

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## Emeritus Professors in Columbia

### EPIC News and Events

Visit our Website

#### *From the President's Desk*

Who says you can't teach old dogs new tricks? Tomorrow EPIC will launch its first live online session of Tuesday Talk speaker Professor Andrew Gelman, Columbia biostatistician and political scientist, as well as frequent *New York Times* contributor. He'll be helping us sort through what polls can and cannot tell us.

[Click here to read his New York Times post "What Too Close to Call Really Means."](#)

Several members of the EPIC community are already up-and-running with Adobe Connect, the software we will use for meeting online. Thank you School for Professional Studies and Michael Fleming, Director, Offering Support, for facilitating EPIC's online presence.

So, if you can't make it to Faculty House on January 24th - don't despair. [Send us an email](#) and we'll help you get Adobe Connect onto your computer, tablet or even smartphone. It should only take a few minutes. Remember online participants are not just observers – the system lets you see and be seen, as well as interact with the speaker and participants. For those who are able to be at Faculty House, please think about continuing the discussion at the reduced rate luncheon buffet after the talk. It's always an enjoyable and interesting time. Guests are welcome.

Also mark your calendars for next Thursday's first Graduate Student talk. You can keep track of all these events on EPIC's nifty new website with its [online calendar](#), where you can also find links to other interesting Columbia activities and resources. Soon your grandchildren won't know that much more about the web than you do! Well, on second thought, I know I have a lot of catching up to do!

Have a good day!

Jeanne Mager Stellman, President, EPIC  
Professor Emerita & Special Lecturer  
Mailman School of Public Health

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### **Tuesday, January 24 "19 Things We Learned from the 2016 Election"**

Join us for the first Tuesday Talk of the Spring 2017 semester on January 24. [Professor Andrew Gelman](#) (Statistics and Political Science) will review various theories current in political science and political reporting, and where they stand, now that this turbulent political year is drawing to a close.

[Please click here to read a related post on Professor Gelman's blog.](#)

Andrew Gelman is director of the Applied Statistics Center at Columbia University. He has received the Outstanding Statistical Application award from the



Professor Gelman's research topics include: why it is rational to vote; why campaign polls are so variable when elections are so predictable; why redistricting is good for democracy; reversals of death sentences; police stops in New York City; the statistical challenges of estimating small effects; the probability that an individual's vote will be decisive; seats and votes in Congress; social network

American Statistical Association, the award for best article published in the American Political Science Review, and the Council of Presidents of Statistical Societies award for outstanding contributions by a person under the age of 40. His books include Bayesian Data Analysis (with John Carlin, Hal Stern, David Dunson, Aki Vehtari, and Don Rubin), Teaching Statistics: A Bag of Tricks (with Deb Nolan), Data Analysis Using Regression and Multilevel/Hierarchical Models (with Jennifer Hill), Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do (with David Park, Boris Shor, and Jeronimo Cortina), and A Quantitative Tour of the Social Sciences (co-edited with Jeronimo Cortina).

structure; arsenic in Bangladesh; radon in your basement; toxicology; medical imaging; and methods in surveys, experimental design, statistical inference, computation, and graphics.

Alternate Tuesday Talks address topics across the academic spectrum as well as issues of particular importance to the retired academic community.

Attendees can continue their discussions in the Faculty Club, at a special EPIC reduced rate.

**Guests welcome**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Faculty House, 1754 Board Room**

[Please click here for map.](#)

RSVP

## **Thursday, February 2** **"Geology, History, and Native** **Americans in Sarah Orne Jewett's** **Fiction"**

[Vesna Kuiken](#), Ph.D., Department of English and Comparative Literature kicks off the Spring 2017 First Thursdays Graduate Student Talk series on February 2.

Dr. Kuiken defended her dissertation, *Active Enchantments: Form, Nature and Politics in American Literature*, in 2015.

First Thursday Graduate Student Talks are scheduled on the first Thursday of each month during the academic year. They provide advanced Ph.D. candidates and recent graduates an opportunity to make a generalist presentation on their research to a cross-disciplinary audience ready to listen carefully and ask good questions. EPIC members help give the Ph.D. students a useful learning experience and at the same time learn about something that may be well beyond their own scholarly interests.



**12:15-2:00 p.m.**

**Ward H. Dennis room**  
**602 Lewisohn Hall**

**Complimentary lunch provided**

**Guests welcome.**

[Please click here for map](#)

RSVP

## **On EPIC's Horizon**

**Tuesday Talks**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Faculty House**

**February 7:** Richard N. Pierson, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Clinical Medicine: "How Can Emeriti Contribute to the Students and Faculty of Columbia Now?"

**February 21:** Eric Heyer, M.D., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Anesthesiology and Neuroscience, "Can Statins Protect against Cognitive Loss after Surgery?"

**First Thursday Graduate Student Talks**  
**12:15 - 2:00 p.m., 602 Lewisohn Hall**

**February 2:** Vesna Kuiken, Ph.D. (2015), Department of English and Comparative Literature: "Geology,

History, and Native Americans in Sarah Orne Jewett's Fiction"

**March 2:** Natalie Brito, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Sackler Institute Parent-Infant Project (CUMC), "Early Environmental Experience and Neurocognitive Development"

**April 6:** Maeve Sterbenz, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Music: "The Effect of Music-Movement Interactions on the Perception of Ballet–The Case of the "Rose Adagio" in Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty.

## Office of Work/Life Spring Workshops

Columbia's Office of Work/Life has announced its Spring 2017 workshop schedule, which includes sessions that may be of interest to retirees. Registration is requested. [Please visit the Work/Life website to register and find additional details.](#)

**Tuesday, April 25, 12:00-1:30**

### **Establishing and Retaining Legal Control Over Important Life Decisions**

Do you wonder if you should have a living will? Have you thought about creating a trust for your children? If one of your older loved ones were ill, would you know his or her treatment preferences? Does your family know your wishes if you were ever unable to advocate for yourself legally or medically?

These important questions can have significant impact on the lives of you and your family. The best ways to make sure that your wishes (and your loved ones' wishes) are followed are through heart-to-heart conversations and having the appropriate legal documents in order.

Following this seminar, participants will be better able to:

- Understand the legal tools available
- Discuss these legal matters with their loved ones
- Access information on relevant local and state laws

Location: Columbia University, Morningside Campus, Low Library, Trustees Room 212

Presenter: Facilitator from Humana/HRI (Columbia University's Employee Assistance Program)

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