New York University
Multinational Institute of American Studies
Institute on U.S. Culture and Society

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**Ester Fuchs**, Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science, Columbia University. She served as Special Advisor to the Mayor for Governance and Strategic Planning under New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg from 2001-2005. While at City Hall, Dr. Fuchs coordinated three significant mayoral initiatives: the restructuring the City's delivery of Out-of-School Time (OST) programs to children, youth, and families; the Integrated Human Services System Project (Access New York) to streamline the screening and eligibility determination processes, case management, and policy development and planning functions within and across the 13 human services agencies through the use of technology; and the merger of the Department of Employment with the Department of Small Business Services to align the City's workforce development programs with the needs of the business community. Dr. Fuchs was also appointed by Mayor Bloomberg to serve as Chair of the 2005 NYC Charter Revision Commission. She was the first woman to serve in this capacity. Before going on a public service leave to
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Hal Himmelstein, Professor of Television and Radio at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York and Director of the Center for the Study of World Television. Professor Himmelstein has published in the areas of television myth and ideology, television advertising, political communication, intercultural broadcasting, and video art. His book on the state of American television criticism *On The Small Screen*, published by Praeger in 1981, was chosen as Outstanding Academic Book in Mass Communication, 1981-82 by *Wide Angle, The Journal of Film and Video, The Encyclopedia of Television, Almanac: The Annual of the International Council of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences*, and numerous anthologies. He appeared as a frequent guest on the
PBS television series All About TV. Other guest appearances include ABC World News Now, MSNBC's At Issue, Fox News, Australia's ABC National Radio, and Italy's RAI television network. He was a Fulbright Research Scholar at the University of Helsinki in 1990, and Visiting Professor, Institute of Television and Radio, Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yleisradio) in Spring 1991. From 1990-92 he served on the editorial board of Critical Studies in Mass Communications. He has lectured extensively abroad in Russia, Finland, and Sweden.

**Galen Kirkland**, Director of Program Development, New York State Attorney General's Office, and former Executive Director of New York Civil Liberties Coalition and of Advocates for Children. He has served as a leader on teams that have addressed various problems in New York State, including a school anti-violence initiative, a neighborhood watch initiative, and action taken against illegal pricing of cancer medicines. Drawing on his previous experience as Vice President of the West Harlem Community Organization, a leader in the development of affordable housing, he also took an active role in action taken against fraud involving federal housing.

**Karen Kupperman**, Silver Professor, History, NYU. Her major interests are in early modern Atlantic world, colonization, Native American history. She is the author of six books, including The Jamestown Project and Roanoke: The Abandoned Colony, and numerous scholarly articles and book chapters. Among her many awards are The American Historical Association Prize in Atlantic History, the Albert J. Beveridge Award of the American Historical Association for the best book in American History, including Canada and Latin America, the Binkley-Stephenson Award of the Organization of American Historians.

**Herbert London**, President, Hudson Institute, and former John M. Olin University Professor of Humanities at New York University. His work has appeared in every major newspaper and journal in the country, including such diverse publications as Commentary, National Review, American Spectator, The Wall Street Journal, Fortune, The Washington Times, New York Magazine, New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, Modern Age, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Orbis, and Encounter. Among his eighteen books are: Myths That Rule America; Military Doctrine and the American Character; and Decade of Denial; A Strategy for Victory without War. London serves as a board member for a number of groups, including International Transportation Systems, Merrill Lynch Asset Management, and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

**Joan Malin**, Chief Executive Officer, Planned Parenthood of NYC. Prior to her appointment as President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of New York City, Ms. Malin served for four years as chief executive of the Bowery Residents' Committee (BRC), a multi-service agency with an annual client base of over 4,000. A veteran of three New York City mayoral administrations, she has overseen the delivery of home care and protective services for adults, managed the City's senior citizens centers, and worked extensively to address the needs of the City's homeless population. She last served the City as Commissioner of Homeless Services.
Courtney Martin, author, writer and speaker. She has lectured on her award-winning first book, *Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters: How the Quest for Perfection is Harming Young Women*, at over 50 universities throughout the nation. She is also an editor at Feministing.com, the most widely read feminist publication in the world, and a Senior Correspondent for *The American Prospect*, where she has a column on politics, gender, and youth. 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 and a residency from the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Centre. More about her work is available at www.courtneyemartin.com.

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Gabriel Moran, Professor, Philosophy of Education, NYU. He is the author of 19 books and numerous essays in edited collections, among which are: *Experiences in Community; Religious Education Development; No Ladder to the Sky: Morality and Education; Uniqueness: Problem or Paradox in Jewish and Christian Traditions; A Grammar of Responsibility; "Is a Workable Ethic of Non-violence Possible?" International Seminar on Religious and Values; and "Religion and International Ethics," *Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education*. He has also published 200 articles in such publications as *Commonwealth America, Theological Studies, Cross Current*, and *Education Week*.

Terence P. Moran, Professor of Culture and Communication at New York University for forty years. The co-editor (with Neil Postman and Charles Weingartner) of Language in America, he is the author of numerous articles on language, media and propaganda in both academic and popular publications. He is also a writer and/or producer of documentaries on such diverse subjects as career women in New York City (*City Originals: Women Making It Work, 1994*), the conflict in Northern Ireland (*Sons of Derry, 1993*), and the cultural history of McSorley's Old Ale House (*McSorley's New York, 1987*), for which he shared a New York Area Emmy Award for Outstanding Arts/Cultural/Historical Programming.

Jonathan Nosan, actor and producer. A professional contortionist and stuntman, he is a member of Anti-Gravity, a performance group that has performed all over the world, including the 2002 Winter Olympics. He has made many television and film appearances in major motion pictures such as *Spiderman 2* and *Big Fish*. He made his Broadway debut in a major role in *The Times They Are A-Changing*, a Twyla Tharp musical inspired by the music of Bob Dylan.

Robert Perry, Director, Legislative Department, New York Civil Liberties Union. The NYCLU is dedicated to defending and promoting the fundamental principles and values embodied in the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution, and the New York Constitution, including freedom of speech and religion, and the right to privacy, equality and due process of law for all New Yorkers. As its principal lobbyist, Perry took a leading role in the NYCLU's successful efforts to create an independent Civilian Complaint Review Board, and, most recently, has undertaken a media campaign against National Security Association's domestic surveillance program.


Stacy Pies, Professor, Gallatin School, NYU. Stacy Pies teaches courses that explore the role of narrative and culture in texts and human relationships, as well as courses


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Marita Sturken, Professor and Department Chair, Media, Culture, and Communication. Professor Sturken’s work focuses on the relationship of cultural memory to national identity and issues of visual culture. She is the author of Tangled Memories: The Vietnam War, the AIDS Epidemic, and the Politics of Remembering (California, 1997), Thelma & Louise (British Film Institute, 2000), Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture (with Lisa Cartwright, Oxford, 2001, Second Edition, 2009), and co-editor, with Douglas Thomas and Sandra Ball-Rokeach, of Technological Visions: The Hopes and Fears that Shape New Technology (Temple, 2004). Her writings have been published in a number of journals, including Representations, Public Culture, History and Theory, and Afterimage. She is the former editor of American Quarterly, the journal of the American Studies Association. She teaches courses on cultural studies, popular culture, advertising, and global culture. Her most recent book is Tourists of History: Memory, Consumerism, and Kitsch in American Culture, Duke University Press, 2007.

Ida Torres, President of Local 3 of the union, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. Awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law from Queens College CUNY, in 2000, Torres began as a telephone operator for Local 231 UOPWA. She was elected Secretary-Treasurer Local 3 in 1984, and President in 1998. She has received numerous awards from such organizations as the National Organization of Women, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, and the Black Trade Unionists Leadership Committee. She also received the AFL-CIO Distinguished Services Award.

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Lawrence L. Wu, Professor of Sociology at New York University and Director, Center for Advanced Social Science Research. Lawrence Wu has been at NYU since 2003, and was previously Chair of the Department of Sociology (2003-2006). He has served on the faculty at the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1988-2003) and Princeton University (1986-1988). During academic year 2001-2002, he was a visiting faculty member in the Department of Sociology at Yale University and a visiting scholar at the Institute for Social and Economic Policy and Research, Columbia University. While at the University of Wisconsin, he was an affiliate of the Center for Demography and Ecology (1988-2003), the Institute for Research on Poverty (1991-2003), and served as Associate Chair of the Department of Sociology (1994-1997). Wu is a recognized authority on nonmarital fertility, and his research in this area has received funding from NICHD, NSF, the William T. Grant Foundation, and ASPE.

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leading roles at The Longwharf Theatre, The McCarter Theatre, Sundance, Hartford Stage, Seattle Rep, Berkshire Theatre Festival, New York Stage & Film and the Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival, working with such directors as Nycholas Hytner, Daniel Sullivan, Emily Mann, Mark Lamos and Jon Jory. Film credits include *The Next Best Thing, Object of My Affection, Malcolm X, Danny, Mystic Pizza, Without a Trace,* and *Square Root of Three.* She has guest starred in over twenty television shows and has directed *The Slope,* a pilot presentation for CBS.

**Matthew Zeidenberg,** Senior Research Associate at the Community College Research Center, Institute on Education and the Economy, Teachers College, Columbia University. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science and a Ph.D. in Sociology, both from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He has a B.A. in Physics from Harvard. His sociology Ph.D. dissertation addressed trends in federal civil litigation; his C.S. Ph.D. concerned improved methods of searching the Web. Matt came to CCRC from the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, where he worked on many projects involving regional labor markets and the status of workers. Most recently, with collaborators Marc Scott of NYU and Pablo Mitnik of Wisconsin, he has been involved in research on various aspects of workers' careers, with particular attention to prospects for advancement in various industries and to the determinants of increases in wages over the course of a worker's career.

**Jonathan Zimmerman,** Professor, History of Education and History, and Department Chair, Humanities and Social Sciences, New York University. He also holds an appointment in the Department of History of NYU’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. A former Peace Corps volunteer and high school teacher, Zimmerman is the author of *Small Wonder: The Little Red Schoolhouse in History and Memory* (Yale, 2009), *Innocents Abroad: American Teachers in the American Century* (Harvard, 2006), *Whose America? Culture Wars in the Public Schools,* (Harvard, 2002), and *Distilling Democracy: Alcohol Education in America's Public Schools, 1880-1925* (Kansas, 1999). His academic articles have appeared in the *Journal of American History,* the *Teachers College Record,* and *History of Education Quarterly.* Zimmerman is also a frequent op-ed contributor to the *New York Times,* the *Washington Post,* the *New Republic,* and other popular newspapers and magazines.
Richard Rorty is remarkable not just for being a gadfly to analytical philosophers, but for his immense reading, his lively prose and his obvious moral engagement with the issues. The conversation of philosophy would be much poorer without him. Achieving Our Country is a valuable addition to Rorty’s writings. Rorty proposes a return to the liberal values that animated American reform movements for the first two-thirds of this century: from the long struggle of labor unions to obtain better conditions for workers, to the efforts of leaders like Woodrow Wilson, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson to redistribute the nation’s wealth more equitably.

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For the Love of Perfection examines Richard Rorty’s pragmatist philosophy for thinking about the aims and means of social change. Usually his interpretations are not entirely incorrect, just a little off-kilter. In his attempts to argue for the value of ‘literature’ for social change, we find a few different arguments: 1) his appeals to rather didactic readings of novels, which, he says, illustrate central tensions in liberal democracies; 2) his claims that novelists and anthropologists are the ‘connoisseurs of diversity’ who help ‘us’ recognise those who are marginalised as part of the enlarged embrace.