A Conference at Columbia University
Faculty House | 64 Morningside Drive

April 27-29, 2018

Sponsored by the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, the Lehman Center for American History, the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, the Department of History, and the Office of the Provost.
Conference Schedule

Friday, April 27

Campus Events

1:00 PM  Guided Tour of “1968: The Global Revolutions,” an exhibition in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library

3:00 PM  Campus walking tours

Faculty House

5:00 PM  Reception
6:00 PM  Welcome by Provost John Coatsworth

A film screening and discussion of the Columbia and Barnard student protests of 1968, with participants, activists, and current students.

- Eric Foner, Columbia University
- Juan González, Democracy Now!
- Nancy Biberman, Housing Activist
- Donovan Redd, CC ’19
- Beulah Sims-Agbaibaka, CC ’15
- Moderated by Frank Guridy, Columbia University

Saturday, April 28

Faculty House

9:30 AM  Archives, Memory, and 1968  
Focusing on historical memory, this panel considers how the legacies of 1968 have been promoted, distorted, and erased by libraries, archives, and historians over the course of the past half century.

- Burleigh Hendrickson, Dickinson College
- Lien-Hang T. Nguyen, Columbia University
- Sady Sullivan, Independent Oral History Consultant
- Moderated by Thai Jones, Columbia University

11:00 AM  Harlem, Columbia University, and the Black Freedom Struggle
Featuring scholars and alums, this session explores how the protests of 1968 affected the local Black Freedom Struggle. What were their ramifications for the experiences of Black students on campus? For the advent of Black Studies at Columbia? How did the protests affect Columbia’s relationship with the communities of Harlem and Morningside Heights?

- Tanaquil Jones, GS ’87
- Stefan Bradley, Loyola Marymount University
- Farah Jasmine Griffin, Columbia University

12:30 PM  Break for Lunch
Saturday, April 28 (continued)
Faculty House

2:30 PM
’68 and Media
While America fought its first televised war in Vietnam, a media-savvy protest movement looked to underground newspapers like the East Village Other and freeform radio like Bob Fass’ Radio Unnameable to amplify and further articulate dissent. This panel will consider how new and old media fragmented and galvanized public opinion during 1968’s global revolutions.

- Timothy Scott Brown, Northeastern University
- Susan Douglas, University of Michigan
- Robert Friedman, Bloomberg News
- Robert Siegel, National Public Radio

4:00 PM
New Media’s Impact on Activists’ Lives and Movements
This panel invites activists, researchers and scholar-activists on the front line of today’s social movements to discuss the role of new media in activism, how it helps, but also how it hinders visions of a just society.

- Nikita Singareddy, Columbia ’17
- Charlton McIlwain, New York University
- Brittany Lewis, George Washington University/The Activist History Review
- Moderated by Kimberly Springer, Columbia University

6:00 PM
Closing Conversation: “The Legacies of the Sixties,” Now and in the Future
In this culminating conversation, a distinguished panel of scholars discusses the global impact of 1968 on politics and society today.

- N.D.B. Connolly, Johns Hopkins University
- Jeffrey Gould, Indiana University
- Mark Mazower, Columbia University
- Donna Murch, Rutgers University
- Guobin Yang, University of Pennsylvania
- Moderated by Casey Blake, Columbia University

Sunday, April 29
Location TBD

10:00 AM
Screening of “A Time to Stir,” (Directed by Paul Cronin)
A visual history of the 1968 uprisings at Columbia University.
This conference culminates a semester of activities related to the 50th anniversary of 1968 that include courses in multiple departments, a speaker and film series, and an exhibition in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Follow @1968CU on Twitter this semester as events unfold leading up to the explosive demonstrations in April and May with “live” reporting of this significant moment in Columbia University history. The series, which will feature a number of striking images that date to Spring 1968, showcases the impressive materials and resources in the University Archives, highlighting the history of political and social activism at Columbia.


March 6, 6pm, The Diana Center, Barnard College: “1968 and its Afterlives: Reflecting on Campus Activism Past, Present and Future” A panel discussion co-sponsored by The Barnard Archives and Barnard College Class of 1971.

March 19, 6pm, Faculty House: “A Time to Stir” Book Launch discussion and event with Ray Brown, Carolyn Eisenberg, Karla Spurlock-Evans, and Mark Rudd. Moderated by Paul Cronin.