

**CROSS-NATIONAL THINK
TANK ON GRIEF AND
LOSS:**

NEW CONVERSATIONS
NEW PARTNERSHIPS
NEW ACTION

**Friday February 3rd
2012**

**The Graduate Center
City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue, NYC
10016**

Room 6304.01

Co-Sponsors

- The Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling Program at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York
- The Public Science Project & The Social/Personality Psychology Program, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
- The York University Psychology Clinic, Toronto, Canada



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Cross-National Think Tank On Loss and Grief

Friday February 3rd 2012, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Agenda:

- 8:30 – 9:00: Sign-in and Light Breakfast
- 9:00- 9:20: *Welcome to the Graduate Center!*
Maureen O'Connor, Executive Officer of Psychology at The Graduate Center, CUNY
Judith Koppersmith, College of Staten Island, CUNY
- 9:20 – 9:40: **Leeat Granek**: Opening Remarks
- 9:40 – 12:00: Grief In the Healthcare Context:
David Kissane: “Family Focused Grief Therapy”
Leeat Granek: “Grief of Oncologists”
Nicole Alston: “Coping with Reproductive Loss”
Chair: Michelle Fine
- 12:00 – 1:30: Lunch and Conversation
- 1:30 – 4:30: **Screening of REBIRTH & Panel Discussion with:**
Debbie Almontaser, Brian Lyons, Charles Cook, Linda Lantieri and Donna Gaffney.
Chair: Courtney Martin
- 4:30: **Wrap Up & Reception** with Special Toast for Phyllis Silverman

Please Note: Registration costs \$30 (free for students) – please make checks payable to “York University”

ID WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE BUILDING! Please do not forget to bring a photo ID with you!

Introduction to the Project:

The story of the Grief and Loss Project began in September 2009 when I spent a month at the *Graduate Center, City University of New York* with Dr. Michelle Fine. I had gotten reacquainted with Michelle at the American Psychological Association conference in August and I asked Michelle if I could spend a month at *The Graduate Center* “learning new things.” During that month, she introduced me to Dr. Judith Koppersmith.

While still in New York, I found out about the call for proposals for the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Meetings, Planning and Dissemination Grant 5 days before it was due! And within those 5 days a vision for these meetings was borne.

One of the benefits of being an early career scholar is that you don’t know yet what isn’t possible. I wrote the grant in a flurry of excitement and energy without limitations and without thinking of practicalities. Michelle and Judith expanded and contracted the vision as I went along. At that point, Karen Fergus, a health psychologist I worked with as a graduate student, and then as a postdoctoral fellow joined the team. Robin Stern, a psychotherapist writing a book on grief came on too.

The idea to bring together an interdisciplinary group of people from clinical, healthcare, policy, community and research backgrounds was inspired by my dissertation work on the history of the construct of grief within the field of psychology. My mother, who I was exceptionally close to, died when I was 25, and like many grief scholars, my heartbreak informed, motivated, drove and inspired my research.

I wrote several hundred pages on how, and why grief has been turned into a pathology and then got bored of the question. I was frustrated with the limited scope of academic writing on the topic. I wanted to include alternatives to the psychologizing of grief in my writing, but was advised that this was too prescriptive and non-academic.

I yearned for the integration of all of these perspectives and a place to talk through all the stories on loss and grief. This project is an antidote to the focus on pathology and/or prescription; It is about offering a multiplicity of voices and creating circuits of activity around grief and loss in all of its iterations.

The first two meetings in Toronto on October 29th 2010, and in New York on February 11th 2011 were huge successes. If you want to see what you missed, you can join the online work space and view the videos from these events. Instructions on how to do so can be found at the end of the pamphlet.

I am confident that the next two meetings on Friday February 3rd in New York City, and on Friday February 10th in Toronto will be equally provocative and exciting.

A Closing Thought:

I am both sad and joyful to announce that I have accepted a job as an assistant professor in Israel beginning in the fall of 2012, which means that this will be the last grief and loss meeting we will have, at least for the near future, and the ongoing project that I had envisioned in 2009 will come to a full stop.

That too is a kind of loss for me personally and perhaps for us collectively. It is different than what I had originally imagined. But alas – as most of us interested in the study of grief know – loss can also be a window, an opening into something new. It is too early to tell where these series of meetings will take us collectively and individually as a group, but I am hopeful that we will meet again.

In the interim, I hope that what you take with you as we embark upon our days is not only a fresh understanding of grief, but also, an openness to gazing at loss from many different angles, perspectives, and frames.

An openness to new ways of holding grief in our lives and a desire to continue exploring the alternatives and the conversation and the beauty of stretching in the places you thought you already knew.

I look forward to welcoming you in this winter,

Sincerely,

Leeat Granek

Speaker Biographies:

Nicole Alston



As Founder and Executive Director of The Skye Foundation, Nicole Alston's mission is as heartfelt as it is hard-won. The New Jersey-based nonprofit organization was established in memory of Nicole's firstborn daughter, Skye, in 2005. Skye's sudden death deluged Nicole in grief. In seeking a new "normal," her life's work was revealed. Drawing on experiential knowledge, Nicole has spoken to audiences internationally about providing comprehensive psychosocial support for families who are grieving the death of a baby. She is also a contributing author for the Open to Hope Foundation.

Nicole's story has been shared in *Essence* and *Parents* magazines, the *Amsterdam News*, on radio, Hallmark television's New Morning Show, and a host of local venues. In 2006, she produced a video about bereaved parents and their grief experience, interspersed with commentary from the medical community.

Nicole serves on various state and national boards, focusing on improving birth outcomes and providing compassionate care to families experiencing reproductive loss: the Northern New Jersey Maternal Child Health Consortium, the Black Infant Mortality Reduction Resource Center Advisory Board, and on the national expert panel of the African American Faith-Based Initiative.

Abstract: Reproductive Loss and The Healthcare System

Nicole will address standards of care for bereaved women and families coping with reproductive loss. "Physicians, nurses and the health care system at-large play a vitally important role. What is done and said in moments of acute grief can either set families in motion toward healing, or make an already arduous journey much more difficult," Nicole explains. Nicole received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Columbia University and hopes to continue to explore the long-term impact of perinatal grief on bereaved parents, particularly among those who are disproportionately affected by adverse birth outcomes.

Leeat Granek*

*Leeat's bio can be found in the collaborator section below.

Abstract: "The Elephant in the Room": The Impact of Oncologists' Grief Over Patient Loss On Oncologist Well-Being



Given that many cancers are terminal in nature, oncologists are one group of healthcare professionals who continually experience patient loss and this may lead to grief reactions.

In this talk, I outline the major findings from a recent study I conducted with colleagues in Canada looking at the grief experiences of oncologists from the perspective of physicians working in the field.

In the conclusion of my talk, I outline expectation, education and communication gaps as potential points of entry into the grief of oncologists for institutions and programs interested in addressing this issue.

David Kissane

David W. Kissane, MD is the Jimmie C. Holland Chair in Psycho-oncology and Chairman of the Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and Attending Psychiatrist at Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases. He is also a Professor of Psychiatry at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Dr. Kissane obtained his initial medical degree and later research doctorate from the University of Melbourne in Australia.

Across his 40-year medical career, he has trained in family medicine, psychiatry of the medically ill and palliative medicine. His academic interests include group, couples and family psychotherapy trials, communication skills training, studies of existential distress, and the ethics of end-of-life care. He developed



a cognitive-existential model of group therapy for women with early stage breast cancer, which ameliorated fear of recurrence, while his trial of supportive-expressive group therapy for advanced breast cancer showed the prevention of depression among patients receiving group therapy, although cancer survival was not extended. He is best known for his model of family therapy delivered to 'at risk' families during palliative care, which prevents complicated grief and depression in bereavement. His work on demoralization as a variation of depression in the medically ill has preceded interventions to promote meaning-based coping. At MSK, Dr Kissane established a Communication Skills Training and Research Laboratory, which has developed an applied curriculum for oncology and trained over 700 clinicians. Dr. Kissane's work was recognized by the International Psycho-Oncology Society in 2008 with the Arthur Sutherland Award for lifetime achievement.

Abstract: Family Focused Grief Therapy

Dr. Kissane will speak about Family Focused Grief Therapy (FFGT), for families experiencing difficulty when a relative is dying from cancer. FFGT fosters relational meaning for the family and usually starts when the patient has advanced cancer and takes place with the entire family though 6-10 sessions over as many months. Families with reduced communication, cohesion and conflict resolution are invited to undertake therapy. Challenges covered include helping the family discuss death and dying, remaining culturally sensitive, containing conflict, drawing relevant family members into sessions and sustaining a focus to the therapy.

REBIRTH



Project Rebirth's film, *REBIRTH*, is a full-length documentary that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January of 2011. It is the result of a decade-long process by director Jim Whitaker and is a riveting journey into living history. It is also an act of personal witness to one of the most profound events in American history and the healing that has come its wake.

From early 2002 through 2009, the *REBIRTH* film crew chronicled the lives of five people directly affected by 9/11. The participants include a survivor from an impact floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center (WTC); a firefighter who survived the collapse of the WTC but lost his best friend; a high school student who lost his mother; a young woman who lost her fiancé; and a construction worker who lost his brother, assisted with recovery efforts, and is presently helping to build the Freedom Tower. Their narratives are the thread of recovery and resiliency from grief, loss and trauma that comprise the unique message of the film.

REBIRTH also simultaneously tracks - via unprecedented multi-camera time-lapse photography - the evolution of the former WTC and the entire rebuilding of the site. Though the film captures the minute-by-minute demolition and redevelopment of the WTC site until 2009, Project Rebirth will continue the time-lapse element of the project until the site is completed in its entirety. Please visit our Time-Lapse Project + Film Archive tab and page to learn more about this important element of our project. Philip Glass composed *REBIRTH* original score.

***REBIRTH Panel Member Biographies:**

Debbie Almontaser

Debbie Almontaser is the founding principal of the Khalil Gibran International Academy in Brooklyn, New York.

As a 17-year veteran of the NYC public school system, Debbie Almontaser has taught special education, inclusion, trained teachers in literacy, and served as a multicultural specialist and diversity advisor. Ms. Almontaser frequently lectures and facilitates workshops on conflict resolution, interfaith outreach, Arab culture, and Islam. Currently she is the Board Chair of the Muslim Consultative Network, a faith-based nonprofit in NYC.



Donna Gaffney



Dr. Gaffney is the Advisor for Education and Research at Project Rebirth in New York City. She is also on the faculty of the International Trauma Studies Program and lectures at Columbia University Journalism School. Dr. Gaffney has a long history in classroom, experiential and online education. She was a member of the graduate faculty at Columbia University for fourteen years. She holds Masters degrees from Teachers College and Rutgers University and received a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. Her post-doctoral work included the Prudential Fellowship

for Children and the News at Columbia University Journalism School.

Dr. Gaffney has long addressed the issues of loss and trauma in the lives of children and families. She worked with schools assisting grieving children after the Challenger explosion, counseled families following the Pan Am 103 crash in Scotland, was deployed post-Katrina to western Louisiana as a mental health specialist and consults with nurses returning from Haiti. As a member of the New Jersey Traumatic Loss Coalition and the State of NJ Disaster Mental Health Services, she collaborated with schools and communities after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Dr. Gaffney is an advisory board member for the Families of September 11, consulting on media and policy issues. She facilitated an online support group for family members affected by the 9/11 terrorist attacks and is currently engaged in a qualitative study of this project. As a consultant for Cricket Books, she authored the professional guide accompanying the young adult book, *911: The Book of Help*. In addition to academic publications, Dr. Gaffney is the author of *The Seasons of Grief, Helping Children Grow through Loss*. She co-produced *Remembering September 11, A Guide for Schools*. Dr. Gaffney supports Project Rebirth's educational and research needs by developing materials related to the documentary and film archive. She facilitates workshops for professionals and authored the Guide for Educators and curriculum for secondary school students.

Linda Lantieri

Dr. Linda Lantieri has been in the field in education for over 40 years in a variety of capacities: classroom teacher, assistant principal, director of a middle school in East Harlem, and faculty member at Hunter College in New York City. Currently she serves as the Director of *The Inner Resilience Program* whose mission is to cultivate the inner lives of students, teachers and schools by integrating social and emotional learning with contemplative practice. In 1985, she co-founded the Resolving Conflict Creatively Program (RCCP), a research based k-8 social and emotional learning program that has been implemented in over 400 schools. Linda is also one of the founding board members of the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). She is the coauthor of *Waging Peace in Our Schools* (Beacon Press, 1996), editor of *Schools with Spirit: Nurturing the Inner Lives of Children and Teachers* (Beacon Press, 2001), and author of *Building Emotional Intelligence: Techniques to Cultivate Inner Strength in Children* (Sounds True, 2008).



Brian Lyons



Brian Lyons is one of the featured subjects in the film *Rebirth*. Married with three girls, Brian works as a senior project manager for a global construction company in New York City. Michael, Brian's brother who was a firefighter and a member of the FDNY died on 9/11. Brian went down to the site to search for him and ended up staying there to rebuild the site. After the tenth anniversary of 9/11, Brian completed his work there to start a new chapter in his life.

Courtney Martin

Courtney E. Martin is an author, blogger, and speaker. Her most recent book, *Project Rebirth: Survival and the Strength of the Human Spirit from 9/11 Survivors*, was published last fall. She is also the author of *Do It Anyway: The New Generation of Activists*, and *Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters: How the Quest for Perfection is Harming Young Women*. She is Editor Emeritus at Feministing.com and a Fellow at Dowser.com. Her work appears frequently in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *GOOD*, and *The Nation*, among other national publications. Courtney has appeared on the *TODAY Show*, *Good Morning America*, *MSNBC*, and *The O'Reilly Factor*, and is the recipient of the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics, a residency from the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Centre, and is a TED speaker. She is the leader of the Op-Ed Project's Public Voices Fellowship Program at Princeton University.



Read more about her work at www.courtneyemartin.com.

Toast Honoring Phyllis Silverman:



Phyllis R. Silverman , Ph.D, is a Scholar-in-Residence at Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Center and Professor Emerita at the MGH Institute of Health Professions. She has an appointment in the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She was Co-Principal Investigator and Project Director of the Harvard/MGH Child Bereavement Study. She is applying the findings from her research in her work as a board member and volunteer in the Children's Room: A Center for Grieving Children and Adolescents, in Arlington, MA . She developed the idea of Widow-to-Widow which led her to advocate for mutual help among the bereaved. Her

recent books building on the data from the Child Bereavement Study, include: With Madeline Kelly, *A Parent's Guide to Raising Grieving Children: Rebuilding your life after the death of a loved one* and *Never too Young to Know: Death in Children's Lives*. With Dennis Klass and Steven Nickman she co-edited *Continuing Bonds: New Understandings of Grief*. She published a new edition of *Widow-to-widow: How the Bereaved Help One Another*. She co-edited with Joan Berzoff : *Living with Dying: A handbook for end of life health care practitioners*. She has a website: www.phyllisilverman.com and a blog <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-grieving-children>

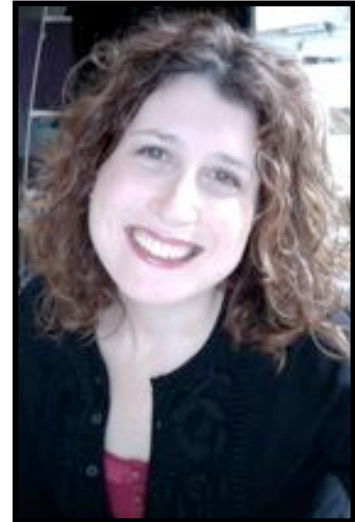
<http://www.phyllisilverman.com/index.html>

Collaborator Biographies:

Principal Investigator : Leeat Granek

Dr. Leeat Granek is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Sick Kids Hospital. She completed her doctorate in the History and Theory of Psychology Program at York University in Toronto, one of the few interdisciplinary departments in North America that allows for incorporation of history of science studies with clinical health research.

Her work in the area of psycho-oncology with chronically ill people and their families led her to write her dissertation on the medicalization of grief within the discipline of Psychology and its subsequent impact on North American society. Her doctoral thesis entitled, *Bottled Tears: The Pathologization, Privatization and Psychologization of Grief* involved a critical, theoretical, and historical analysis of grief as a psychological and psychiatric object of study from Freud to the present.



Leeat completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at McMaster University in the Dept of Pediatrics in the medical school in 2011. Her research projects sit at the intersection of health psychology (specifically, psycho-oncology and women's health) and the history and theory of psychological diagnoses and practices. Her research is interdisciplinary, informed by clinical, social, feminist and medical perspectives within psychology, and by disciplines outside psychology, such as anthropology, sociology, and critical race studies. Her areas of expertise are in death, dying and mourning, women's physical and mental health, qualitative methods, and psycho-oncology.

In addition to conceptualizing and spearheading the grief and loss consortium, Leeat has recently received funding to embark on an innovative research program examining the grief of healthcare professionals in oncology settings. She has presented her research at local, national and international conferences and has been an invited speaker at universities in Canada and the United States. Leeatg@gmail.com

Karen Fergus



Dr. Karen Fergus is a clinical psychologist and assistant professor with the Department of Psychology at York University. She is cross-appointed at the Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre where, in addition to her research activities, she has had an active psychotherapy and counseling practice since 1998. Karen's research focuses on intimate relationships, psychosocial oncology, and couple adjustment to life-threatening illness, adversity, and loss. An additional interest is the development of psychotherapeutic and psychoeducational interventions (individual, couple, group, and online) intended to reduce distress and suffering associated with cancer. In 2003, she was the recipient of the *Anselm Strauss Award* for Qualitative Research presented by the National Council on

Family Relations for her work in the area of couples and cancer. kfergus@yorku.ca

Michelle Fine

Dr. Michelle Fine is a Distinguished Professor of Social Psychology, Women's Studies and Urban Education at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She has taught at CUNY since 1992 and is a founding member of the Public Science Project at the Graduate Center at the City University of New York. From 1981 – 1992, she was on the Human Development faculty at the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. Fine's research has been organized through participatory action research and focuses on how youth think about and contest injustice in schools, communities and prisons. Over the past decade, Fine's scholarship has been recognized nationally and internationally with awards, fellowships and prestigious invited lectures. Fine's research is influential and well cited within four academic fields: urban education policy; prison reform; theoretical justice studies within psychology, and mixed methods/participatory action research. She has authored, co-authored or edited 20 academic books, 70 chapters in key national and international volumes and more than 80 articles in most highly competitive journals within the disciplines of psychology and education, including the *American Psychologist*, the *Journal of Social Issues*, the *Counseling Psychologist*, *Harvard*

Educational Review. Recent awards include the 2012 Henry Murray Award, the 2011 College and Community Fellowship Award for Higher Education and Social Justice for work on college in and after prison, 2011 Kurt Lewin Award, the 2008 Social Justice award from the Cross Cultural Winter Roundtable, the 2007 Willystine Goodsell Award from the American Educational Research Association, the 2005 First Annual Morton Deutsch Award, an Honorary Doctoral Degree for Education and Social Justice from Bank Street College in 2002 and the Carolyn Sherif Award from the American Psychological Association in 2001. mfine@gc.cuny.edu

Judith Koppersmith



Judith Koppersmith is currently the Director of the Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling Program, Psychology Department, College of Staten Island, CUNY. Judith developed an approach to psychology that arose from her experience at Radcliff College's Murray Institute for the Study of Lives. Prof. Koppersmith is a clinical/ community psychologist who is also trained as a psychoanalyst. She teaches Freudian concepts demonstrating Freud's ingenious attempts to create a theory of the brain at a time when so little was known about it. Prof. Koppersmith has taken students to London to meet with R.D Laing and his therapeutic community known as the Philadelphia Society and she continues to teach many classes requiring a fieldwork component exposing students to real clinical contexts.

Many of her students go on to graduate school in the helping professions and are commended for the level of their knowledge and experience in clinical situations. Prof. Koppersmith has written and published in the areas of ethnic identity, women's psychotherapy, the underground psychoanalytic movement in Russia, and undergraduates as multifamily counselors. She has produced three documentary films all of which were supported by grants from prominent organizations. Following 9/11 Professor Koppersmith organized a college-wide volunteer group (CSI - the Comfort Squad Initiative). Students were given emergency training to assist at public schools on Staten Island where families of fire and police officers were in need of comfort. Contributions were made by Toys R Us and "One Thousand Mormon Women from Utah", who volunteered to make Comfort Kits for 250 children in the Staten Island public schools. Many students, having gone through that volunteer experience, are today working as professionals with children and families. Judith.koppersmith@csi.cuny.edu

Robin Stern

Robin Stern, Ph.D., is a licensed psychoanalyst, educator, and author, with over twenty-five years of experience treating individuals, couples, and groups. She develops and implements training programs, and writes about personal and professional growth emphasizing the importance of self-awareness, emotional competencies, and ethical leadership. Robin holds a doctorate in Applied Psychology, as well as a post-doctoral certificate in Psychoanalytic Group Psychotherapy. Robin is also a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. She is on the faculty of Teachers College, Columbia University, The Training Institute for Mental Health, in New York City, and, is a consultant to the Health, Behavior and Emotion Lab at Yale University.



Robin is a founding board member of The Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership, where she co-created the curriculum for the Woodhull retreat experience and continues to teach and train women of all ages. Additionally, Robin is a member of the Contemplation and Education Leadership Council at the Garrison Institute. Her first book, *The Gaslight Effect: How to Spot and Survive the Hidden Manipulation Others Use to Control Your Life* (Random House, May '07) was written up in all the top women's magazines: Elle, O, Allure, Cosmopolitan, as well as in newspapers, such as Metro NY, Philly and Boston.

Robin continues to travel, speak, train, teach and counsel. She newest book, which she is co-authoring with Courtney E. Martin, *REBIRTH: Insights on Grit and Recovery from 9.11 Survivors*, will be published in conjunction with the *PROJECT REBIRTH* documentary feature film, for the 10th anniversary of September 11. She has a private practice in New York City and lives in Riverdale with her husband and two children.

robinsstern@gmail.com

On-Site Co-Sponsor:

The Public Science Project is dedicated to the advancement of participatory action research as a strategy for a more just world. With a deep commitment to democratizing the systematic production of knowledge, we collaborate with communities to design research that examines the impact of policy and structural injustice. We believe social science can play an important role in the struggle for social justice. Participatory Action Research (PAR) provides a critical framework or making science – systematic inquiry and analysis – a public enterprise. Allied with feminist, critical race, and indigenous theory, PAR is an approach to research that values the significant knowledge people hold about their lives and experiences. PAR positions those most intimately impacted by research as leaders in shaping research questions, framing interpretations, and designing meaningful research products and actions. With these commitments, The Public Science Project collaborates with academics, community organizations, schools, prisons, and public institutions to design, conduct, and support research and practice aimed at interrupting injustice.



María Elena Torre, PhD is the founding Director of The Public Science Project at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. For more than 10 years she has conducted participatory action research nationally and internationally with schools, prisons, and community-based organizations. Her work has introduced the concept of ‘participatory contact zones’ to collaborative research, asking how we might build a radically inclusive ‘we’– from which to build knowledge, relationships, and policy that interrupt social injustice? Trained in social psychology she was on the faculty and Chair of Education Studies at Eugene Lang College, The New School for Liberal Arts. She is a co-author of [Echoes of Brown: Youth Documenting and Performing the Legacy of Brown v.](#)

[Board of Education](#) and [Changing Minds: The Impact of College on a Maximum Security Prison](#), and has been published in volumes such as *Qualitative Research in Psychology* (American Psychological Association), *Everyday Antiracism: Concrete Ways to Successfully Navigate the Relevance of Race in School*, *Urban Girls, Revisited*, *The Sage Handbook of Action Research*, and in journals such as *Feminism and Psychology*, the *Journal of Social Issues*, *Qualitative Inquiry*, and the *Journal of Critical Psychology*. A recipient of the American Psychological Association Division 35 Adolescent Girls Task Force Emerging Scientist and the Spencer Fellowship in Social Justice & Social Development in Educational Studies, she is on the board of the National Latino/a Education Research and Policy Project and What Kids Can Do. www.publicscienceproject.org

Research Volunteers:

Seana Feryn

Seana is currently completing her final year of Special Events Planning at George Brown College in Toronto, Ontario. Her goal after finishing her program is to gain as much experience as possible, preferably in the field of coordinating youth programs as she has previously worked extensively with children at the Stratford Perth YMCA. She hopes to one day own an Event Planning business specializing in youth events and team building.

During the Spring/Summer of 2011, Seana worked as an Event Administrative Assistant at Absolute Tent and Event Services where she assisted in the planning and execution of both small and large corporate, charitable, and social events. Some of the larger events that she worked on included Woofstock 2011, the Taste of the Danforth, the Riverdale Art Walk, and Artisans at the Distillery. seanaferyn@gmail.com



Julia Hussman



Julia graduated with her MA in psychology from the New School for Social Research in New York City where she conducted research on psycho-oncology in Dr. Lisa Rubin's "Gender and Health" lab. For her Masters thesis, Julia investigated feminist self-identities and how they negotiate women's sexual self-concepts. She is interested in applying qualitative methodologies and feminist critical analyses to the areas of health psychology, gender studies, and sexuality. Julia aspires to receive her doctoral degree in psychology and to work with adolescent girls in a clinical setting. She is currently a Research Assistant in the Neuropsychopharmacology lab at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto

where she coordinates clinical trials and works with Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. juliahussman@gmail.com

Esther Kabalkin



Esther graduated with her BA in psychology from the CUNY College of Staten Island. For her honors thesis, Esther researched the effects of mortality and grief salience on one's own perceptions of resilience. She is currently a Rehabilitation Technician for the Deaf at Federation Employment and Guidance Services (FEGS) Brooklyn Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) program. Esther facilitates groups and one-on-one sessions to assist Deaf participants with a mental illness achieve life goals. She is also applying to graduate programs in clinical psychology in hopes to become a licensed therapist. Esther intends to become a bereavement therapist specializing in therapy with both adolescents and the Deaf community. ekabalkin@yahoo.com

Masha Koroleva

Masha is completing her undergraduate Honours degree in psychology at York University. Her research interests include impact of chronic illness on individuals and couples, factors of resilience that contribute to successful recovery and coping strategies, as well as the neuropsychological underpinnings of mindfulness based cognitive therapy using meditation. Masha has worked at the Toronto General Hospital assisting with research that explores the bio-psycho-social mechanisms that contribute to the development of post-surgical chronic pain and she is currently involved with a psychosocial oncology research lab. Ultimately, she plans to go on to complete her graduate work in clinical psychology and to develop therapeutic interventions that will assist individuals and their partners who are coping with chronic illness. m.koroleva@gmail.com



Amanda Mia Marin-Chollom

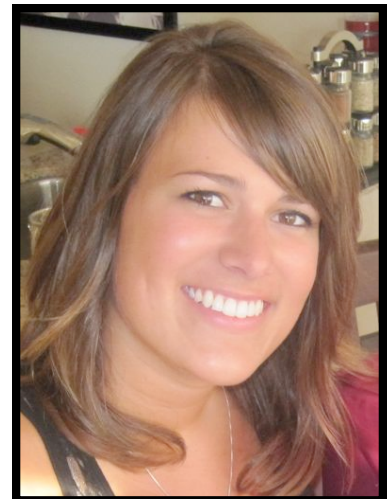


Amanda is a doctoral candidate in social-personality psychology with a concentration in health at the City University of New York Graduate Center. Her research interests encompass health psychology. In the past couple of years at San Diego State University, where Amanda earned a Masters in Psychology, she did research on the prevention and treatment of cancer at the Moores UCSD Comprehensive Cancer center. Research included analyzing health disparities in the Latino and African American communities. She has

volunteer experience working with pediatric cancer patients and their families at Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times. Currently, she is interested in health disparity issues related to cancer and coping processes of individuals and their families facing chronic illnesses. With her mentor Dr. Tracey Revenson she is currently assisting in a study that aims to understand the psychosocial factors experienced by young single adults diagnosed with hematological cancer. She has presented her research at the Society of Behavioral Medicine and the International Cancer Education conferences.
amarin@gc.cuny.edu

Dana Male

Dana completed her honours BA in psychology at the University of Ottawa where she conducted research in the area of human sexuality. She is currently in her first year of the Master's program in Clinical Psychology at York University. Dana is a student and research assistant in the Psychosocial Oncology Laboratory, under the supervision of Dr. Karen Fergus. For her Master's thesis, she will be examining the utility of online support groups for caregivers of individuals who have been diagnosed with advanced-stage cancers. She is also interested in exploring whether differential techniques employed by, and qualities of, the group facilitator, influence group progress and outcome. With general research interests including intimate relationships and health, her long-term goal is to one day apply her knowledge in these areas as a clinician. dmale@yorku.ca



Aliya Ramjaun

Aliya is currently completing a Masters in Epidemiology at McGill University. The aim of her thesis is to determine whether disparities in breast cancer care can be explained by the use of best practices in senior patients; women above the age of 65 represent the largest group of newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. This past summer, Aliya worked at the Toronto General Hospital where she helped in developing an evidence-based clinical pathway for pancreatic cancer surgery. This involved surveying various hospitals in Ontario to determine what elements of post-operative care should be included in such a tool. Extensive literature reviews were also performed in order to identify best practices in surgery.

aliya.ramjaun@mail.mcgill.ca



Kailey Roberts



Kailey is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at the New School for Social Research. Her research interests include health psychology, sexuality and gender, stigma and mental illness, and bereavement. Currently she is assisting with a study investigating bereavement in parents who have lost a child to cancer and a study on the psychosocial experiences of adults diagnosed with hematological cancer. Kailey intends to pursue a career as a clinician in a medical setting while continuing to conduct research. In addition to health psychology, she is also interested in the connection between nature and psychological well-being and hopes to incorporate this into her future practice. She has co-authored posters for meetings of the Minnesota Psychological Association, the

Association for Death Education Counseling and the Society for Behavioral Medicine.

kjg22r@gmail.com

Map & Information:

ID WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE BUILDING!! Please do not forget to bring a photo ID with you!

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

365 Fifth Avenue, 6th Floor, Room 6304.01 Psychology Dept. New York, NY 10016
General Telephone: 1-212-817-7000, (Toll Free) 1-877-428-6942



Directions to the Graduate Center, CUNY:

In Manhattan, the Graduate Center, housed in the historic B. Altman building, is easy to find. (Information on how to get to Manhattan by major modes of transportation can be found at the Fodors.com website, which is continually updated to give you the latest fares.)

Located on Fifth Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets, the building is two blocks east of Penn Station, one block east of Herald Square, and two blocks west of the 33rd Street and Park Avenue station. The closest subway station,



located at 34th Street and Avenue of the Americas, is served by the B, D, F, N, R, and Q trains.

Penn Station is served at 7th Avenue by the 1,2,3, and 9 IRT trains, as well as the A, C, and E lines at the 8th Avenue station one block west. Detailed information on bus and subway transport in New York City can be found at the website of the [Metropolitan Transportation Authority \(MTA\)](http://www.mta.com).

Also, the website www.hopstop.com provides directions (both walking and subway) from your starting address to your destination address.

Hotel Information:



42 W 35th St (between 5th Ave. and Avenue of the Americas/6th Ave.)
New York, NY 10018
<http://www.comfortinnmanhattan.com/>

BY CHOICE HOTELS

Booking information:

Phone: 212-947-0200 Fax: 212-594-3047
Email: gm.ny410@choicehotels.com

Rooms reserved under "The Grief Project",
confirmation number: 210880408

Cost is \$159/night (flat rate per room)



*Please note that this is a special rate for the conference. Bookings can be made by phoning the number listed above. Reservations must be booked and confirmed (or cancelled) **before January 15th 2012** to ensure this special rate.

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Virtual Workspace Instructions:

The Grief and Loss Project Virtual Space

Purpose: The purpose of this online work space is to continue the conversation we began in Toronto and NYC; to share articles and build an online interdisciplinary library on grief and loss; to share ideas for new work and discuss sites for innovative collaborations; to share methods and instruments pertaining to study of grief and loss; to publish and/or share op-eds on the topic; to view related photos and videos; to share a calendar of events; to have a forum where we can talk through ideas; and to tell stories about our experiences and to use the virtual space for any other projects, or initiatives pertaining to an interdisciplinary view of grief and loss.

Membership: The 03 online space is a private *collaborative* forum, and therefore, as a member you are eligible and invited to submit documents, events, comments, photos, articles etc. to build the space. Indeed, without your contribution, the space will not work. **The space is not open to anyone who is not a member, and therefore, you must join to access the online space.**

Welcome to the Workspace!

Once you join, you will be able to participate in the following:

Grief and Loss Events Calendar: Add information about upcoming events, lectures, groups, rounds, fundraisers of interest to the grief and loss collective.

Grief and Loss Interdisciplinary Library: As per the discussion at the Grief and Loss Meeting in Toronto, we have started putting together an online library on grief and loss by topic and by discipline. Please add your own articles and resources or any other articles that you like on the topic.

In this section, you will find “The Book Brag” folder: – please upload a photo of your book or better yet, a photo of yourself holding your book. **Be sure to post a comment underneath indicating the title and provide a hyperlink or publishing information so that others know where to purchase it.**

Discussion Forum: An open discussion forum by topic thread. You can initiate a conversation, ask a question, or respond to others queries and/or comments.

Photos: Photos related to the projects and/or to any of your events can be posted here. You can make and label your own album.

Grief and Loss Blog Roll: An RSS feed of the most popular external grief and loss blogs are posted here. You can add your own grief blog or suggest/post one that you think is particularly good.

Project Updates: Receive updates on the Grief and Loss Project.

Videos: The talks from both Grief and Loss meetings will be posted here.

Popular Media Articles on Grief and Loss: Newspaper, magazine, and popular media articles on grief and loss.

Member Directory: One of the suggestions that came out of the Toronto meeting was the possibility of finding interdisciplinary collaborators through the online space. In the member directory, you will be asked to fill out a short survey about your work and list your main publications (See next page, entitled Member Directory Survey). You can also search collaborators this way by clicking on their document and reading through their research interests, their clinical practice, or their general interest on the topic.

How to Join the Workspace in 10 Easy Steps:

- 1- You will receive an invitation from one of us, Leeat Granek or Aliya Ramjaun to join the O3 space.

Click “Join Now”

- 2- It will take you to the O3 space where you will be asked to create an account for yourself.
- 3- We will get a message indicating that you have accepted the invitation and we will approve you for membership.
- 4- Once approved, you can login to the O3 space. Go to: <http://www.othree.ca/>
- 5- Go to Guest (Sign in) on the top left hand corner of the screen and login. Enter your username and password and login.
- 6- Now you are ready to roll! On the top left-hand corner where you signed in, you should now see your name. If you click on that link, you can create a profile for yourself.

Please upload photo and take the time to fill out your profile information. Sometimes when uploading files you may get an error message, but normally the file *has* been uploaded. Please check to make sure before contacting technical support.

Remember, only the people from the Grief and Loss Project will be able to access this information. This is a closed group and cannot be accessed online without the moderator permission.

- 7- Once you have created your profile, you can start using the space. Click on the link that says the “The Grief and Loss Project” to enter the virtual workspace.

- 8- Now you can add events to the calendar, browse and contribute to the interdisciplinary online grief and loss library, post to the discussion forum, or start your own thread, browse or upload photos, post and read blog articles, read about project updates and view videos from the events. **If you your organization has a blog or if there is a blog that you follow – let me know and I will add in the feed!**
- 9- Please upload your member directory survey (see instructions below). This a directory for members of the group and a way that you can find collaborators for your project or that others can find you!
- 10- If you wish to invite more members to join who might be interested in this online workspace, please contact me at Leeatg@gmail.com

For technical support questions or difficulties with the online space, please contact ramjaua@gmail.com. If she cannot answer your query, please contact 03 technical person, Gary.Hilson@orion.on.ca for help.

Member Directory Survey

You will have received the member directory survey listed below as a **separate word file**. Here are the questions that are in that file.

You may have also already filled out this information for the NY Meeting member directory in which case you can simply upload the word file to the member directory section on the online space without having to do this extra step.

To add yourself to the directory, please fill out the following information **on the ATTACHED word file** and save as: **“yourname – your discipline – your domain” (research, clinical, community etc.)** For example, I would save my survey as “Leeat Granek – Psychology – Research”

Here are the questions you will be asked:

Title: _____

Affiliation and Dept: _____

Please check the area(s) you are primarily working in:

Research ___ Community Work ___ Clinical Practice ___ Other ___

Bio: Using first person, please tell us what you do (i.e. clinical practice, community work etc.) or what your research is in as it is connected to grief and loss. If you are not directly working in the area, please tell us what you do in general.

References: Please include all your published references that area in the area of grief and loss. Please use full citations in APA format. You can also include your website address if you have one.

I would be interested in collaborating on:

Email Address: