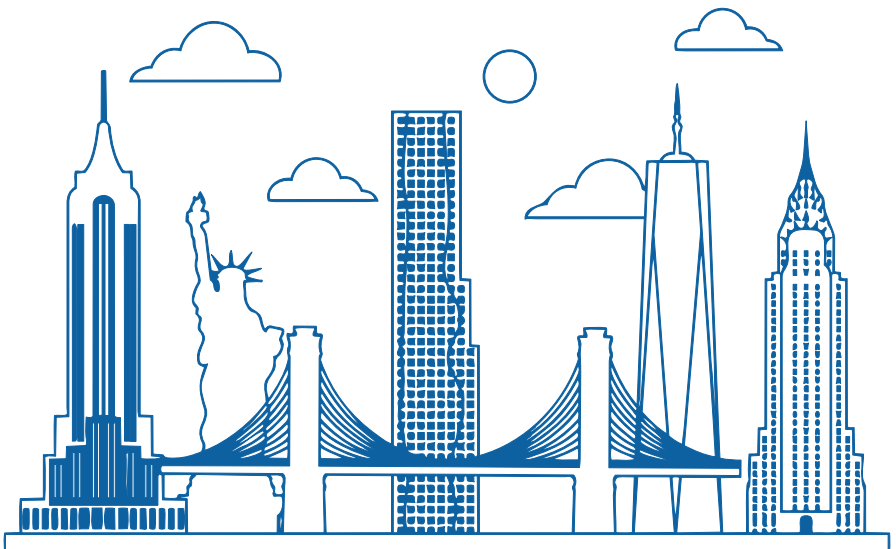




TRANSITIONS AND TRANSACTIONS VIII: ALGORITHMS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE CLASSROOM

April 17–18, 2026

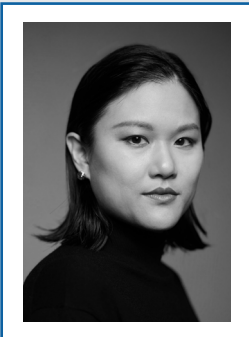


Keynote Speakers



Adam Kirsch

Adam Kirsch's book *The Revolt Against Humanity: Imagining a Future Without Us* (Columbia Global Reports 2022) calls our attention to a seemingly inconceivable topic: that the end of humanity's reign on earth is imminent, and that we should welcome it. Kirsch journeys through literature, philosophy, science, and popular culture to identify two strands of thinking: Anthropocene antihumanism says that our climate destruction has doomed humanity and we should welcome our extinction, while Transhumanism believes that genetic engineering and artificial intelligence will lead to new forms of life superior to humans. Kirsch's introduction of thinkers and writers from Roger Hallam to Jane Bennett, David Benatar to Nick Bostrom, Patricia MacCormack to Ray Kurzweil, Ian McEwan to Richard Powers, makes one see the current moment in a new light. Kirsch's other books include *The Global Novel: Writing the World in the 21st Century* and *On Settler Colonialism: Ideology, Violence, and Justice*. An editor of *The Wall Street Journal's* Weekend Review section, he also writes for *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, *The New Yorker*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Poetry Magazine*, and other publications.



Karen Hao

Karen Hao is a bestselling author and award-winning reporter covering the impacts of artificial intelligence on society. She was the first journalist to profile OpenAI and wrote a book, *Empire of AI*, about the company and its global implications, which became an instant *New York Times* bestseller. She writes for publications including *The Atlantic* and leads the Pulitzer Center's AI Spotlight Series, a program training journalists around the world on how to cover AI. She also sits on the AI advisory board of the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY. She was formerly a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, covering American and Chinese tech companies, and a senior editor for AI at *MIT Technology Review*. Her work is regularly taught in universities and cited by governments. She has received numerous accolades for her coverage, including an American Humanist Media Award and American National Magazine Award for Journalists Under 30. She received her Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from MIT.

T&T VIII Program

Friday, April 17th

3:00–3:10pm

Welcoming Remarks (Richard Harris Terrace, 2nd Floor, Main Building, 199 Chambers St.)

Margaret Barrow, Manya Steinkoler, T&T VIII, Co-Chairs, English Department, Jan Stahl, Department Chair, English, Yolanda Medina, Interim Associate Dean of Faculty, Liesl B. Jones, Interim Provost and Vice President Academic Affairs, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

3:10–4:00pm

Introduction of Keynote: Andrew Levy, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Keynote Speaker Adam Kirsch is an author, poet, and literary critic, and an editor of the *Weekend Review* section of *The Wall Street Journal*. His recent books include *The Revolt Against Humanity: Imagining a Future Without Us* (2023) and *On Settler Colonialism: Ideology, Violence, and Justice* (2024).

4:00–4:15pm

Question & Answer

4:20–5:20pm

Panel Session A (Concurrent Panels):

A1: Critical AI Literacy Institute: Developing Interventions for Teaching with and about Generative AI [Location: S-341, 3rd Floor]

Chair: Ken Levinson, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Laurie Hurson, Graduate Center, CUNY; Krystyna Michael, Hostos Community College, CUNY; Martha Nadell, Brooklyn College, CUNY; Luke Waltzer, Graduate Center, CUNY

A2: They Say / (A)I Say: Using ChatGPT in the Writing Process [Location: Hudson Room, 2nd Floor]

Chair: Aimee Record, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Domenick Acocella, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Katie Bockino, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Dylan Cometa, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; M Burns, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Vincent Hickey, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

A3: AI on Campus: A Student-Led Investigation into Learning, Integrity, and Innovation [Location: Richard Harris Terrace, 2nd Floor]

Chair: Maria Alvarez, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Aashna Anand, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY;

Qiyue Zhang, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Vassilisa Tellez, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Jerome Milton, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

A4: How AI Can Empower Success: Applied AI Ethics, Digital Equity, and Student Agency in Higher Education [Location: N-455, 4th Floor]

Chair: Holly Messitt, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Sean Stein Smith, Lehman College, CUNY; Andrew Gold, Lehman College, CUNY; Alexander Nunez-Torres, Lehman College, CUNY; Shane Snipes, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

A5: Students Forming Their Own Opinions on AI With First Year Composition Writing Skills [Location: N-490, 4th Floor]

Chair: Jungah Kim-Kiteishvili, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Melissa Coss Aquino, Bronx Community College, CUNY; Paris Croom, Bronx Community College, CUNY; Yulissa Breton, Bronx Community College, CUNY

6:00–8:00pm

Conference Reception at Poets House

(10 River Terrace, 5–10-minute walk from Main Building.)



Saturday, April 18th

9:00–9:30am

Breakfast (Richard Harris Terrace, 2nd Floor, Main Building, 199 Chambers St.)

9:25–9:30am

Introduction of Keynote: Margaret Barrow, T&T VIII, Co-Chair, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

9:30–10:15am

Keynote Speaker: Karen Hao is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI* (2025), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She is a *Wall Street Journal* foreign correspondent and a contributor to *The Atlantic*.

10:15–10:30am

Question & Answer

10:45–11:55am

Panel Session B (Concurrent Panels):

B1: Responsibility, Literacy, Advocacy [Location: S-341, 3rd Floor]

Chair: Margaret Barrow, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Jennifer Mason, University of Louisville, “Ownership in the Age of AI: Teaching Workflow Literacy as Student Leadership”; K.M. Belgian-Lewis, Ferris State University, “AI and Student Time Poverty in the Writing Classroom”; Sabretta G. Alford, Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College, CUNY, “AI as a Research Assistant, Not Replacement: Ethical, Guided, and Critical Uses of AI in Teaching Social Work Research Methods”

B2: Expert Pedagogy and Artificial Intelligence [Location: Hudson Room, 2nd Floor]

Chair: Jerome Wynter, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Forest Mars, Bronx Community College, CUNY and Edward Lehner, Bronx Community College, CUNY

B3: Roundtable: Talking Shop: A No Prep Roundtable [Location: Richard Harris Terrace, 2nd Floor]

Chair: Nancy Derbyshire, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Christa Baiada, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Trisha Brady, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Mike Odom, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Rifat Salam, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Elizabeth Weaver, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

B4: Counter (Artificial) Intelligence [Location: N-450, 4th Floor]

Chair: Manya Steinkoler, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Stacey DiLiberto, University of Central Florida, “Multi-modal Meaning-Making: Literature Assignments AI Can’t Write”; Guoshuai Zhang, St. John’s University, “Resisting Algorithmic Assimilation: Critical Literacy with Asian American Narratives in the AI Classroom”; Ximena Gallardo, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY, “Countering LLM Outsourcing Through In-Class Writing and Peer Teaching”

B5: Pedagogical Redesign [Location: N-490, 4th Floor]

Chair: Crystal Cunningham, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Presenters: Raymond Oenbring (**Zoom**) and S. Deniz Gokcora, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY, “Reimagining Student Academic Writing in the Age of AI”; William Blick, Queens Community College, CUNY, “Getting to Know You: AI Pedagogical Tools and Author-Centered Literature Assignments”

B6: Measured Pleasures: Desire and Its Limitations in the Literature Classroom [Location: N-468, 4th Floor]

Chair: David Bahr, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Presenters: Susan Arvay, Raritan Valley Community College, “Why Try? Cultivating Pleasure in Literary Study”; Stephanie Oppenheim, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY, “Once More with Feeling: What Can We Do That AI Can’t?”

12:00–1:00pm

Lunch (Richard Harris Terrace)

12:30–1:45pm

Featured Panel (Richard Harris Terrace)

AI and the Age of Shamelessness: Intellectual history examines the link between technological innovation and historic changes in human subjectivity. How might we think today about the link between our new technology, AI, and our “Age of Shamelessness”? This session explores how the shift from the wonder of a question to the satiety of an instant answer creates and is created by a frictionless shamelessness born from the negation of the “internalized Other” now replaced by the power and totality of the machine. This new “Other” is what Lacan would call an Other that does not lack, a fantasy of total and absolute power that socialization, now on the wane, is supposed to transform, keep in check or limit. What happens to the social link when the structural “gap” of subjectivity is consistently filled by a limitless interface, and the subject identifies with the new absolute power?

Chair: Andrew Levy, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Speakers: Manya Steinkoler, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Todd Dean, St. Louis private practice Psychiatrist, Psychoanalyst; Katherine Jenness, Psychoanalyst, Professor NYU Post-Doc; Ernesto Pezzi (Zoom), independent scholar, educator, art critic, Italy

2:00–3:00pm

Panel Session C (Concurrent Panels):

C1: ChatGPT, An Innovative Blessing or Existential Threat? A Duoethnography Between an English Student and a Technologist [Location: S-341, 3rd Floor]

Chair: Shoba Bandi-Rao, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Presenters: Anna Bogdanovich, California State University, Long Beach and Devery J. Rodgers, California State University, Long Beach

C2: Strategies for Thwarting or Integrating AI in the Online Writing & Literature Classroom [Location: Hudson Room, 2nd Floor]

Chair: Rochelle Rives, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Presenters: Abigail Michelini, Northampton Community College and Sarah Winstein-Hibbs, Northampton Community College

C3: AI in Other Disciplines: Law, Business, and Music [Location: Richard Harris Terrace, 2nd Floor]

Chair: Laura Hydak, Columbia University
Presenters: Lynn Lu, CUNY School of Law, “AI and Creative Legal Advocacy”; Banu Aslanertik, College of Staten Island, CUNY and Lucille and Jay Chazanoff School of Business Department of Accounting and Finance, “Integrating AI into Business Education: A Case Study of Initial Risk Assessment in Financial Audits using 10-K Reports”; Tom Zlabinger, York College, CUNY, “Jamming with the Ghost in the Machine: Using AI to Fill in for a Missing Musician”

C4: Welcoming Diversity: Not Conforming to White, Machinic, “Artificial Intelligence” (AI) Culture [Location: N-450, 4th Floor]

Chair: Jan Stahl, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Presenters: Rose M Kim, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY and Destiny Marshall, Hunter College, CUNY

C5: Augmentation or Automation? Maintaining an Authentic Writing Voice When Using A.I. [Location: N-490, 4th Floor]

Chair: Mike Odom, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Speakers: Marilyn Brock, Coastline College; Oceana Callum, Coastline College; Kristen Nichols, Coastline College; and Tremonisha Putros, Coastline College

3:15–4:30pm

Panel Session D (Concurrent Panels):

D1: From Literary Community to STEM Literacy: Joy, Writing, and New Pathways for Learning [Location: S-341, 3rd Floor]

Chair: Stephanie Oppenheim, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
Presenters: Nicollette Barsamian, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY and Cassandra Fiorentino, New York Department of Education; “Literature and Delight Through Reading and Writing in Community” Sebastian Alvarado, Queens College, CUNY, “Using AI to Lower the Barrier of Reading STEM Primary Literature”

D2: Ethical Dilemmas [Hudson Room, 2nd Floor]

Chair: Jennifer Marotta, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Carlos Hiraldo, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY, “The Writing Dilemma: AI, Equity, and Fundamental Skills”; Edgar Troutd, Hunter College, CUNY, “AI Ethics for Teachers”

D3: Student Perspectives on Gen-AI in Essay-Writing: An Open, Honest Conversation Between Professors and Students [Location: Richard Harris Terrace, 2nd Floor]

Chair: Mira Zaman, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Ozias Kafando, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Gyft Johnson, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY; Nadia Hall, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

D4: Imagining the AI Odyssey [Location: N-450, 4th Floor]

Chair: Dexter Jeffries, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Speakers: J. Paul Narkunas, John Jay College, CUNY, “Exploiting the Exploit: Speculative Fictions Against AI Dominance”; Jaime Chris Weida, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY, “‘I’m Sorry, Dave. I’m Afraid I Can’t Do That’: AI, Panic, and Fear in the Community College”; Gabriella Iacono, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY, “Process, Poetry, and Going Analogue in the Age of Generative AI”

D5: Authorship and Scholarly Publishing in the Age of Generative AI [Location: N-490, 4th Floor]

Chair: April Andres, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Presenters: Annastecia Ebisike, CUNY Graduate Center and Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY, and Damilola Olobaniyi, University of North Dakota

4:00–4:45pm

After the final session, we invite you to join us for a casual drink at Boss Tweed’s, a nearby spot, and continue the conversation in a relaxed setting.



TRANSITIONS AND TRANSACTIONS VIII:
ALGORITHMS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
AND THE CLASSROOM