
Speaker Series:

Writing Inside and Outside the Academy

Cohosted by the Undergraduate Writing Program and SPS

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
School of Professional Studies



The Undergraduate
Writing Program

September 23–October 28, 2020

[Register to Attend](#)

In the 21st century, scholars must write for a wider range of purposes and publics than ever before. They write to share their work with researchers in their fields and across disciplines. Many scholars also write to reach readers in the public sphere.

This fall, join **Dr. Nicole B. Wallack**, the Director of Columbia's Undergraduate Writing Program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature for five conversations with scholars who bridge the worlds inside and outside of the academy through their writing: **Prof. Brian Greene**, **Prof. Mignon Moore**, **Prof. Denise Cruz**, **Prof. Cindy Lott**, and **Prof. Marco Tedesco**.

We will explore the diverse roles writing plays for these scholars in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the professions. They will offer us glimpses into their writing habits and practices. They will share what they find creative in their writing projects and processes. They will consider the challenges of writing for their disciplines and for general readers. Attendees will have an opportunity to pose questions to our guests during our Q&A.

Writing can feel daunting at the best of times. We hope you will join us to explore how we can reach new readers in these especially challenging times. We look forward to seeing you!

**Writing Stories of Science
Inside and Outside the
Academy**
with Professor Brian Greene

Wednesday, September 23
5:00–6:00 PM EDT

**Writing the Humanities Inside
and Outside the Academy**
with Professor Denise Cruz

Wednesday, October 7
5:00–6:00 PM EDT

**Writing Social Science Inside
and Outside the Academy**
with Professor Mignon Moore

Wednesday, October 14
5:00–6:00 PM EDT

**Writing for a Mission-based
Audience: Policy, Law and
Nonprofits, Inside and
Outside the Academy**
with Professor Cindy M. Lott

Wednesday, October 21
5:00–6:00 PM EDT

**Writing Stories of Climate
Change Inside and Outside
the Academy**
with Professor Marco Tedesco

Wednesday, October 28
5:00–6:00 PM EDT



Denise Cruz

Denise Cruz is an Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. Her research explores national, regional, and global dynamics in North America, the Philippines, and Asia, and their effects on how we think about gender and sexuality. She is the author of *Transpacific Femininities: The Making of the Modern Filipina* (Duke UP, 2012). Her major writing project for the fall stems from her book manuscript, *Made in the Philippines: Global Fashion and the Rise of the New Silk Road*, an analysis of the rich, transnational history of Filipino couture from the 1940s to the present. She writes on a laptop but also in a notebook, on her phone, and by voice messages when she's walking her dog.



Brian Greene

Brian Greene is a professor of Physics and Mathematics at Columbia University, and Director of Columbia's Center for Theoretical Physics. He is recognized for a number of groundbreaking discoveries in mathematical physics and superstring theory. Professor Greene's books, *The Elegant Universe*, *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, *The Hidden Reality*, and *Until the End of Time*, have collectively spent 67 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and sold over two million copies worldwide. Professor Greene is a frequent guest on late night television and was the host of two award-winning NOVA mini-series based on his books. He also wrote and performed in *Light Falls*, a live theatrical exploration of Einstein's discoveries, which was broadcast nationally on PBS. Together with Tracy Day, Professor Greene co-founded the World Science Festival and serves as Chairman of the Board.



Cindy M. Lott

Cindy M. Lott, Esq., is an Associate Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia University and also serves as Academic Program Director for Nonprofit Management Programs at the School of Professional Studies; she teaches several courses addressing governance, ethics, management and the relationship of the nonprofit sector and government. Prior to her current position, she served as Executive Director and Senior Counsel to the National State Attorneys General Program at Columbia Law School, and within that Program was the developer and lead counsel to the Charities Regulation and Oversight Project from 2006–2015.

Lott is a Senior Fellow at the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute, where she develops and moderates a series of national convenings on state and federal regulation of the charitable sector and is engaged in research regarding regulatory capacity and enforcement at the state level. In addition, Lott was an inaugural Policy Fellow at Independent Sector, the largest membership organization for the nonprofit sector in the world.

Lott is a frequent speaker at national conferences in the areas of philanthropic and nonprofit state regulation, compliance, management and governance. Lott served on the IRS Advisory Committee on Tax Exempt and Government Entities (ACT) 2015–2018 and was a member of Independent Sector's Public Policy Committee 2014–2017.

Lott was Chief Counsel to the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston and Deputy Counsel to the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. Early in her career, she worked at large firms in several major cities in the areas of employment, business litigation and compliance. She also served as Chief Counsel for Advisory Services in the Indiana Attorney General's office, as well as Section Chief for Administrative and Regulatory Litigation in that office.

Lott is a 1993 graduate of the Yale Law School and clerked for the United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit. She is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, Indiana and Massachusetts.



Mignon Moore

Mignon R. Moore (PhD 1998, University of Chicago) is Professor of Sociology at Columbia University, and chair of the sociology department at Barnard College. Before joining the faculty in 2015 she was Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she co-directed the NIA/NIH Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research at the School of Medicine. Her areas of expertise include race, LGBT populations, family, gender, aging, and qualitative research methods. Professor Moore has received grants and awards from the National Institutes of Health, Ford Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. Her first book, *Invisible Families: Gay Identities, Relationships and Motherhood among Black Women* (University of California Press), is a study of same-sex parent families. It won the 2012 Distinguished Book Award from the ASA Sex & Gender section, and was a finalist for the C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Her scholarly research articles have been published in the *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Gender & Society*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and other outlets.

Professor Moore's current work examines health and social support for sexual minority seniors to determine the ways community institutions can be of service to this population. She is completing a book titled *In the Shadow of Sexuality: Social Histories of African American LGBT Elders, 1950–1979*. Dr. Moore is President-Elect of Sociologists for Women in Society.



Marco Tedesco

Marco Tedesco is a Lamont Research Professor at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University and Adjunct Scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS). He received his Laurea degree and PhD in Italy, from the University of Naples and the Italian National Research Council. He then spent five years as a postdoc and research scientist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. He moved to CCNY in 2008 as an Assistant Professor where he was promoted to Associate Professor in 2012. During his time at CCNY, he founded and directed the Cryosphere Processes Laboratory and was a rotating Program Manager at the National Science Foundation between 2013 and 2015. In January 2016, he joined Columbia University. Dr. Tedesco's research focuses on the dynamics of seasonal snowpack, ice sheet surface properties, high latitude fieldwork, global climate change and its implications on the economy and real estate.



Nicole B. Wallack

Nicole B. Wallack (B.A., McGill University, 1988; M.Sc., University of Edinburgh, 1989; Ph.D., New York University, 2004), is the Director of Columbia University's Undergraduate Writing Program and Senior Lecturer-in-Discipline in the Department of English and Comparative Literature. At Columbia, she teaches seminars in writing studies, educational history, creative nonfiction, American literature and film, and public intellectuals. Since 1998, she has served as a Senior Associate of the Institute for Writing and Thinking at Bard College, where she conducts intensive seminars on writing-based teaching for educators across disciplines to enhance their intellectual lives and devise inherently purposeful curricula from kindergarten through graduate school. For the Modern Language Association, she co-designed and currently co-leads its Mellon-funded Reading and Writing Pedagogy Institute. The Institute will be hosted by Columbia University in summer 2021 in partnership with the Society of Fellows/Heyman Center.

Her scholarship focuses on the history, pedagogy, and aesthetics of the American essay; rhetoric and composition; writing studies; teacher education; and educational history. Her articles, essays, and reviews have appeared in collections as well as *Fourth Genre*, *Essay Daily*, and *Public Books*. Her book, *Crafting Presence: The American Essay and the Future of Writing Studies* (Utah State University Press, 2017), offers theoretical and pedagogical arguments for how an essay-based pedagogy in high school and college can enact the goals of a liberal education more effectively and ethically than "college and career readiness" paradigms. She is co-editing a new anthology for Edinburgh University Press, *The Edinburgh Companion to the Essay*.