

## 2025 Social Sciences End of the Year Wrap-Up

We had an impressive run this year with many new publications, initiatives, and awards ✨; some of which I highlight below – and apologies in advance if I've missed anything. Please always send me more. These accomplishments demonstrate the strength, creativity, and public reach of research across our departments, spanning political communication, environmental justice, financial systems and economics, global history, anthropology, information studies, and philosophy 🌍📚, and many more areas that define our School's intellectual community.

### Social Justice and Political Engagement



Research on housing, cities, and public policy advanced in meaningful ways. Christine Jang-Trettien published "Expanding Access to Rental Assistance: What Do We Know and Where Do We Go From Here?" in *Housing Policy Debate* 🏠 and "The Making of an Epidemic of Pain," forthcoming in *Social Problems*. She was selected as a Visiting Scholar at the *Russell Sage Foundation* ⭐. In Urban Studies, Natalie Vena received a *Russell Sage Foundation Fellowship* 🎓 for her project on environmental racism in Southeast Queens and published the op-ed "Jamaica Rezoning Is a Gift to Real Estate, Not Residents" in *City Limits*. Melissa Checker co-authored "Evidence of Environmental Gentrification in New York City," forthcoming in *Cities (2026)* 🏙️, and published "Policing the Grocery Store: Crime Panic Narratives and Enclosure in the Wake of Urban Uprisings" in *Antipode*.

Work on political communication, public opinion, and civic life continued across departments. Yinxian Zhang published

"Tracking Ideological Changes in an Authoritarian State Using Retweeting Ties: The Case of Chinese Opinion Leaders" in *Sociological Methods & Research* 🔍 and "One Sentiment, Multiple Interpretations: Contrasting Official and Popular Anti-Americanism in China" in *Sociological Science*. She received a *PSC-CUNY Award* and an *FFPP Fellowship* 🏆.



In Political Science, Keena Lipsitz published the report "The Center for Urban Research Surveys NYC Voters About Their Concerns Heading into the November Election" 🇺🇸 and received a *Democracy and Civic Initiatives Grant*. In Sociology, Holly Reed edited and published the 60th anniversary issue of *International Migration Review* as editor-in-chief.

Faculty also contributed to public discourse and media 🎙️. Anna Bounds collaborated with Anderson Cooper for a CNN special on urban preparedness. Jimmy Vacca provided election-night commentary for ABC Channel 7. Maggie Dickinson published *“Policing the Grocery Store: Crime Panic Narratives and Enclosure in the Wake of Urban Uprisings”* in *Antipode* and spoke on NPR about SNAP benefits and food insecurity.

### Environment and Sustainability 🌱🌍

Environmental research continued across the School. Natalie Vena’s work on environmental racism and Melissa Checker’s study of environmental gentrification highlight urgent equity questions in New York City 🌿. In Information Studies, Nafiz Zaman Shuva published “Everyday Life Information Behavior, Health Information Seeking, and HIV and STI Awareness among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID)” in *The Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science*. Expanding this work on public health and environmental systems, Ryan O’Loughlin published “Moving Beyond Post-Hoc Explainable Artificial Intelligence: Lessons from Dynamical Climate Modelling” in *Geoscientific Model Development*, contributing to the intersection of AI and climate science 🤖☁️.



### Global Pasts and Cultural Research 🌐📖

Research exploring the past across all disciplines in our school shed new light on issues that shape our present. Tom Plummer co-authored “Selective Use of Distant Stone Resources by the Earliest Oldowan Toolmakers” in *Science Advances* 🏹. His field team recovered a jaw fragment from an early *Homo* species in Kenya, attracting coverage from the Associated Press, *Science News*, *Popular Science*, and *Anthropology.net*. Robert Nyamushosho published “Early Stone Age Hominin Activities at Kariandusi: Evidence from Stone Tool Refitting” in *African Archaeological Review* and “Environmental Conditions and Hominin Occupation at the Margins of the Rift Valley” in *Quaternary Science Advances*, with additional research under review at *World Archaeology*, *Global Perspectives*, and in *Understanding Early Large Collectives*.

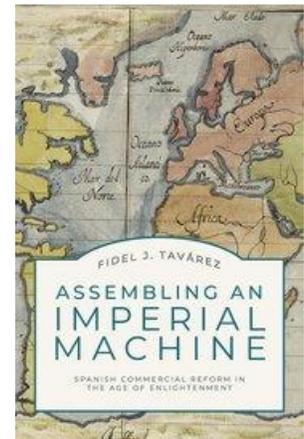
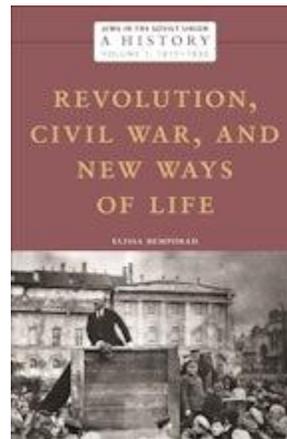
Megan Victor’s edited volume *Archaeogaming as Scholarly Play* 🎮 passed peer review and entered final production for

Spring/Summer 2026. She has also delivered an invited lecture at the Louisiana Historical Society on early connections between New Orleans and Montana through alcohol trade, including the Sazerac cocktail 🍸.



In History, Fidel Tavárez published a book chapter "The Colonial Balance of Trade: Uztáriz and the Carrera de Indias." His monograph *The Imperial Machine: Assembling the Spanish Commercial Empire in the Age of Enlightenment* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press 📖. Elissa Bemporad published several books, including *Revolution, Civil War, and New Ways of Life*, the first volume of *A Comprehensive History of the Jews in the Soviet Union*, and *The Destruction of Dubova: Chronicle of a Dead City* 📖. She held a Visiting Fellowship at the University of Bologna and received a *Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Research Award*. Natanya Duncan's book *An Efficient Womanhood: Women and*

*the Making of the Universal Negro Improvement Association* (UNC Press) won the 2025 Letitia Woods Brown Best Book Prize from the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH) and was shortlisted for the 2025 Stone Book Award from the Museum of African American History (MAAH). Professor Duncan Natanya also received the Bethune Service Award from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) for her contributions to African American history.



Miki Makihara and Juan Rodríguez published the ethnographic monograph *Language and Political Subjectivity: Stancemaking, Power, and Politics in Chile and Venezuela* 📖. In anthropology and cultural studies, Karen Strassler received a *Guggenheim Fellowship* 🌟. In Urban Studies and Anthropology, Dána-Ain Davis was appointed incoming Editor-in-Chief of *American Anthropologist* (beginning January 2027), and Jeff Maskovsky was elected President-Elect/Vice President of the *American Anthropological Association*. Davis had two articles accepted

in 2025—“*Black Anti-Bodies and the Trauma of Obstetric Racism*,” forthcoming in *Women’s Studies Quarterly*, and “*Black Antibodies and the Lexicon of Racism: A Thought Piece*,” accepted by *American Anthropologist*—and her chapter “*The Gendered, Racial, and Violent Politics of Fieldwork*” is in press in *Fugitive Anthropology: Embodying Activist Research* (University of Texas Press). She is also co-editing special sections for *American Anthropologist* and *Medical Anthropology*.



In philosophy, Thomas Hilgers contributed “*Ganzsein: Überlegungen zu Heideggers Verständnis Eigentlichkeit und Zeitlichkeit*” to the edited collection *Zeit und Ethik*, and Rosemary Twomey published “*Trolls, Skeptics, and Philosophers*” in *Philosophy Now* 🧠 and presented at the International Aristotelian Conference in Lisbon.



Economics, finance, accounting, and quantitative research 📊.

Alev Yildirim co-authored “What’s Your Bank’s FinTech Score?” in *Journal of Financial Services Research*. Núria Rodríguez-Planas published “Long-Term Effects of Co-Educational Industrial Arts and Home Economics: Evidence from Japan” in *Journal of Labor Economics*, as well as additional work in the *European Economic Review*, the *Journal of Financial Literacy and Wellbeing*, the *Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*, and *BMJ Public Health*. She also served as a nominator for the 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 🏆.



Suleyman Taspinar published the open-access textbook *Introduction to Econometrics with Python*, integrating econometric theory with reproducible Python applications 📄 📄. In Accounting, Jangwon Suh co-authored “Do Larger Reporting Networks Yield Benefits from

Information Network Effects?" forthcoming in *The Accounting Review*.

### Student Success and Engagement 🎓💡

Faculty across the School fostered engaging and innovative learning environments. In Sociology, Peter Ore and Joe Cohen host regular Coffee and Code ☕💻 and Doughnuts and Data 🍩📊 meet-ups with students, building community of data and coding enthusiasts. In Urban Studies, Alan Takeall and Padmini Biswas completed online versions of URBST 101 and URBST 103 for the CUNY Online Excellence Initiative 🌐,



each with instructor guides for future adopters. Gerry Marotta and Liz O'Connell launched the podcast *Career Chatter* 🎙️, which provides students with structured guidance on career planning.

In Accounting, Jian Xiao expanded the IMA Queens College Chapter to more than 200 students, coordinated workshops, employer visits, and national competitions, and contributed to accreditation and

assessment, as well as to Blackstone LaunchPad and the CUNY Business and Finance Industry Council. In Economics and Accounting, Matthew Bradbury, Thao Bui, and Yan Yan were selected as *BASTA*



*Teaching Fellows* 🏆, integrating career readiness into introductory courses. Career development expanded as well. Through the CUNY Inclusive Economy Initiative, the School welcomed Brandon

Chamakoon as Industry Employment Specialist and Jessica Yip as Academic Career Advisor, both of whom are building internship pipelines and strengthening employer partnerships 🤝.



Many Social Science faculty and staff also contributed to institutional and international service. Joe Sanchez was invited to serve as the next Vice Chair of the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Advisory Board 📖 🏛️. Zadia Feliciano served as a Visiting Scholar at Kyungpook National University in Daegu, South Korea. Murphy Halliburton delivered a lecture tour in India. Tom Plummer was elected Chair of the Queens College Academic Senate. Gerry Marotta and John Perricone supported more than eighty students in securing paid internships and certification skills. Leidelin Peralta expanded advising availability and communication across the School.



Faculty also made significant contributions to archival preservation, scholarly infrastructure, and research leadership. Carol Giardina, Associate Professor and History Department Coordinator, is coordinating the multi-phase acquisition of the Redstockings Women’s Liberation Archives for Action (1940s–1991) by the New York Public Library 📖. This work includes overseeing volunteer

teams cataloging materials across multiple sites in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Boston, and Gainesville, FL; coordinating legal consultations related to the NYPL Deed of Gift; and managing the phased public release of the collection. Phase I, the Redstockings Microfilm Collection, became accessible in the Rose Reading Room in spring 2025; Phase II cataloging in Brooklyn and Manhattan was completed in fall 2025; and Phase III cataloging is currently underway.

Miryam Segal launched a new scholarly publication, the Jewish Law Association Review, expanding venues for interdisciplinary book scholarship. Kate Antonova received a Macmillan Research Fellowship at Yale University, and Kara Schlichting was awarded an H. B. du Pont Fellowship to the Hagley Museum and Library in Delaware.

### Teaching Awards 🏆 🌈

The School congratulates this year’s *Social Science Teaching Award* recipients: Jeff Satenstein (Accounting), Andrew Amstutz (History), Do Jun Lee (Urban Studies), Lizandra Friedland (Philosophy), Raquel Lamela López (Anthropology), Matthew Bradbury (Economics), Ryan Sperry (Sociology), Yoon Jin Lee (Political Science), and S. E. Hackney (Information Studies).

## Promotions 🏆 🎓

Effective Fall 2025, three of our colleagues were promoted to the rank of full professor: Adriana Arroyo Abad in Economics, Peter Conolly-Smith in History, and Abigail Doukhan in Philosophy.

This year, we also welcomed Craig Asberry, Assistant Professor of Political Science 🎓, whose work in American political behavior, quantitative text analysis, and computational social science adds valuable new strengths to the School.

## Retirements ❤️ 🎓

We mark with appreciation the retirements of Elena Frangakis-Syrett (History) and Jeffrey Satenstein (Accounting) 🌟, whose years of scholarship, teaching, and service

have shaped the intellectual life of Queens College. We thank them for their enduring contributions and wish them well in the next chapters of their lives.

Finally, Andrew Hacker, Professor of Political Science, has announced that Fall 2025 will be his final teaching semester. Although formally retired, Professor Hacker has continued to teach part-time, extending a remarkable association with Queens College that began in 1971, when he joined the faculty from Cornell University. His more than five decades of teaching mark what is arguably the longest teaching career in the history of Queens College and, perhaps, beyond.

The School of Social Sciences celebrates the accomplishments of 2025 across scholarship, teaching, service, and public engagement 🎓. Congratulations to all members of our community on their achievements.

*Kate Pechenkina, Ph. D., Dean of Social Sciences, Queens College*

