

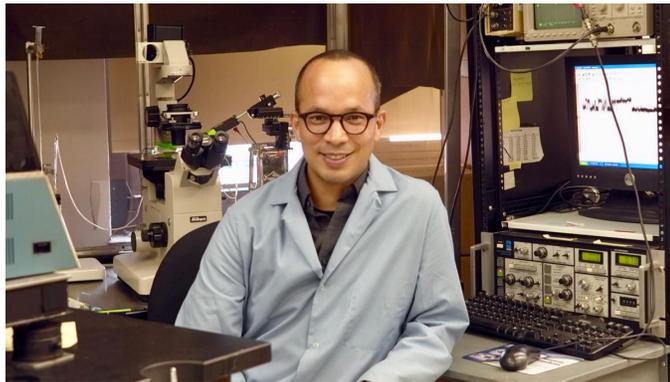
September 4, 2020

## Weissman Professor Awarded \$ 1.4 million NIH Grant

**Pablo Peixoto**, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Natural Sciences at the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences at Baruch College, was awarded a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant will fund Professor Peixoto's research into how neurons adapt to frequently changing levels of activity.

The rewiring of the human brain as a result of physical or emotional trauma, represents one example of the way in which neurons are reshaped in a process referred to as synaptic plasticity, explained Professor Peixoto.

"This award is further proof of the excellence and potential of our research environment at Baruch College. I am grateful to my students and colleagues at the Department of Natural Sciences. As for the research itself, aside from its broader impacts, what most excites me is that we get to combine really cool tools like optogenetics, electrophysiology, and super-resolution fluorescence microscopy to tackle even cooler questions," said Professor Peixoto. [Read more.](#)



## Weissman Biology Student Virtually Interns In Climate Action Project

Despite the virtual lifestyle imposed on New Yorkers by the COVID19 pandemic, twelve (12) CUNY students were able to participate in an internship focused on improving the ecological environment of New York City. Among the students who participated in the virtual internship with The Natural Areas Conservancy was Baruch College Weissman School senior, **Darius LaFond**, who is a biology major with a minor in environmental sciences. LaFond said this is his

second year participating in this internship, and while the interns could interact with the actual sites last year, this time he gained different but useful skills.



"Because this year it was mostly online, it kind of helped me with the data management and more computer skills," said LaFond, "And I think it would help me in the future because, well there are going to be times where I wouldn't be able to actually physically go out into the field and do research, so I would have to know how to use the data that I've been given to make a guess about what is going to happen." [Read More in the Gotham Gazette article by Melissa Lent.](#)

## Fall 2020 Visiting Scholars

### Ratner Distinguished Visiting Business Journalist

Nationally known for covering labor and workplace issues, **Steven Greenhouse** was a reporter for the New York Times for 31 years, spending his last 19 years there as the Times' labor and workplace reporter, before retiring from the paper in December 2014.

The [Ratner Distinguished Visiting Business Journalist Program](#), launched in 2013 invites a distinguished business journalist to Baruch College's Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions each semester. Created with a gift from real estate developer Forest City Ratner Companies and its founder and executive chairman Bruce Ratner, the program enables journalists to spend one week in residence with students and faculty, speaking in classes, mentoring students and meeting with the staff of Dollars & Sense, the department's award-winning online magazine. [Read more about Steven Greenhouse here.](#)

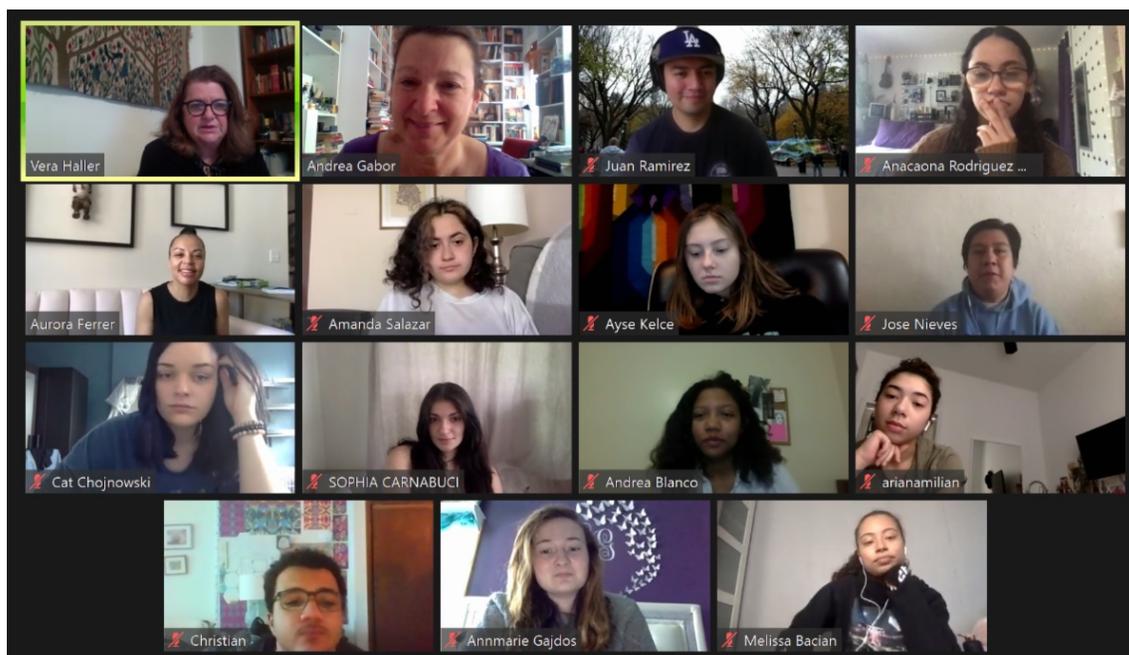
### Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence - Xiaolu Guo

Baruch College Weissman School of Arts and Sciences welcomes the acclaimed international award-winning novelist, essayist, screenwriter and film maker Xiaolu Guo, the 2020 Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence.

"We're privileged and honored to have Xiaolu Guo as our next Harman Writer-in-Residence. She is a person of extraordinary fortitude, as her award-winning memoir *Nine Continents* attests, and both a writer and a filmmaker -- which makes her something of a first for the Harman program. She is also the first Harman writer to have grown up in China, a country she left at age 30. Although circumstances dictate a distance learning model, her students are going to have an unforgettable semester", commented Esther Allen, professor and director of the Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence program.

[Read more about Xiaolu Guo here.](#)

## Pandemic Communications Tool: How Zoom Affects Learning



**Andrea Gabor**, Baruch College Bloomberg Chair of Business Journalism and **Vera Haller**, associate professor of Journalism wrote an opinion article discussing how Zoom

classes can keep students engaged. The article, featured in [The Hechinger Report](#) offers insight on this national issue.

Zoom photo by: Andrea Gabor

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## News Highlights

### Has Volunteering Changed in the United States?

**Susan M. Chambré**, professor emerita of Sociology, was featured in *The University of Chicago Press Journals* for her article titled "Has Volunteering Changed in the United States? Trends, Styles, and Motivations in Historical Perspective". [Read more here.](#)

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### The Future of the Academic Work Force

*Chronicle of Higher Education Online*

Aug 30, 2020

[...Breakdown of How Trust Administrators must stop imitating CEOs. By Rafael Walker Shared tragedy either sutures communities or sunders them....](#)

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### Unveiling the Russian Piano History, A Treasured Legacy

**Anne Swartz**, professor of Music and Chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Baruch College Weissman School of Arts and Sciences was cited in the [Wall Street Journal, July 31 weekend edition review, entitled "Ivories in the Snow."](#) The article reviewed the new book by Sophy Roberts *The Lost Pianos of Siberia*. The review cited Professor Swartz's book on Russian pianos, "Piano Makers in Russia in the Nineteenth Century (published in 2014) which was used as the authors' reference bible for the new book.

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### Africa is the Future

**Alaina Feldman**, Director of the Mishkin Gallery, published an article in [this weeks edition of Contemporary And](#), discussing how *Africa is the Future*, a four part film, radically challenges the ways in which the continent's past, present, and future are depicted and how its entanglement with the world is portrayed.

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### "Letters from Academia: Ideas for Reforming Higher Education and Other Essays"

**Dr. Aldemaro Romero Jr.**, professor in Department of Natural Sciences, recently published a book ["Letters from Academia: Ideas for Reforming Higher Education and Other Essays"](#), a collection of essays about Higher Education, its problems and solutions.

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### *Archaeologies of Empire: Local Participants and Imperial Trajectories*

**Anna Lucille Boozer**, associate professor in the Department of History at Baruch College and in the [Anthropology Program at the Graduate Center](#), released her new book this month titled ["Archaeologies of Empire: Local Participants and Imperial Trajectories"](#) (SAR Press). The book was co-edited with Bleda Düring and Bradley Parker.

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## Opportunities for Faculty

- [Fulbright US Scholar Program- Deadline 9/15/2020](#)
- [Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation Invites Applications for New ERA Women Writers](#)

[Program- Deadline: Rolling](#)

- [National Geographic Invites Applications for COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Journalists- Deadline: Rolling](#)

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