



BARNARD DHC

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



OPENING NOTES

Despite – and in some respects perhaps because of – the immense challenges presented by the past year, our center has grown and evolved in unexpected directions while always keeping our core values front of mind. How, we asked ourselves, could we best make use of our resources to provide space for the kinds of conversations our community needed to initiate or sustain – for the kinds of interventions our colleagues hoped to make?

We answered these questions by looking inward with intention, consulting on the year's "big picture" with the whole of our team, and then reaching out to partners across campus whose priorities – racial, environmental, economic, and gender justice – aligned fundamentally with our own. The result was a year of focused programming that directly addressed the longstanding social issues that had been revealed or exacerbated by the pandemic. We worked to bring members of our campus community together to respond to what seemed like the endless assaults of the wider world, creating and supporting digital platforms for public discussion around topics ranging from access to technology, race in the built environment, and the history of housing discrimination in the United States to the human rights abuses faced by globally marginalized migrant communities.

We are proud of what we accomplished this year and see clearly how the work we were able to do in a context of upheaval and relative scarcity has furthered the DHC's contributions to the College and to the worlds outside its gates.



CENTER MISSION

The Barnard College Digital Humanities Center is a research, teaching, and learning facility dedicated to the creation and preservation of dynamic connections between the analog and the digital. Our team supports students and faculty via a wide range of methods – from textual and timeline analysis, to sonification and mapping, to podcasting and interactive learning. Additionally, the Center develops and hosts a variety of initiatives sited at the intersections of critical theory, technology, feminism, anti-racism, and social justice more broadly. Through its innovative deployment of video conferencing technology, the DHC has built and continues to sustain a community of scholars, theorists, professionals, and activists around the globe, grounding our thoroughly interdisciplinary approach to the humanities in practices of equitable transnational collaboration. From its inception, the DHC has successfully engaged with students, faculty, staff, and alumnae through its curricular collaborations, individual research support, and inspiring programming.



OUR VALUES

We value **INCLUSIVITY**, which means that in our spaces, communities, and conversations we center people who have been historically and are presently excluded.

We value **SUSTAINABILITY**, which means committing to understand, work with, and inform our community about how our personal and institutional choices do harm to the environment and therefore to the most vulnerable communities; we do so in partnership with existing entities on campus committed to these same goals.

We value **EXPLORATION**, which means doing work based on and offering support for a generosity of ideas and perspectives, failing forward, and in a spirit of fearlessness and curiosity.

We value **COLLABORATION**, which means building non-exploitative relationships that sustain and reflect our communities.

WHO WE ARE



Kaiama L. Glover



Alicia Peaker



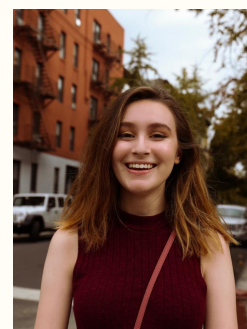
Jazmin Maço



Neda Jahanbani



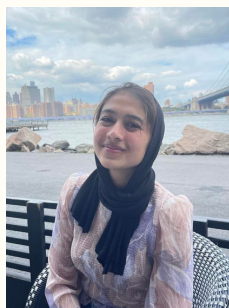
Eleanor E.B. Yousif



Miranda Jones-Davidis



Eden Segbefia



Mariam Mustafa



Christina Duan

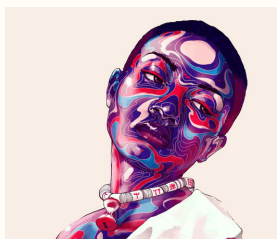


Fatima Azimova

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR



Nos Cambió La Vida celebrated the release of *noscamb.io* with readings by the authors and translators, as well as a conversation with Ana Belique and other panelists about the ongoing struggle against statelessness, 8 years after the infamous 168/13 ruling. We hope that participants at the event and readers of the stories were moved past the page and screen to take action in demanding that Dominicans of Haitian descent are given the basic human rights they have been stripped of. Our collective intention is to end anti-Black and anti-Haitian violence in the Dominican Republic and across the Americas.



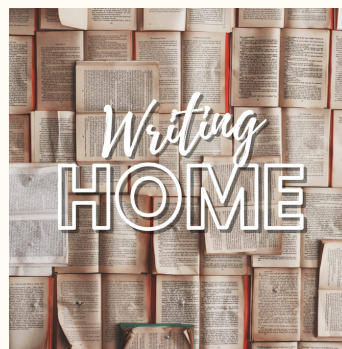
The 2021 **Caribbean Digital** met virtually and invited panelists discuss two sets of crucial questions for Caribbean digital scholarship: How do we engage with Caribbean communities in building Afro-diasporic institutions? Whereto Caribbean digital libraries and archives? This year we turned our collective critical attention to the online edition of James Grainger's colonial poem *The Sugar-Cane* (1764).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR



Undesign the Redline is an interactive installation that draws together archival materials, timelines, and narratives that chart the entangled histories of racism, housing discrimination, and spatial segregation within U.S. culture and history

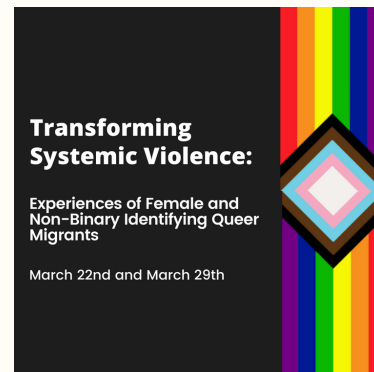
"Writing Home" is a podcast featuring contemporary cultural actors in conversation with Kaiama Glover and Tami Navarro about the experience of Caribbean diaspora. A virtual extension of their "live" Critical Caribbean Feminism events, "Writing Home" traces the geographies of resistance that ground our feminist practices of diaspora through dialogue with Caribbean feminist scholars, artists, and activists.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

Transforming Systemic Violence, this year's **Queer Asylum** series examined how intersecting forms of systemic violence shape the experiences of forced migration and everyday life for female- and nonbinary-identifying queer migrants who are living in, or seeking admission to, the United States.

The series frames systemic violence that these migrants face as being rooted in and reproducing settler colonialism, colonialism, racial capitalism, and heteronormative gender and sexuality.



Speculative Technologies for Liberatory Worlds is a learning community aimed to build capacity for what Adrienne Maree Brown calls “radical imagination,” where “all efforts to bend the arc of the future towards justice, is science fictional behavior.”

The Thinking Digitally Summer Institute is a virtual, intensive institute for faculty that includes one-on-one consultations, training in digital tools for the classroom, and workshops on integrating digital assignments into their syllabi.



ASSESSMENT

How we Assess Our Work:

1. Our primary value is inclusivity, and we measure our success through the quality, breadth, and diversity of our constituencies, speakers, and programmatic offerings, all of which are noted in our numeric summaries and descriptions throughout this report.
2. One of our goals has been to expand our support for research and teaching at Barnard. We measure this by the breadth of courses we serve, the number of students we teach, the number of faculty and instructional staff engaged with our center, and by attendance at our public events and offerings.
3. This year we also asked students in courses we supported to respond to a few questions related to their experiences with the DHC.



SUPPORTED COURSES 2021-2022

The Worlds of Ntozake Shange and Digital Storytelling,
Spring 2022

History of the French Language, Spring 2022

Harlem Movement Legacies, Spring 2022

First Year Seminar- Border Studies, Fall 2021

Education Policy, Fall 2021

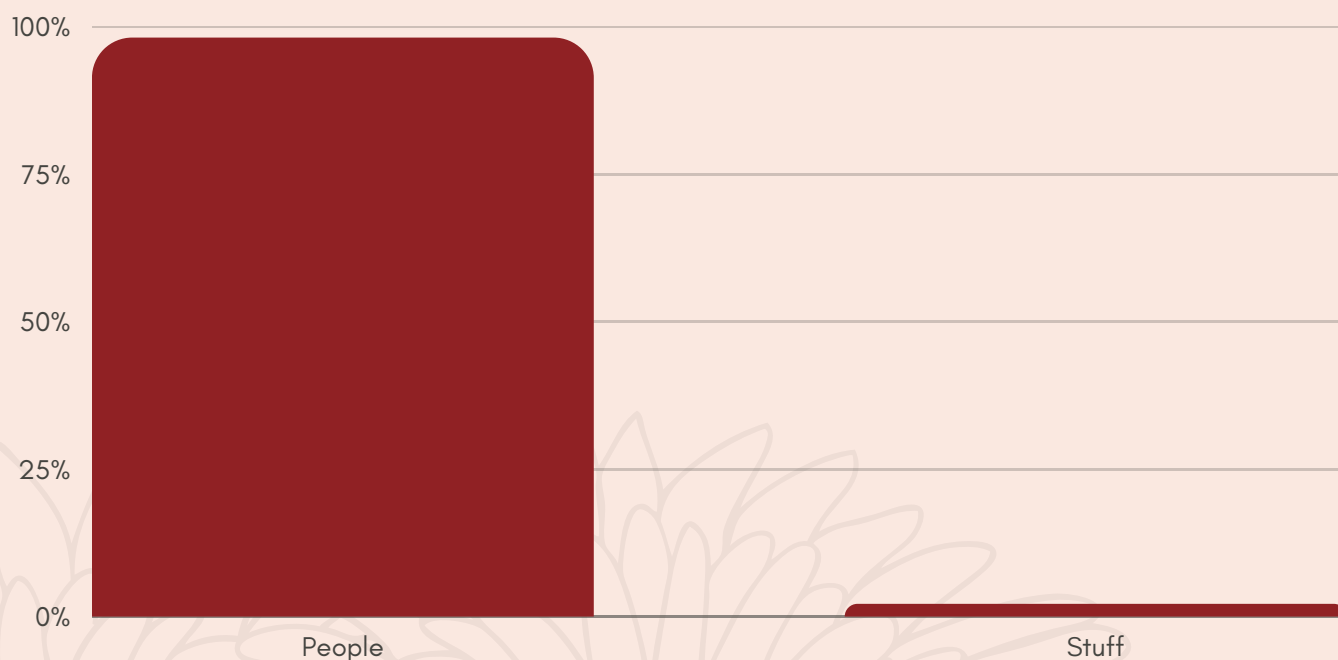
FYS Witches, Fall 2021

Performing Women, Fall 2021

First Year Seminar- Performing Publics, Fall 2021

Home to Harlem, Summer 2021





EXPLANATION OF FINANCIALS

The 2021 fiscal year occurred during the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic and therefore there was no budget for "food" and "travel" categories.

PEOPLE OVER STUFF

The Barnard Digital Humanities Center values prioritizing people over stuff. This is represented in the 2020 fiscal year and is something that we work hard to accomplish every year.



MOVING FORWARD

The DHC will substantially grow its support of Caribbean Digital Scholarship with the approval of a very large external grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. While a full-time Grants Associate

Director position has been built into the funding request, this individual's efforts will focus exclusively on management of the Mellon grant. We expect, however, that the buzz created around and projects generated by the grant will make apparent the DHC's capacity to create and sustain significant research and pedagogical projects. As such, it is our strategic hope that Alicia Peaker be promoted to the rank of Senior Associate Professor, and that her current position be backfilled by a new hire.

Over the course of the next five years, the Digital Humanities Center will continue to pursue a sustainability program that surfaces and examines the ecological impacts of our work as a Center, educates our community about processes and results, and works to reduce harm to the environment and to the people most impacted by environmental injustices.

