

**2014 Annual Conference**

Friday March 21, 2014

# Has the Brooklyn Waterfront Gone Global – Again?

The Old Courtroom in Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street



**A Half-Day Symposium  
Investigating the Global Reach of the  
Recent Changes along the Brooklyn Waterfront**

**A conference presented by:**

**BWRC** Brooklyn  
Waterfront  
Research Center  
New York City College of Technology



University  
Transportation  
Research Center  
City College of New York

**Additional support offered by:**



---

### **Planning Committee**

Nadia Aslam, UTRC  
Jeremiah Cox, BWRC  
Adam Davidson, BWRC  
Penny Eickemeyer, UTRC  
Richard Hanley, BWRC  
Camille Kamga, UTRC  
Robin Michals, BWRC  
Sean Scanlan, BWRC

And the Living Lab at City Tech

Conference program edited by Sean Scanlan with design assistance from Adam Davidson and Jeremiah Cox; cover photo by Robin Michals

---

## **The Concept**

### **Has the Brooklyn Waterfront Gone Global—Again?**

From the early nineteenth century, the Brooklyn waterfront played a role on the global stage. It was there that shipping, warehousing, commodity imports, manufactured exports, and distribution all met in a confluence of languages and industries whose energies and forces created a lasting influence felt around the world. In the early twentieth century, Brooklyn, now part of Greater New York City, was still globally pivotal with its shipping, manufacturing, and distribution capabilities. In fact, in 1940, the *New York Times* would boast that along the Brooklyn waterfront, “The European war has increased both export and import business and the freight volume has risen particularly in the South American field, where operators reported figures 50 and 60 per cent higher than those of a year ago.” When the United States entered World War II in 1941, shipbuilding in the Brooklyn Navy Yard was accounting for 75,000 jobs and other waterfront industries in Brooklyn accounted for many more.

However, beginning in the 1960s, New York City in general, and the Brooklyn waterfront, in particular, started losing manufacturing, shipping, and warehousing and all of the jobs, economic vitality, and global reach associated with those industries. Various forces were responsible for these losses, but the development of containerization was perhaps the most profound. Brooklyn did not possess the land and infrastructure necessary to serve shipping containers and the sites along Brooklyn’s industrial waterfront (as well as the adjacent neighborhoods) began to shrivel, and for over a generation the waterfront housed derelict buildings and remained inaccessible to the public.

The Brooklyn waterfront is no longer in that condition. While there has been rejuvenation, and while people, (some) jobs, and (some) industries have returned to the Brooklyn waterfront, those people, jobs, and industries are different. The question that we are exploring today is whether these people, jobs, and industries, like those of old, are once again placing Brooklyn on the global stage. If so, how is that happening? In what ways are current developments along the Brooklyn waterfront having a global reach? And how is that global reach similar to and different from what it once was?

Today's presenters will first provide a context of the Brooklyn waterfront's rich industrial history and how and why that industry disappeared. Investigating whether Brooklyn once again has a place on the global stage and exploring the nature of that place will be the focus of our two panels.

## Program Schedule

### Part I: Presentations

#### 8:00-8:30

*Registration and Continental Breakfast*

#### 8:30-9:00

*Welcoming Remarks*

Russell K. Hotzler, president, City Tech

Camille Kamga, director, UTRC

Richard Hanley, director, BWRC

#### 9:00-9:20

*Presentation: Slavery, Trade, and the Brooklyn Waterfront*, by Prithi Kanakamedala, curator of the Brooklyn Historical Society's current Brooklyn Abolitionists exhibit

#### 9:20-9:40

*Presentation: The Industrial Age along the Brooklyn Waterfront*, by Mary Habstritt, industrial and maritime historian and founder of the Historic Ships Coalition

#### 9:40-10:00

*Presentation: What Container Ships and Other Forces Did to the Brooklyn Waterfront*, by Marc Levinson, author of the award winning *The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger*

#### 10:00-10:20

*Presentation: Overview of the Renaissance of the Brooklyn Waterfront*, by Michael Marrella, director of waterfront and open space planning, NYC Department of City Planning

**Refreshment Break—10:20-10:40**

**Part II:** *Is the Brooklyn Waterfront Once Again Global? If so, How and Why?*  
Moderator for panels, Roland Lewis (Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance)

**10:45-11:20**

**Panel I: Enterprises**

Thomas Epting (Uncommon Goods)

Thomas Outerbridge (SIMS Metal Management Municipal Recycling)

Christopher Tepper (Industry City)

Alan Washington (Downtown Brooklyn Partnership)

**11:25-12:00**

**Panel II: Institutions**

Andrew Genn (New York City Economic Development Corporation)

John Liantonio (The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey)

Regina Myer (Brooklyn Bridge Park)

Elizabeth Yeampierre (Uprose)

**12:00-12:15**

*Summing Up: The Future—Climate Change, Sea-Level Rise, and What Else?* by Philip Orton, assistant research professor, Stevens Institute of Technology

## Biographies

### Organizers



**Camille Kamga** is currently the director of the federally supported University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) and an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at the City College of New York (CCNY). A consortium of 19 major U.S. academic institutions, UTRC asserts a significant role in the region and nationally, conducting research and projects on surface transportation, carrying out training and educational programs and actively disseminating the results of its work. It is one of the few such centers in the U.S. with a concentration in public transportation operations, policy, and management. Dr. Kamga oversees the Center activities and works closely with federal, regional, and state transportation planning and policy organizations. He also serves as member of the Board of Directors of the Intelligent Transportation Society of NY—a professional group providing education and outreach to foster the understanding of ITS applications and technologies.

He holds a PhD in Civil Engineering from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, specializing in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). He is the 2006 recipient of the National Pikarsky Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Science and Technology from the Council of University Transportation Center. His doctoral thesis was on the topic of “Estimation of Network Based Incident Delay in a Transportation Network Using Dynamic Traffic Assignment.” In addition to his research and administrative duties, Dr. Kamga has participated—and is currently participating—in numerous transportation-related projects at UTRC. Dr. Kamga’s research interests are modeling transportation networks, analysis of very large transportation networks, and application of technology for transportation. Dr. Kamga is currently the principal investigator of many research projects sponsored by the New York State Department of Transportation, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, New York State Energy and Research Development Authority, New Jersey Department of Transportation, and New York City Transit.



ckamga@utrc2.org

**Richard E. Hanley**, the director of the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center, is a professor of English at New York City College of Technology of the City University of New York (CUNY). He is the founding editor of the *Journal of Urban Technology (JUT)*, an international academic journal devoted to the study of the effects of technologies on cities and of the ways cities shape and employ technologies.

Dr. Hanley, who holds a PhD in English and American literature from Binghamton University, is also the chairman of the board of the CUNY Institute for Urban Systems whose mission is to shape the next generation of urban infrastructure through studies of financing options, technology integration, and management innovations. The Institute’s Building Performance Laboratory has been a major undertaking towards these ends.

rhanley@citytech.cuny.edu

## Presenters



**Mary Habstritt** is a former academic librarian who now commands LILAC, America's only steam-powered lighthouse tender, a ship that once brought supplies to lighthouses and maintained buoys for the U.S. Coast Guard ([www.lilacpreservationproject.org](http://www.lilacpreservationproject.org)). In addition to organizing educational programs and cultural events, raising funds and supervising restoration projects at this floating museum, she works as a freelance historical consultant, interpreting and telling the stories of America's manufacturing and engineering past. She has recently written an anniversary history of the 100-year old A. Ottavino Granite Company and collaborated on the interpretive displays about steam engines and lithography at Manhattan's first REI store in the landmark Puck Building. The unearthing of these stories has often led Mary to advocate for preservation of industrial heritage sites, such as Brooklyn's Domino Sugar refinery. She is a past president of the Society for Industrial Archeology.  
[mary@lilacpreservationproject.org](mailto:mary@lilacpreservationproject.org)



**Russell K. Hotzler** is the eighth president of New York City College of Technology of The City University of New York. During Dr. Hotzler's tenure at City Tech, which began in 2004, enrollments have risen by 4,000 students and the full-time faculty has grown by 130, now totaling 415. Prior to this presidency, Dr. Hotzler served as the Vice Chancellor for Academic Program Planning at The City University of New York, a position that held system-wide responsibility for planning and program initiatives. Dr. Hotzler currently serves as Chair of the New York State Regents Advisory Committee on Accreditation. Dr. Hotzler was awarded the American Society for Metals Education Award, given in recognition of contributions to the teaching of science and was elected to the Board of the National Education Committee of the American Society of Metals. A native New Yorker, Dr. Hotzler holds a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Science degree in Metallurgical Engineering and a PhD In Physical Metallurgy from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (today the Polytechnic Institute of NYU) where he also served as a member of the faculty in the Department of Physical and Engineering Metallurgy.



Since 2010, **Prithi Kanakamedala** has served as historian for In Pursuit of Freedom, an ambitious, multi-faceted public history project that traces the anti-slavery movement in 19<sup>th</sup> century Brooklyn. She recently curated the successful Brooklyn Abolitionists exhibit at Brooklyn Historical Society and researched and wrote the content for [pursuitoffreedom.org](http://pursuitoffreedom.org) as part of the project. Dr. Kanakamedala also teaches in the History department at Bronx Community College, CUNY and in the English department at City Tech, CUNY. She holds a PhD from the University of Sussex, England.  
[prkanaka@gmail.com](mailto:prkanaka@gmail.com)



**Marc Levinson** is an economist, historian, and journalist specializing in business and finance. He was formerly finance and economics editor of *The Economist* and then spent a decade as an economist at a New York bank, working on industry and environmental issues. More recently, he was senior fellow for international business at the Council on Foreign Relations, where he studied financial regulation and international economics. He has written



five books and has published in many leading journals. He regularly reviews books for *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications. His most recent book is *The Great A&P and the Struggle for Small Business in America*.

marclevinson1@gmail.com



**Michael Marrella**, AICP, is the Director of Waterfront and Open Space Planning for the New York City Department of City Planning. Michael is responsible for directing waterfront policy for the agency. He advises the Chair and members of the City Planning Commission on the planning and land use issues affecting waterfront and open space areas and climate adaptation planning, manages the staff of the Waterfront and Open Space Division, and acts as the primary liaison to a wide range of stakeholders. Michael was also the Project Director for Vision 2020, the city's new Comprehensive Waterfront Plan that received numerous awards, including the American Planning Association's prestigious Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan in 2012. Michael is an Adjunct Professor at the Pratt Institute and has lectured at numerous colleges and universities.

MMarrel@planning.nyc.gov



**Philip Orton** is a research assistant professor at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, and specializes in coastal physical oceanography and storm surges. He holds a PhD in physical oceanography from Columbia University and a MS in marine science from the University of South Carolina. He has published several peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals, as well as three op-eds on climate change, coastal ecosystem health and coastal flooding in *The New York Times*. He is a technical team member of the NYC Panel on Climate Change (NPCC), and recently worked on NYC's Special Initiative on Rebuilding and Resilience after Sandy, using a storm surge model to quantify the influence of adaptation strategies on coastal flooding. His other research interests include air-sea interaction, turbulent mixing, sediment transport, carbon dioxide and ocean acidification, and relationships among ecosystems, climate, and ocean physics.

philip.orton@stevens.edu

## Panelists



**Thomas Epting** is the co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of UncommonGoods, an online marketplace offering creatively designed, high-quality and often hand-made, merchandise. UncommonGoods is a founding B-Corporation, which means Thomas is leading his team to work toward a triple bottom-line, factoring both people and planet, as well as profit. As global citizens, the UncommonGoods' team knows they have both local and international responsibility to conduct business with sustainability factored in every decision. Thomas leads the Technology, Operations, Customer Service and Creative teams, developing people to manage a 30-fold scale increase from off-peak order volume to 4Q peak volume. In his first career, Thomas created campaign imagery for clients like Clinique, Cole Haan, and Ralph Lauren. Thomas is fortunate to have such remarkable and varied life experiences, from refining his creative eye working for legendary photographer Irving Penn to meeting with President Obama at the White House regarding fair labor practices.

epting@uncommongoods.com



**Andrew Genn** is Senior Vice President of the Ports & Transportation Department at NYCEDC. In his role, Andrew supervises planning and policy initiatives related to waterborne freight and passenger transportation, air cargo facility planning, rail passenger and freight transportation. Andrew has worked at NYCEDC since 1997 and was responsible for leading the Strategic Plan for the Redevelopment of the Port of New York, the Comprehensive Port Improvement Plan, and the Maritime Support Services Location Study.

These projects provided key guidance to the recently adopted Citywide Waterfront Plan and the Mayor's Waterfront Vision and Enhancement Strategy. Andrew attended Cornell University (BS Urban Studies) and the City University Graduate Center (MS Political Science). He lives in Manhattan with his wife and two children

agenn@nycedc.com



**Roland Lewis** (moderator) is President and CEO of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. A lifetime New Yorker, Roland studied planning and law at Columbia and Rutgers Universities. After nine years as a partner at a law firm, he became Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity NYC where he guided it to become a national model of Habitat urban success. In 2007, Roland took the helm of MWA. Under his leadership, the MWA has organized a growing constituency for a vibrant, healthy, and accessible waterfront; instituted

programs to provide water access; and become the leading waterfront policy organization in the New York region.

rlewis@waterfrontalliance.org



**John J. Liantonio** was appointed Senior Advisor, policy and economic development, at the Port Authority of NY & NJ in 2012. A major focus of his Port Authority portfolio is the Brooklyn waterfront, including the assets at Red Hook Container Terminal, the Cruise Terminal, and the NYNJ Rail Yards at 65<sup>th</sup> Street and 57<sup>th</sup> Street in Sunset Park. Before moving to the Port Authority, John was Northeast Regional Director, State Government

Affairs at AT&T Wireless. Prior to that, he managed legislative affairs for the Deputy Mayor of Economic Development, under Mayor David N. Dinkins. He also served as Director of Government Affairs for the NY/NJ printing industry. John began his career as a New York State Assembly staffer. John graduated with a BA from Fordham University, where he majored in Political Science. He is a native of Brooklyn, and has lived, worked, or attended school in four of the five New York City boroughs. John currently resides in northern New Jersey.

jliantonio@panynj.gov



**Regina Myer** is President of Brooklyn Bridge Park, responsible for the creation and construction of Brooklyn Bridge Park for the City of New York. As president since 2007, Ms. Myer oversees all aspects of the Park, including design, construction, maintenance, and operation. The 85-acre Brooklyn Bridge Park stretches approximately 1.3 miles along the East River from Atlantic Avenue to north of the Manhattan Bridge, transforming the

downtown Brooklyn waterfront into a civic space for all New Yorkers. Brooklyn Bridge Park is one of the most significant public investments on the waterfront outside of Manhattan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, winning

numerous awards from such organizations as the Municipal Art Society and the American Institute of Architects. Prior to the Brooklyn Bridge Park, Ms. Myer was the senior vice president for planning and design at the Hudson Yards Development Corporation, and the Brooklyn Borough Director for the New York City Planning Department, where she directed the comprehensive redevelopment for two miles of the Greenpoint/Williamsburg waterfront, the rezoning of Downtown Brooklyn for high density office and apartments and numerous neighborhood rezoning efforts. She received her BA and MA in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, and resides in Park Slope with her husband and two children. [rmyer@bbpnyc.org](mailto:rmyer@bbpnyc.org)



**Thomas Outerbridge** has worked in the area of recycling and composting in New York City since 1990. For the past 10 years, he has been General Manager for Sims Municipal Recycling (SMR). SMR processes and markets all NYC curbside metal, glass, and plastic under a long term contract with the Department of Sanitation. SMR operates waterfront facilities in the Bronx, Queens, and Jersey City, and most recently completed its largest recycling plant in Sunset Park, on the Brooklyn waterfront.

[Tom.Outerbridge@SIMSMM.com](mailto:Tom.Outerbridge@SIMSMM.com)



**Christopher Tepper** has worked for three and a half years at the New York City Economic Development Corporation in the Real Estate Transactions group focused on the management of public/private real estate development projects. For the following three years he worked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation as the Director of Development and Planning, where he focused on leveraging various Federal programs, including EB-5 lending, New Markets Tax Credits, and Historic Tax Credits, to rehab former naval manufacturing buildings and lease them to modern industrial and commercial tenants. He is currently the Director of Development and Capital Markets for Jamestown Properties at Industry City, a campus of 16 industrial buildings and over six million square feet on the Sunset Park waterfront in Brooklyn. At Industry City he manages a number of strategic redevelopment initiatives aimed at repositioning the campus to be a hub for the innovation economy, including working to encourage the City of New York to rehab the surrounding public infrastructure, expand ferry service, and extend bike lanes to the campus.

[Chris.Tepper@JamestownLP.com](mailto:Chris.Tepper@JamestownLP.com)



**Alan Washington** is Director of Real Estate and Planning at Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a not-for-profit local economic development corporation that serves as the primary champion for Downtown Brooklyn as a world-class business, cultural, educational, residential, and retail destination. In his role, Alan oversees all of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership's planning, commercial attraction, and real estate services. Prior to joining Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, Alan was a real estate consultant with experience in commercial, residential, and student housing development. Alan co-founded and served as managing principal at Campus Housing Partners, a real estate development and advisory firm that assists colleges and universities with the planning, financing, and building of student housing facilities. Prior to founding Campus Housing Partners, Alan developed residential properties in upstate New York and prior to that worked for Van Wagner Communications in Manhattan. Alan serves as a director of Campus Housing Partners and on the board of trustees of Harlem Academy. He is an active alumnus of Dartmouth College and earned a Master's Degree in Real Estate Development from New York University. [awashington@downtownbrooklyn.com](mailto:awashington@downtownbrooklyn.com)



**Elizabeth Yeampierre** is a nationally recognized environmental and climate justice leader. She is Executive Director of UPROSE, Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. Her award winning vision for an inter-generational, multi-cultural, and community-led organization is the driving force behind UPROSE. In Sunset Park, her work began by organizing against the onslaught of environmental burdens and resulted in building a base that successfully doubled the amount of open space, stopped the siting of power plants, made avenues pedestrian friendly, increased surface transit, retro-fitted diesel trucks, planted hundreds of trees, helped pass legislation addressing Brownfields, Solid Waste and Power Plants, got young people into college and graduate school, and built an intergenerational movement committed to addressing climate change and resiliency. Elizabeth was the first Latina Chair of the US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Elizabeth was selected as the opening speaker at the First White House Forum on Environmental Justice  
Elizabeth@uprose.org

### **BWRC Staff**



**Jeremiah Cox**, project coordinator for Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center, is a student in Hunter College's masters of urban planning program. He is a 2011 graduate of Colorado College with a degree in environmental science.



**Adam Davidson** is the senior project coordinator at the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center and a PhD Student in Geography at the CUNY Graduate Center. He has a background in city planning and studies urban development and transportation.



**Sean Scanlan** is senior fellow at the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center where he specializes in globalization and urban arts and literature. He is assistant professor of English at New York City College of Technology, CUNY. Sean's teaching and research interests include: Global Homesickness, New York City history and literature, and the effect that technology has on reading and writing. Sean has published in the peer-reviewed journal *Style* on the subject of Edith Wharton and homesickness, and he is currently working on a manuscript titled: *Global Homesickness The Feeling of Modernization and Movement, 1850-2012*. He received his PhD from the University of Iowa (English) and is the founder and editor of the online, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal *nano: New American Notes Online* ([www.nanocrit.com](http://www.nanocrit.com)).  
sscanlan@citytech.cuny.edu

## **A Living Laboratory at New York City College of Technology**

### **About A Living Laboratory, Strategic Partner of the BWRC**

#### **What is “A Living Laboratory”?**

- **The College’s biggest grant:** a five-year \$3.1M initiative (2010-2015) funded by the U.S. Department of Education Strengthening Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Title V) program.
- **Our mission:** to re-envision General Education as a “living laboratory” using City Tech’s signature strengths – hands-on experiential models of learning and our vibrant Brooklyn Waterfront location.

#### **What are we doing?**

##### ***Four activities work together towards institutional transformation.***

- **The Gen Ed Seminar:** brings together diverse groups of Faculty Fellows to revitalize General Education through place-based learning and high-impact educational practices;
- **The OpenLab:** creates a new digital platform to support open teaching and learning at City Tech, and enhance the intellectual and social fabric of the college community;
- **A Culture of Assessment:** integrates comprehensive outcomes assessment into the General Education curriculum;
- **The Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center:** fulfills a mission of curriculum development, research support, and public outreach.

Jonas Reitz, Project Director

Charlie Edwards, Project Manager

## NOTES

## NOTES

