



## **2019 Scholar on Campus Nominee: Maura Smale, PhD**

During my time as a library faculty member at City Tech, I have cultivated an active research agenda in scholarly areas that align well with my librarianship, teaching, and service work. Since 2009, with Prof. Mariana Regalado of Brooklyn College, I have engaged in a long-term study of the ways that CUNY undergraduates integrate their academic work into their broader lives. We have carved a unique niche for ourselves with this research, bringing an anthropological perspective to the study of CUNY students' lived experiences and exploring how, where, when, and with what tools undergraduates do their coursework, in and beyond their college libraries. Prof. Regalado and I have published our research in academic journals and co-authored a book, *Digital Technology as Affordance and Barrier in Higher Education* (Palgrave, 2017); we have also presented widely at local and national conferences, and have increasingly been invited to speak about our research within and outside CUNY.

In our work with CUNY students we have highlighted their experience as commuter students, an area that is understudied in higher education research despite the fact that commuters outnumber residential students at US colleges and universities. Prof. Regalado and I have collaborated with librarian and anthropologist colleagues across the US, including Indiana University, the University of North Carolina Charlotte, and the University of Colorado Boulder, on research into the commuter undergraduate experience. In addition to conference presentations, we have published this research in our edited volume *Academic Libraries for Commuter Students: Research-Based Strategies* (American Library Association, 2018), which has been well-received across and beyond academic librarianship.

I continue to develop my long-term research interests and add new areas of scholarship. During my fellowship leave in spring 2017 I examined the strategies CUNY undergraduates use to access and prioritize their required course reading. An article has been accepted for publication, and sharing the article preprint on Twitter generated useful conversation with faculty from many institutions. I will present additional results at the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) conference in April 2019. Among other publications, I have also contributed to several well-reviewed edited books. I discuss the role of intersectional feminism in my work as Chief Librarian in my chapter in the ACRL award-winning volume *Feminists Among Us: Resistance & Advocacy in Library Leadership* (2017). In my chapter in *The Self as Subject: Autoethnographic Research into Identity, Culture, and Academic Librarianship* (2017) I used autoethnography to explore my dual role as administrator and scholar.

In all of my research and scholarship I prioritize both the quality of conference and publication venues as well as the opportunities for wider impact that open access enables. My articles, book chapters, and presentation materials are publicly available in CUNY's institutional repository, Academic Works, and on Prof. Regalado's and my project website on the CUNY Academic Commons. I only publish in open access journals, making my articles free to read and distribute

and accessible to all interested readers regardless of institutional affiliation (or lack thereof). It is important to me to align my professional and personal commitment to access to information with my scholarly research, a focus that has made my work as a librarian stronger as well.