Robert L. Hess

Scholar-in-Residence Program

Winona LaDuke

Robert L. Hess
Scholar in Residence
2020

Brooklyn College
The City University of New York
The Robert L. Hess Scholar-in-Residence Program, established by Brooklyn College, is supported by the Robert L. Hess Fund. The program serves as a permanent tribute to the scholarly commitment of Robert L. Hess, exemplified during his tenure as President of Brooklyn College. It represents the ideal of the educated individual—knowledgeable, thoughtful, inquiring, alive to the shared purposes and concerns linking all intellectual pursuits. More particularly, it evokes the scholarly and academic virtues embodied in the core curriculum at Brooklyn College, values that endure, no matter our circumstances.

The purpose of the program is to invite to the campus each year a distinguished individual representative of an academic discipline at the college, with the selection of such scholars being rotated through the disciplines. The distinction of the scholars in residence is based on their accomplishments and stature, not on their affiliation; they may be drawn from the academy, from the professions, or from public life. They must be able to speak to issues of their disciplines as well as significant issues of concern to the entire Brooklyn College community.

The scholar in residence engages in a variety of activities appropriate to the discipline, whether public lectures, performances, master classes, or guest lectures in undergraduate courses; participates in panels or symposia; and meets informally and socially with members of the faculty, students, alumni, and friends of Brooklyn College. Due to precautions against the novel coronavirus pandemic, all 2020 Hess Scholar-in-Residence events will take place online.

The scholar in residence is chosen by a committee composed of representatives of the Hess family, representatives of the major disciplines at the college, and such additional members as the college president may select. The committee is appointed by the Board of the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities.

The Brooklyn College Library has received the Ethiopian and African history collection from the library of Robert L. Hess. A portion of the Robert L. Hess Fund is set aside for the conservation and enhancement of this collection.

Tax-deductible contributions to the Brooklyn College Foundation, Inc./Robert L. Hess Fund may be sent to the Brooklyn College Foundation, Inc., 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11210-2889.

For more information about the Hess Scholar in Residence or the Wolfe Institute, email wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Monday, September 21

Native/Indigenous Studies, Here & Now: Conversation with Jaskiron Dhillon and Winona LaDuke


11 A.M.–12:15 P.M.

Office hours with Student Activists

1–2 P.M.

Tuesday, September 22

The I in BIPOC: Racial Justice and Indigenous People

Class visit with undergraduate students in SOCY 1101: Introduction to Sociology (Namita Manohar); ANTH 1100: Culture & Society (Rhea Rahman); AFST 3120: African American History through 1865 (Prudence Cumberbatch); and AMST 1010: American Identities (Esther Ritiau).

9:30–10:45 A.M.

Office hours with The Women’s and Gender Studies Program and The Women’s Center

12:30–1:30 P.M.

Civil Rights and Resistance: Uprisings for Planetary Justice

Panel discussion with anthropologist Christopher Loperena and sociocultural anthropologist Rhea Rahman, with undergraduate students in CLAS 2109: The Self and Society (Brian Sowers); WGST 3420: Gender and Society (Namita Manohar); ANTH 1100: Culture & Society (Naomi Schiller); ANTH 3120W: Ethnography (Rhea Rahman); and HIST 3472: American Dreams & Realities (Jocelyn Wills).

2:15–3:30 P.M.

Wednesday, September 23

Food Sovereignty & Public Health

Roundtable with Bowing to No One filmmaker Sarah K. Khan, East New York Farms! Market Manager & Outreach Coordinator Tiana Rainford, and Margrethe Horlyck-Romanovsky, Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences, and with undergraduate students in ANTH 2140: Anthropology of Food (Colin Pitet).

11 A.M.–12:15 P.M.

The Citizen Artist: Performing Resistance

Organized by Laura Tesman, Department of Theater, a panel addressing how theater artists address environmental and social issues in their work. Featuring theater faculty and alumni discussing the process of collaborative research and developing original short plays pressing social issues. With undergraduate students in PRLS 3315: Caribbean Literature (Rosamond S. King)

2:15–3:30 P.M.
Winona LaDuke

Winona LaDuke is a rural development economist and author working on issues of Indigenous Economics, Food, and Energy Policy. She lives and works on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota, and is the Executive Director of Honor the Earth (HtE). She co-founded HtE with the Indigo Girls as a platform to raise awareness and money for Indigenous struggles for environmental justice. She works nationally and internationally on the issues of climate change, renewable energy, and environmental justice alongside Indigenous communities. In her own community, she is the founder of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute, and Akiing: 8th Fire Project. She also runs Winona's Hemp and Heritage Farm. Globally and nationally, LaDuke is known as a leader in the issues of cultural-based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy, and sustainable food systems.

LaDuke's work on food systems includes: the creation of Native Harvest, the protection of wild rice (manoomin), and the promotion of food sovereignty for reservation communities. On her farm in northern Minnesota, she grows traditional varieties of corn, beans, squash, Jerusalem artichokes, melons, herbs, and tobacco. Her work on the restoration of traditional corn varieties has received significant support from the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education and a number of private foundations. She is one of the leaders in the work of protecting Indigenous plants and heritage foods from patenting and genetic engineering.

In 1994, LaDuke was nominated by Time magazine as one of America’s 50 most promising leaders under 40 years of age. She was awarded the Thomas Merton Award in 1996, Ms. Woman of the Year (with the Indigo Girls) in 1997, and the Reebok Human Rights Award, with which she began the White Earth Land Recovery Project. The White Earth Land Recovery Project has won many awards, including the prestigious 2003 International Slow Food Award for Biodiversity. A co-founder and Board Co-Chair of the Indigenous Women’s Network for 15 years, LaDuke maintains a significant role in international advocacy for Indigenous people. This includes numerous presentations at United Nations forums, and involvement in opposition to mega projects impacting Indigenous communities. By 2007, LaDuke was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame, recognizing her leadership and commitment to her community.

A graduate of Harvard and Antioch universities, she has written extensively on Native American and environmental issues. She also attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Community Fellows Program. She is the author of six books, including Recovering the Sacred, All Our Relations, Last Standing Woman, and her newest work, The Winona LaDuke Chronicles. She is widely recognized for her work on environmental and human rights issues.
**Hess Scholar in Residence Library Display**

An exhibit located in the main entrance of the Library featuring the works of Winona LaDuke and other Indigenous writers. Also includes archival material about Robert L. Hess, Brooklyn College President from 1979-1992, and noted scholar of Ethiopian History.

Curated by Professor and Librarian Helen Georgas

**Musical Selection for Robert L. Hess Memorial Lecture**

“Wood that Sings” by Brent Michael Davids (b. 1959)

Performed by Elena Ruiz, violin, student in the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music from the Studio of Professor Jesse Mills

Music and performer chosen by Professor Malcolm J. Merriweather, D.M.A., Brooklyn College Director of Choral Studies and Vocal Coordinator

Brent Michael Davids is an American composer and flautist. Davids is a member of the Stockbridge Munsee, Band of the Mohican Nation. He has composed for Zeitgeist, the Kronos Quartet, the Joffrey Ballet, the National Symphony Orchestra, and Chanticleer. In addition to concert music, Davids writes music for films. He composed music for the 2002 film The Business of Fancydancing and has composed a new score for the American 1920 film The Last of the Mohicans. In 2013, he was honored with a Native Arts and Culture Foundation Artist Fellowship in Music.

“Wood that Sings” is composed for solo violin with scordatura re-tuning of its low string, evoking the rhythms and refrains of the single-stringed Apache violin. The Western violin’s G string is tuned down to a low A in bass clef, creating the characteristic “buzzy” quality that spawned the Apache violin’s “buzzer” nickname. The work contains an Apache violin-like melody and the rhythms borrow from both the duple and triple beats of Indigenous songs.

**Teaching & Research Resources**

In order to help faculty formally integrate the Hess residency into their classes, and to enrich everyone interested in learning more about LaDuke's work and related topics, Brooklyn College Librarian Frans Albarillo, the Writing Across the Curriculum Fellows, and the Wolfe Institute have provided a number of resources. Essays, videos, assignments, and e-books related to Winona LaDuke and LAND, the 2019–2020 Wolfe theme, can be found at the Bibliography link on our website: libguides.brooklyn.cuny.edu/WolfeFA19SP20.

**The Robert Viscusi Faculty Reading Group**

Professor Conor Tomás Reed is leading the 2020 faculty reading group on the theme “Land, Decolonization, and the University,” focusing on Winona LaDuke’s Recovering the Sacred: The Power of Naming and Claiming with other selected readings. The group meets once a month, giving faculty an opportunity for informal, on-campus intellectual engagement. It will meet both before and after the Hess Scholar in Residence; to join the reading group, or to receive information about future events, email wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

**In Memory of Robert Viscusi (1941–2020)**

Since its foundation in 1993 through his retirement in 2019, the Robert L. Hess Scholar-in-Residence Program was chaired and organized by Professor Robert Viscusi, the late director of the Wolfe Institute. On January 19, 2020, Professor Viscusi passed away after 51 extraordinary years of service to Brooklyn College. A knowledgeable and spirited conversationalist, Bob's colleagues and students remember him with high regard. Fondly remembered as a poet and a novelist, Bob's publications include An Oration Upon the Recent Death of Christopher Columbus (Bordighera Press, 1993); A New Geography of Time (Guernica, 2004); the epic poem in 52 books Ellis Island (Bordighera, 2011); as well as his seminal contribution to the world of Italian-American Studies, Astoria: A New Geography of Time (Guernica, 1995); Buried Caesars, and Other Secrets of Italian American Writing (SUNY Press, 2006); and as editor-in-chief of the English translation, Italoamericana: The Literature of the Italian Migration, 1880–1943 (Fordham UP, 2013).

Robert Viscusi was at the nexus of intellectual endeavors at Brooklyn College. His legacy and contributions are beyond measure, and include a never-ending list of luminaries he invited to campus. With respect and gratitude, this year's iteration of the Robert L. Hess Scholar-in-Residence Program is dedicated to the memory of Robert Viscusi.

**Land Acknowledgement**

Brooklyn College sits on unceded territory stolen from the Canarsee and the Nyack, subgroups of the indigenous Lenape people. That ongoing theft, along with the stolen blood and work of enslaved Africans, facilitates our presence. We pay our respects to elders past, present, and future who have stewarded this land. We recognize the hundreds of Indigenous Nations who continue to resist and uphold their sacred culture. We know that this acknowledgement is neither sufficient nor complete, but is part of a process of learning to become more thoughtful and respectful. It is our wish for a deeper incorporation of Indigenous and Native American cultures, philosophies, and peoples into the curriculum, faculty, student body, and staff of Brooklyn College, in line with our mission to provide a transformative, distinctive education to the whole people of New York City.
Hess Scholar-in-Residence Selection Committee

Carl Hess  
Frans Albarillo  
Kelly Britt  
Rosamond S. King  
Sonia Murrow  
Erika Niwa  
Brian Sowers

Planning Committee

Rebecca Boger  
Kelly Britt  
Benjamin Carp  
Chia-ju Chang  
Joseph Entin  
Namulundah Florence
Margrethe Horlyck-Romanovsky  
Rosamond S. King, chairperson  
Michael Menser  
Malcolm Merriweather  
Rhea Rahman  
Brian Sowers  
Laura Tesman  
Emily Tumpson Molina

Robert L. Hess Scholars in Residence

Vartan Gregorian, 1993–1994  
Daniel Miller, 2000–2001  
Robin D.G. Kelley, 2001–2002  
Agnieszka Holland, 2005–2006  
Marc Shell, 2007–2008  
Eleanor J. Sterling, 2009–2010  
Sean Wilentz, 2012–2013  
Thomas Frank, 2014–2015  
John L. Jackson, Jr., 2016–2017  
Edwidge Danticat, 2017–2018  
José David Saldivar, 2018–2019