated me to offer students multiple ways to participate and video assignments have now become a part of this repertoire.

I’ve also learned from my colleagues how important it is to design assignments that allow students to practice skills that they need to succeed on larger scale assessments. This vaccine video assignment was the foun-dation for the final project, where I asked students to develop a longer, more scholarly podcast or video on a topic of interest. They shared their topic ideas with the class for feedback in a mini-presentation seminar set-up. This event also had the advantage of giving peers the opportunity to learn from and about each other and I hope allowed students to recognize each others’ strengths.

These video and podcast-based projects have struck me as a powerful way to inspire students to gain the all-important intellectual ownership of a topic. Knowing something and being able to answer exam questions about that ‘something’ is important, but being able to articulate your knowledge with clarity to a range of audiences forces you to recognize and confront the gaps in your knowledge and enhances your confidence in your knowledge. It also prepares students to share what they have learned with others who need this information. These assignments also put me in the enviable position of being a student—one of the deep pleasures of being a professor at Penn.

Jennifer Punt is a professor of immunology and associate dean for One Health at Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine.

This essay continues the series that began in the fall of 1994 as the joint creation of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Lindback Society for Distinguished Teaching.

See https://almanac.upenn.edu/talk-about-teaching-and-learning-archive for previous essays.