

**Marymount Manhattan College**

presents

**The Forty-Fourth Annual Honors Day Colloquium**



**April 13, 2021**

## ***Congratulations!***

2020 was historic—a challenging year for our community and each of us as individuals. So, we are proud to celebrate the work produced by Marymount Manhattan College students and faculty from that period. With record-breaking submissions, nearly a hundred students offering up outstanding efforts of research and creativity produced under wildly adverse circumstances, the works honored here provide testimony to the resilience of the academy, where we channel energy towards learning and growth even when the soil feels rocky and the sun doesn't shine. A year later it's spring; the sun is returning and student work manifests our hopes for the future.

Our celebration takes a new form this year—the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Honors Day Colloquium has gone *virtual*—and the Committee would like to draw your attention to two specific changes, intended to maximize our experience and offer students flexibility in participation, given the circumstances.

First, instead of individual students presenting in individual (Zoom) rooms, this year we've organized participants into presentation panels focused on a theme. When the Committee reads submissions, it becomes very clear that there are areas of interest shared by students across the college—problems their work intends to solve aligned with MMC's mission to “develop an awareness of social, political, cultural, and ethical issues in the belief that this awareness will lead to concern for, participation in, and improvement of society.” Our honorees pored over the environment and questions of equity, they thought about how creativity and commerce connect or clash, they examined the world and its colonial legacies, they interrogated the identities that make us who we are, and the biology underpinning our bodies. To encourage us to see the ways this work manifests across the college, we have panels of scientists and sociologists, of artists and activists. May these cross-disciplinary panels remind us that no matter our program, we are all here at MMC as creative problem-solvers. Sparks may come from the places you least expect.

Second, the Honors Day Committee offered our honorees a choice of three modes of participation this year: students could participate live on Honors Day, they could have their project hosted on our new Honors Day website, or they could do both. Accordingly, while the program following is organized by time for students who chose to participate on Honors Day live, throughout you will see hyperlinks to kindred student work hosted on the Honors Day website (some of the live panelists' work is hyperlinked as well.) We wish to honor, acknowledge, and highlight all our students' projects, on every platform.

With our thanks for your participation and in celebration of your creativity,

The 2021 Honors Day Committee

Profs. Brown, Elkin, Chapman, Hunt, and Paradis

*A note re: technology. Session titles below are hyperlinked for general attendees—just click through to attend. To enhance readability, we have put dial-in and webinar IDs for those who may require them on pages 11-14. Technical problems? Please email Matt Straub ([mstraub@mmm.edu](mailto:mstraub@mmm.edu)) for assistance during events.*

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**9:00 – 9:30      INDUCTIONS**

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Alpha Chi  
Professor Noelle Griffis, Advisor

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**9:30 – 10:00      [WELCOME & DEAN'S AWARD STUDENT PRESENTATION](#)**

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Moderator: Professor Bethany Elkin

Welcome  
Dr. Kerry Walk, President

Remarks  
Dr. Peter Naccarato, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean of the Faculty

Emilee Wermenchuk  
[Joy](#)  
Sponsored by Professor Dan Hunt, Communication & Media Arts

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**10:00 – 11:00      STUDENT PANELS**

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**Panel 1      [Education, Equity, and Power](#)**

Moderator: Professor Lauren Brown

Rebecca Craig  
*Racial Justice and Affordability in Higher Education: Lessons from the NYS Excelsior Program*  
Sponsored by Professor Marnie Brady, Politics & Human Rights

Melanie Grasso  
[Attitudes Towards Deafness: American Sign Language v. Oral Schools](#)  
Sponsored by Professor Cindy Mercer, Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology

Melanie Sirota  
[ADHD and Girls: Dazzling and Distracted](#)  
Sponsored by Professor Nava Siltan, Psychology

Adam Pedro  
[A Rainbow Vote](#)  
Sponsored by Professor Marnie Brady, Politics & Human Rights

Posted Works

Heather Kroesche

[\*A Comparison of Caste in India and Racism in America: Through the Lens of Religion and its Influence on Social Identity\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Bradley Herling, History, Philosophy & Religious Studies

## Panel 2

### [Women in the World](#)

Moderator: Professor Dan Hunt

Kamiya Bryce

[\*Portrait of a Lady on Fire and The Female Gaze\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Karen Evans, Art & Art History

Kasey Dugan

[\*Mothers & American Horror Films: The Nuances of Mothering\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Dan Hunt, Communication & Media Arts

Karina Strom

[\*Freeing TV's Lesbians from The Male Gaze: Making A Queer Female Television Character Successful in The Eyes of Queer Women\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Jenny Dixon, Communication & Media Arts

Megan Arnold

[\*Self-Image and Fatphobia: Insecurity's Effect on Interpersonal Relationships Within the Modern Dating World\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Jenny Dixon, Communication & Media Arts

Posted Works

Liza Bautista

[\*Dear Diary\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Tahneer Oksman, Academic Writing

## 11:00 – 12:00 STUDENT PANELS

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## Panel 3

### [Post-Colonial Thinking](#)

Moderator: Professor Lennay Chapman

Valentina D'Agostini

[\*Examining the Colonial Burden on Indigenous Relationships with Nature in Men of Maize\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Magda Maczynska, English & World Literatures

Amanda Milo

[\*Humans and Animals as Observed in C.S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Magda Maczynska, English & World Literatures

Margaret Salko

[\*Little Prince, Big World: The Colonial Allegory at The Heart of Saint-Exupéry's The Little Prince\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Magda Maczynska, English & World Literatures

Abbie Steuhm

*An Alien Carnival: An Eco-Postcolonial Analysis of H.G. Wells' War of the Worlds*

Sponsored by Professor Magda Maczynska, English & World Literatures

**Panel 4**      **Mental Illness, Music, and Macbeth**

Moderator: Professor Bethany Elkin

Ciara Helber

*Macbeth*

Sponsored by Professor Ray Recht, Theatre Arts

Jenna Fanelli

*Running Head: Mental Illness on Broadway*

Sponsored by Professor Jenny Dixon, Communication & Media Arts

Webb Bankemper

*From Slapstick to Shuffle-Ball-Change: Analyzing the Antics and Adaptation of Arlecchino and Archetype in the American Musical Theatre*

Sponsored by Professor Emily Clark, Theatre Arts

Jennifer Fecu

*American Psychiatric System's Term Hallucination and its Pathologic Value is Culturally Insensitive Praxis  
Contributing to Gendered Racialized Disparities Within the African Diaspora*

Sponsored by Professor Marnie Brady, Politics & Human Rights

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**12:00 – 2:00      CAREER SERVICES' ANNUAL CAREER SUMMIT**

Resilience in the Job Search | [Zoom Link](#) | Meeting ID (974 6342 1921)

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**12:00 – 2:00      STUDENT POSTED WORKS ([ALL AVAILABLE ON HONORS DAY WEBSITE](#))**

Sophia Aste

*Sensory Perception*

Sponsored by Professor Andy Warshaw, Dance

Cathy Caamano & Olivia Colilli

*Twelfth Night or What You Will*

Sponsored by Professor John Basil, Theatre Arts

John Hannon

*Gory-telling: Portrayals of Violence in Transnational Cinema*

Sponsored by Professor Noelle Griffis, Communication & Media Arts

Maya Lam

*V/\NISH*

Sponsored by Professor Katie Langan, Dance

Riley McCarthy  
*Grayling*  
Sponsored by Professor Kenneth Finkle, Theatre Arts

Emma Russo  
*The Start of a New Day*  
Sponsored by Professor Dan Hunt, Communication & Media Arts

Payton St. John  
*Anima*  
Sponsored by Professor Katie Langan, Dance

Allie Talavera  
*Hold onto Me*  
Sponsored by Professor Margret Hames, Communication & Media Arts

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**2:00 – 3:00      STUDENT PANELS**

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**Panel 5      [Identity, Sexuality, Verities](#)**

Moderator: Professor Lauren Brown

Monica Joseph  
[\*The Kids Are Alright: Youths' Exploration of Different Sexual Identity Markers Advances Sexual Orientation Discourse\*](#)  
Sponsored by Professor Julie Huntington, English & World Literatures

Grace Wright-Pazdra  
*My Identity Is Not a Debate the Impact of Online Micro-Identity Discourse on Lesbian Identity*  
Sponsored by Professor Lauren Brown, History, Philosophy & Religious Studies and Politics & Human Rights

Nyesha McCormick  
[\*Gender Self Analysis\*](#)  
Sponsored by Professor Catherine Cabeen, Dance

Dorian Provencher  
*Remaking Contemporary Social Theory: Intersectional Challenges to the Western Tradition*  
Sponsored by Professor Manolo Estavillo, Politics & Human Rights

Posted Works

Chloe Bowman  
[\*Everything I Had to Say Is Sticking to My Insides: The Language of Queerness in Comics\*](#)  
Sponsored by Professor Tahneer Oksman, Academic Writing

**Panel 6      [New York and Its Environs](#)**

Moderator: Professor Cheryl Paradis

Peter O'Sullivan

*What is the current state of environmental injustice present in New York City's Harlem neighborhoods?*

Sponsored by Professor Kenton Worcester, Academic Writing and History, Philosophy & Religious Studies

Martha Madrid

*Impact of Public Transportation on Urban Green Space Distribution and Access in New York City*

Sponsored by Professor Matt Lundquist, Natural Sciences

Marjan Khan

*Quantification of Fecal Indicator Bacteria on NYC Sidewalks and Evaluation of Transfer to the Indoor Environment*

Sponsored by Professor Alessandra Leri, Natural Sciences

Elizabeth Scott

[\*Ecological Function of Urban Rooftop Garden as a Green Roof in New York City\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Matt Lundquist, Natural Sciences

Gianna O'Connor

*Quantitative Correlations of Severe Covid-19 Effects and Markers of Environmental Racism by New York City Neighborhood*

Sponsored by Professor Alessandra Leri, Natural Sciences

Posted Works

Kyle Velazquez

[\*The Sassy Ballroom, September 1958: The End of an Era\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Halia Strauss, Theatre Arts

**3:00 – 4:00**

**STUDENT PANELS**

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**Panel 7**

**[Creation, Commerce, and Citizenry](#)**

Moderator: Professor Dan Hunt

Allyson Peter

*Social Media and the Value of Commercial Dance: A Qualitative Analysis*

Sponsored by Professor Jenny Dixon, Communication & Media Arts

Paulina Eid Harasic

*Shake Shack Company Analysis*

Sponsored by Professor Vandana Rao, Business

Emilee Wermenchuk

[\*Joy\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Dan Hunt, Communication & Media Arts

Giuliana Mariani & Alaina Rodriguez

*Fire Season*

Sponsored by Professor Dan Hunt, Communication & Media Arts

Posted Works

Carli Christian & Armando Martinez

[\*Le Prix Marketing Plan\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Lorraine Martinez-Novoa, Business

## **Panel 8**      [\*\*Biological Bases and \(Un\)Ethical Action\*\*](#)

Moderator: Professor Lauren Brown

Vanessa Johnson

[\*The 'Birangona' of the Bangladesh Liberation War\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Lauren Brown, History, Philosophy & Religious Studies and Politics & Human Rights

Paula Schneider

*Molecular Dynamics Studies of DNA Polymerase Kappa*

Sponsored by Professor Benedetta Benitez Sampoli, Natural Sciences

Elijah Castro

*Pol IV DinB: Molecular Dynamics*

Sponsored by Professor Benedetta Benitez Sampoli, Natural Sciences

Kasey McNaughton

[\*Providing the Blueprint: An Analysis of Precedent Set by the US' Defense of Human Rights Abuses at GTMO\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Lauren Brown, History, Philosophy & Religious Studies and Politics & Human Rights

Posted Works

Savannah Fischer

[\*The United Nations on Eliminating Child Marriage\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Jennifer Mueller, International Studies

T'keyah Grant

[\*Above the Law? UN Peacekeepers, Sexual Exploitation, and Accountability\*](#)

Sponsored by Professor Jennifer Mueller, International Studies

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## **4:00-5:30**      [\*\*HONORS DAY AWARDS & SOCIETY INDUCTIONS\*\*](#)

Moderator: Professor Bethany Elkin

Opening Remarks

President Kerry Walk

Writing Program Award

Honoree Monica Joseph



Presented by Acting Director of the Academic Writing Program Diana Epelbaum

Student/Faculty Collaboration Award

Honoree Marjan Khan

Presented by Faculty Council President Jenny Dixon

Alpha Chi Award

Honoree Emma Russo

Presented by Faculty Advisor Noelle Griffis

Alumni Association Award

Honoree Elizabeth Scott

Presented by Assistant Vice President for Advancement Operations Wilton Fontenette

Dean's Award for Excellence, Honorable Mention

Honoree Gianna O'Connor

Presented by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Sue Behrens

Dean's Award for Excellence

Honoree Emilee Wermenchuk

Presented by Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean of the Faculty Peter Naccarato

Teaching Excellence Award

Presented by Professor Jan Dijkwel on behalf of the Teaching Excellence Committee

Chi Omega Lambda

Inductees read by Faculty Advisor Ann Aguanno

Pi Gamma Mu

Inductees read by Faculty Advisor Erin O'Connor

Sigma Beta Delta

Inductees read by Faculty Advisor Lennay Chapman

Sigma Tau Delta

Inductees read by Faculty Advisor Cecilia Feilla

**5:30-6:00**

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## **INDUCTIONS**

Lambda Pi Eta

Professor Eileen Doherty, Advisor

Omicron Delta Kappa

Carly Schneider, Advisor

Psi Chi

Professor Nava Silton, Advisor

Sigma Tau Delta

Professor Cecilia Feilla, Advisor

## 2021 Honors Day Presenters (Live and Online) and Sponsors

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Megan Arnold	Jenny Dixon
Sophia Aste	Andy Warshaw
Webb Bankemper	Emily Clark
Liza Bautista	Tahneer Oksman
Chloe Bowman	Tahneer Oksman
Kamiya Bryce	Karen Evans
Cathy Caamano	John Basil
Elijah Castro	Benedetta Sampoli Benitez
Carli Christian	Lorraine Martinez-Novoa
Olivia Colilli	John Basil
Rebecca Craig	Marnie Brady
Valentina D'Agostini	Magda Maczynska
Kasey Dugan	Dan Hunt
Paulina Eid Harasic	Vandana Rao
Jenna Fanelli	Jenny Dixon
Jennifer Fecu	Marnie Brady
Savannah Fischer	Jennifer Mueller
T'keyah Grant	Jennifer Mueller
Melanie Grasso	Cindy Mercer
John Hannon	Noelle Griffis
Ciara Helber	Ray Recht
Vanessa Johnson	Lauren Brown
Monica Joseph	Julie Huntington
Marjan Khan	Alessandra Leri
Heather Kroesche	Bradley Herling
Maya Lam	Katie Langan
Martha Madrid	Matt Lundquist
Giuliana Mariani	Dan Hunt
Armando Martinez	Lorraine Martinez-Novoa
Riley McCarthy	Kenneth Finkle
Nyesha McCormick	Catherine Cabeen
Kasey McNaughton	Lauren Brown
Amanda Milo	Magda Maczynska
Gianna O'Connor	Alessandra Leri
Peter O'Sullivan	Kenton Worcester
Adam Pedro	Marnie Brady
Allyson Peter	Jenny Dixon
Dorian Provencher	Manolo Estavillo
Emma Russo	Dan Hunt
Margaret Salko	Magda Maczynska
Paula Schneider	Benedetta Sampoli Benitez
Elizabeth Scott	Matt Lundquist
Melanie Sirota	Nava Siltan
Abbie Steuhm	Magda Maczynska
Payton St. John	Katie Langan
Karina Strom	Jenny Dixon
Allie Talavera	Margret Hames
Kyle Velazquez	Halia Strauss
Emilee Wermenchuk	Dan Hunt
Grace Wright-Pazdra	Lauren Brown

## Academic Honors Committee

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Lauren Erin Brown, Co-Chair  
Lennay Chapman  
Bethany Elkin, Co-Chair  
Dan Hunt  
Cheryl Paradis

## Special Thanks

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Cheryl Lynn Adriano  
Tseday Alehegn  
Hunter DeSimone  
Stephen Eichinger  
Lora Georgiev  
Jacqueline Noel  
Rabindra Rai  
Carly Schneider  
Richard Sheldon  
Matt Straub

## Detailed Zoom Access Information for All Sessions

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9:30 AM	<p>Welcome &amp; Dean's Award Student Presentation</p> <p>Please click the link below to join the webinar: <a href="https://marymount.zoom.us/j/96620810970">https://marymount.zoom.us/j/96620810970</a></p> <p>Or One tap mobile: US: +12532158782,,96620810970# or +13017158592,,96620810970#</p> <p>Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 6833</p> <p>Webinar ID: 966 2081 0970 International numbers available: <a href="https://marymount.zoom.us/j/96620810970">https://marymount.zoom.us/j/96620810970</a></p>
10:00 AM	<p>Panel 1—Education, Equity, and Power</p> <p>Please click the link below to join the webinar: <a href="https://marymount.zoom.us/j/96160824534">https://marymount.zoom.us/j/96160824534</a></p>

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+1 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 961 6082 4534

International numbers available: <https://marymount.zoom.us/j/97841141653>

10:00 AM

Panel 2—Women in the World

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Webinar ID: 978 4114 1653

International numbers available: <https://marymount.zoom.us/j/93643240936>

11:00 AM

Panel 3—Post-Colonial Thinking

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Webinar ID: 936 4324 0936

International numbers available: <https://marymount.zoom.us/j/94554322951>

11:00 AM

Panel 4—Mental Illness, Music, and Macbeth

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Webinar ID: 945 5432 2951

International numbers available: <https://marymount.zoom.us/j/94236871999>

2:00 PM

Panel 5—Identity, Sexuality, Verities

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Webinar ID: 942 3687 1999

International numbers available: <https://marymount.zoom.us/j/98295150481>

2:00 PM

Panel 6—New York and Its Environs

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Webinar ID: 982 9515 0481

International numbers available: <https://marymount.zoom.us/j/97390563854>

3:00 PM

Panel 7—Creation, Commerce, and Citizenry

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Webinar ID: 973 9056 3854

International numbers available: <https://marymount.zoom.us/j/97390563854>

3:00 PM

Panel 8—Biological Bases and (Un)Ethical Action

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Webinar ID: 971 6968 5718

International numbers available: <https://marymount.zoom.us/j/97169685718>

4:00 PM

Awards & Society Inductions

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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+1 346 248 7799 or +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 957 0869 4877

International numbers available: <https://marymount.zoom.us/j/95708694877>