
New England Future Faculty Workshop

**July 31 - August 1, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET**

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The background of the slide is a photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, there are trees with vibrant yellow and orange autumn leaves. In the mid-ground, a large, modern building with a curved facade and several columns is visible. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

2024 Planning Committee

*** In alphabetical order**

Planning Committee



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Sarah Banning, Assistant Director, ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development, Northeastern University

Sarah serves as the Assistant Director in the ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development and focuses on cultivating the Office's mentoring initiatives. Sarah has a Bachelor's degree in English from the University of Alabama and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Mount Holyoke College. She joined Northeastern after teaching in the Springfield and Boston Public Schools. During her time as an educator, she focused on running programming that helped build the capacity and skills of new educators through intentional professional development and coaching. She taught courses at Mount Holyoke College on secondary education pedagogy best practices.



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Penny Beuning, Professor and Chair, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University

Dr. Beuning's research on DNA damage tolerance and protein engineering has been recognized with a Cottrell Scholar award, a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award, an American Cancer Society Research Scholar Grant, and the 2015 Chemical Research in Toxicology Young Investigator award. Dr. Beuning has been active in efforts to enhance the recruitment and retention of groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences. She is a councilor for the American Chemical Society (ACS), serves on the ACS Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, and is on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Research Corporation for Science Advancement. She holds a PhD from the University of Minnesota and a BA from Macalester College.

Planning Committee



Pallavi Eswara, Director, Postdoctoral Affairs, Boston University

Pallavi Eswara, M.S. is the Director of Postdoctoral Affairs at Boston University where she oversees the professional and career development of postdocs. She creates, coordinates, and executes a curriculum around professional development for postdocs and is also responsible for operations and administrative aspects of postdoc training at BU. She was the founding staff member and created the Office of Postdoctoral affairs in 2007, worked extensively in postdoctoral affairs at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, including as the Director for the office from 2016 to 2021. Pallavi has held leadership positions in the National Postdoc Association and Graduate Career Consortium. She received an M.S. in Human Genetics from the University of Michigan and contributed to the Mouse, Rat and Chicken genome sequencing projects while at Penn State.



Lori Ferrins, Associate Research Professor, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University

Dr. Lori Ferrins, currently an Associate Research Professor in Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Northeastern University, will begin her journey as a tenure track Associate Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences at Northeastern University starting this Fall. Her research focuses on the development of drugs for intractable diseases, including parasitic neglected tropical diseases, pathogenic free-living amoebae, and antifungal agents. Recognizing the inherently collaborative nature of medicinal chemistry and drug discovery, Dr. Ferrins' lab operates at the intersection of various disciplines. They actively engage with academic institutions, public-private partnerships, and industry collaborators, collectively propelling their innovative programs forward. Dr. Ferrins holds a B.Sc. with 1st class honors from LaTrobe University, and a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Australia.

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Jim Gould, Director for Postdoctoral Affairs, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Gould is the Director for Postdoctoral Affairs and the Program Director for Responsible Conduct of Research at Harvard Medical School. He has been implementing research, career readiness, and professional development programs and policies for trainees since 2011. Jim has spoken and published on career and professional development topics in a variety of forums, locally and internationally, including his book, *Making the Most of the Postdoc*, which came out last September. Jim received his PhD in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from the University of Louisville and did his postdoc training at Frederick National Labs of the National Cancer Institute.



Dekel Luban, Program Coordinator, ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development, Northeastern University

Dekel joined the Northeastern University ADVANCE team after previously working in higher education, arts administration, and the non-profit sector. She earned a MA in political science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a BS in psychology from Boston University.

Planning Committee



Evelyn Panagakou, Education, Outreach, and Diversity Coordinator, Network Science Institute, Northeastern University

Evangelia (Evelyn) Panagakou is a physicist and applied mathematician trained as a complex systems scientist who later specialized in educational psychology. Currently, she serves as the Education, Outreach, and Diversity Coordinator at the Network Science Institute at Northeastern University. In this role, she develops and advises on the careers of doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, and designs, delivers, and oversees educational activities and programs for the Institute. Evelyn is a member of the Executive Committee of the Complex Systems Society (CSS) and a former postdoctoral researcher of the Laboratory of The Modeling of Biological + Socio-Technical Systems (MOBS Lab) at Northeastern University. She is a founding member of the Young Researchers Network on Complex Systems (currently yrCSS) and helped establish the Society of Young Network Scientists (SYNS).



Yadilette Rivera-Colón, Associate Professor, Science Department Chair, Bay Path University

Dr. Yadilette Rivera-Colón is a researcher and educator who found her calling working in research laboratories. She earned her doctorate in molecular and cellular biology in 2013 from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she researched structural and biochemical properties of human lysosomal enzymes. Upon completion of her doctorate, she became an Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Awards (IRACDA) postdoctoral fellow at the PENN-Professional Opportunities for Research and Teaching, at the University of Pennsylvania, where she focused on biochemical studies of protein acetyltransferases. Most importantly, her career has been shaped by her passion for teaching. A native of Puerto Rico and a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Rivera-Colón has a strong personal drive to connect with Latinas and other underserved populations to share her love of science.

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Laura Stark, Associate Director for Academic Careers, Mignone Center for Career Success, Harvard University

Laura Stark is Associate Director for Academic Careers in the Mignone Center for Career Success at Harvard University. She holds a PhD in neuroscience from Yale University and completed post-doctoral research at the University of Pennsylvania before making a transition to career services. She has more than twenty years of experience advising graduate students and PhDs through the challenges of graduate study and into careers, both within and beyond academia. Laura specializes in working with those seeking academic faculty positions and those considering career transition beyond academia.



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Sam Stokoe, Program Manager, ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development, Northeastern University

Sam serves as the program manager in the ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development and focuses on cultivating opportunities for faculty members' personal and professional development. These ideas are reflected in programs that provide faculty members with resources to be successful in their roles as teachers, student supporters, and researchers. Sam earned a Bachelor's degree in hospitality management from Endicott College and a Master's in higher education in student affairs from Salem State University. She joined Northeastern University from the Travelers Insurance Talent Acquisition office with a professional background in learning and development, and university relations.

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Rebecca Willits, Chairperson and Professor , Chemical Engineering, Northeastern University

Rebecca Kuntz Willits is Chairperson and Professor of Chemical Engineering at Northeastern University and has an affiliated appointment in Bioengineering. Her current research interests are at the intersection of nerve regeneration, tissue engineering, mechanobiology and biomaterials. Dr. Willits' research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and research foundations, and she is a fellow in the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). She has served on the Board of Directors of Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN) and BMES, and she is currently the secretary/treasurer for AIMBE, she actively serves her alma maters on their Chemical Engineering Advisory Boards.



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Diedra Wrighting, Executive Director, ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development, Northeastern University

Diedra Wrighting is a scientist and educator dedicated to creating environments that foster community, belonging, and persistence. As executive director of ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development at Northeastern since 2019, she collaborates across the university to create dynamic and impactful programming that assists faculty to thrive. Her current research focuses on how mentoring relationships foster belonging and persistence in STEM fields. In 2016, Dr. Wrighting became a certified mentor trainer by the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research and the National Research Mentoring Network. She facilitates workshops on being an effective mentor and getting the most out of mentoring relationships. These workshops promote awareness of identity and culture to foster belonging and career persistence for aspiring researchers of diverse backgrounds. Dr. Wrighting holds a BS in biology from Howard University and a PhD in genetics from Harvard Medical School.



2024 Affinity Group Leaders

*** In alphabetical order**

Affinity Group Leaders



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Otonye Braide-Moncoeur, Associate Teaching Professor, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University

Otonye Braide-Moncoeur is an associate teaching professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Northeastern University. As an educator, she strategically cultivates a growth mindset in her students to bridge the gap between their perceived limitations and ongoing development of innate skills. She facilitates classroom dynamics that challenge students to see themselves as active contributors to scientific inquiry. Braide-Moncoeur is also appointed as the Provost Fellow for Faculty Awards and Recognition, a role which enables her to collaborate with members of the Honorific Awards Initiative team to increase faculty nominations for external awards. Braide-Moncoeur holds a BA in chemistry from Lincoln University (PA), an MS in chemistry from Georgia Institute of Technology and a PhD in chemistry from the University of Florida.



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Paola Cepeda, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Postdoctoral Affairs, Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Paola Cepeda is the assistant vice chancellor for Postdoctoral Affairs at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Cepeda is a national leader and expert on issues related to the training and employment of postdoctoral researchers, with a focus on international scholars, postdoctoral policy, mentoring, and gender representation in science. Dr. Cepeda has successfully designed professional development curricula for postdoctoral researchers and mentor training programs for their faculty supervisors. Dr. Cepeda has served in numerous scientific organizations executing strategies to retain underrepresented identities in academia (in particular, women, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ scholars) and to educate international scientists about their career options in the United States. Dr. Cepeda holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Stony Brook University.

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Divya Chaudhary, Assistant Teaching Professor, Khoury College of Computer Science, Northeastern University

Divya Chaudhary is an assistant teaching professor at the Khoury College of Computer Sciences at Northeastern University's Seattle campus. Her research interests include cloud computing, load scheduling, and machine learning applications. Across more than seven years working in academia, Chaudhary has taught undergraduate courses at governmental departments and Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology in Delhi, India. For more than two years, she taught computing and programming basic to high school students. During her graduate program, she earned a gold medal for exemplary performance. At Khoury College, Chaudhary teaches programming, data structures, cloud computing, and big data. She has published multiple research papers in journals and conferences, and has worked on numerous research projects with her undergraduate students. Her work aims to optimize load scheduling in the cloud to reduce computational costs.



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Damilola Daramola, Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering and Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University

Dr. Daramola is an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Northeastern University. Dr. Daramola's laboratory – the REPRODUCE lab – works in areas related to resource recovery, wastewater remediation, thermoset composites and polymer upcycling using a combination of techniques including electrochemistry, simulations, spectroscopy and calorimetry. As tenure-track faculty, Dr. Daramola has been awarded the Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award from the Oak Ridge Associated Universities Consortium (2022) and been nominated as a Scialog Fellow on Sustainable Minerals, Materials and Metals (2024). Dr. Daramola earned his B.S. (2004) and Ph.D. (2011) in Chemical Engineering from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Affinity Group Leaders



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Leila Deravi, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University; CTO, Seaspire, Inc.

Leila Deravi is an associate professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Northeastern University and co-Founder of a new startup, Seaspire Skincare. She is the recipient of the National Science Foundation's early CAREER award, the American Chemical Society Polymer Materials Science and Engineering Young Investigator Award, and the Undergraduate Research Mentorship Award in Chemistry, Chemical Biology. Before she started her independent faculty career, Leila received her BS in Chemistry at the University of Alabama and her Ph.D. in Chemistry at Vanderbilt University. She subsequently completed her postdoc in Bioengineering at Harvard University.



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Clare Forstie, Education Program Specialist, Center for Educational Innovation, University of Minnesota

Clare Forstie is a teaching consultant at the University of Minnesota, where they support graduate students, early career faculty and instructors, and colleagues in the liberal arts in making their teaching more effective and inclusive. Clare has taught numerous sociology courses at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and as a faculty member at Farmingdale State College, part of the SUNY system. Clare's areas of leadership in teaching include inclusive and critical pedagogies, technology in education, and student and instructor well-being. Clare's most recent book is *Queering the Midwest: Forging LGBTQ Community* (NYU Press, 2022); they have also published numerous articles focused on the social contexts of gender and sexuality. Their teaching, research, and writing address the complexities of queer and academic life through multiple critical lenses. Clare earned a PhD in sociology from Northwestern University in 2017.

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Alexander Gamero-Garrido, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, University of California Davis

Alexander Gamero-Garrido is an assistant professor of Computer Science at the University of California Davis. His research is at the intersection of computer networks and public policy with an emphasis on online privacy. Their work yields methodologies and analyses that provide empirical evidence on contentious questions in technology policy. Their research focuses on three areas: (i) inferring capabilities for government surveillance created by the macroscopic structure of the Internet; (ii) revealing commercial surveillance enabled by consumer devices; (iii) Internet policy issues in the United States. Prior to joining UC Davis, he was a Ford Foundation postdoctoral fellow at Northeastern. They received an M.Sc. in Tech Policy from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from UC San Diego.



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Veronica Godoy-Carter, Associate Professor, Biology, Northeastern University

Veronica Godoy-Carter is an associate professor of Biology, the Principal Investigator of a Molecular Microbiology Lab in the Department of Biology at Northeastern University. Combining methods of molecular biology, biochemistry and genetics, the Godoy-Carter Lab studies the intricacies of the regulation and physiological outcomes of the response to DNA damage such as ultraviolet light in bacteria. The goal of her research is to understand the basic biology of bacterial pathogens to identify weaknesses to eliminate them from sites of infection. She is the corresponding author of a number of research papers in the research area of Molecular Microbiology. Dr Godoy-Carter holds a B.S. and Liscencure in Biology from Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso, Valparaiso, Chile, and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Microbiology from the Tufts School of Biomedical Sciences.

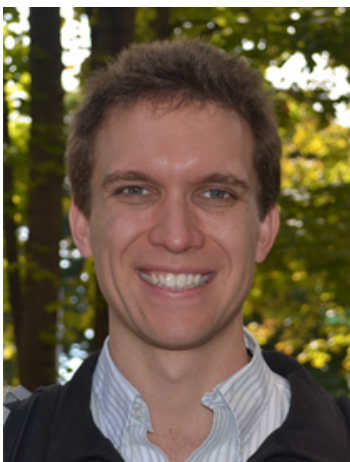
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Pierre-Valery Njenji Tchetgen, Assistant Professor, Music, Art + Design, Northeastern University

Dr. Pierre-Valery Njenji Tchetgen is a black music scholar and cultural worker at the intersection of Africana studies, literacy studies, digital humanities and drummologie. His scholarship and teaching in CAMD include expertise in Music of the African Diaspora, Hip Hop Poetry, African music theory, Experience Design, Education+XR and serious games. He is the inventor of the Drumball tangible user interface for early literacy acquisition that is inspired by the African talking drums. Dr. Njenji Tchetgen (who also goes by Akwerius, or kwe for short) is the Founder and Ambassador of the Music is Healing Collective, where he uses music as a vehicle for social change to break down barriers of bias and motivate youth toward social justice in order to improve the livability and vibrancy of communities worldwide, and bring people from diverse paths together to promote Unity through Music.



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Paul Whitford, Professor, Physics, Northeastern University

Prof. Whitford received his undergraduate degree in physics from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and his PhD in physics from UC San Diego. He conducted postdoctoral work as a Director Postdoctoral Fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory and was a senior scientist at Rice University before taking a tenure-track position at Northeastern. His group focuses on computational methods for the study of large-scale biomolecular assemblies.



2024 Speakers

* In alphabetical order

Speakers



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Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Dean, Graduate School Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Wayne State University

Dr. Amanda Bryant-Friedrich is dean of the Graduate School and professor of pharmaceutical sciences at Wayne State University. Prior, she was a professor of medicinal and biological chemistry and chemistry at the University of Toledo and served as vice provost for Graduate Affairs and dean of the College of Graduate Studies. She obtained her doctorate in pharmaceutical chemistry at the Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany under Professor Richard Neidlein, followed by postdoctoral training at the Universität Basel, Basel, Switzerland, under Professor Bernd Giese. From 2000-2007 she held the positions of assistant and associate professor at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan before moving to the University of Toledo. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and The American Chemical Society, and an academic leadership fellow of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.



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Alberto de la Torre Duran, Assistant Professor, Physics, Northeastern University

Alberto de la Torre is an assistant professor at Northeastern University, core faculty of the Quantum Matter and Sensing Institute, and director of the DeLTA Lab. Combining ultrafast material engineering with advanced spectroscopy techniques, de la Torre investigates complex emergent phenomena in quantum materials and the engineering of new long-lived quantum states. De la Torre's lab combines in-house optical and photo-emission tools with experiments at synchrotron and free electron lasers worldwide. He is a guest researcher at the Material Science Department of Argonne National Lab. De la Torre holds a Ph.D. from the Université de Genève, Switzerland, and completed postdoctoral research at Caltech and Brown University before joining Northeastern University in June 2023.

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Jerome Hajjar, CDM Smith Professor, University Distinguished Professor, Department Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Northeastern University

Jerome F. Hajjar is the CDM Smith Professor, University Distinguished Professor, and Department Chair in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University. His research and teaching interests include analysis, experimental testing, and design of steel and composite steel/concrete building and bridge structures, regional modeling and assessment of infrastructure systems, and earthquake engineering, and he has published over 300 papers and authored or edited five books on these topics. Dr. Hajjar was elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineering in 2022 and has received several honors and awards. He is a registered professional engineer in Illinois and Minnesota.



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Lindsey Hanson, Associate Professor, Chemistry, Trinity College

Lindsey Hanson is an associate professor of chemistry at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. She holds a BS in chemistry from Duke University and a PhD in biophysical chemistry from Stanford University, and she was a postdoctoral scholar at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. At Trinity, she teaches introductory, physical, and biophysical chemistry with a focus on integrating research experiences into the classroom and laboratory. Building on her graduate work on nanostructured biological interfaces and her postdoctoral work on the effect of pressure on the optical properties of nanoscale materials, her interdisciplinary research group focuses on understanding the interconversion of mechanical forces and optical properties of nanomaterials in order to develop novel mechanical sensors and actuators for biological and structural applications.

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Clareese Hill, Assistant Professor, XR and Immersive Technologies, Northeastern University

Clareese Hill is an assistant professor of XR and immersive technologies at Northeastern University, where she combines her background in art and research to explore the concept of identity, particularly from the perspective of an Afro-Caribbean American woman. Her work extends beyond traditional academic boundaries, as evidenced by her lectures and presentations at various conferences and spaces in New York, England, Finland, Sweden, Australia, Ireland, and Portugal. Additionally, Clareese contributes to the academic discourse through experimental essays on Black and Caribbean themes, published in internationally peer-reviewed journals. She holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a practice-based research Ph.D. in Artist Research from Goldsmiths.



[Faculty Page](#)

Jackie Isaacs, Professor, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, Northeastern University

Dr. Jacqueline Isaacs has served as Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs since July 2021. Prior to this appointment, she was Interim Dean of the College of Engineering for two years, previously serving as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs within the College of Engineering from 2017 until 2019 and as Acting Chair of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering from January 2012 through August 2013. She is a Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and holds a position as an Associate Director of the Center for High-rate Nanomanufacturing (CHN) and an affiliation with the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs. Professor Isaacs has authored over 135 journal articles, book chapters and conference proceedings. Professor Isaacs has been recognized by Northeastern University, receiving a University Excellence in Teaching Award in 2000, the President's Aspiration Award in 2005, a College of Engineering Excellence in Mentoring Award in 2015 and a College of Engineering Dean's Meritorious Service Award in 2021.

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Nisha Iyer, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Tufts University

Dr. Nisha Iyer joined the department of Biomedical Engineering at Tufts University as an assistant professor in 2022. Her research interests are at the intersection of developmental biology and regenerative medicine, using stem cells to understand and advance neural repair. Her lab focuses on how regional specificity impacts development, degeneration, and regeneration in the central nervous system and beyond, developing biomanufacturing strategies and organoid technologies to direct cell therapy research.



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Swathi Kiran, Director, Center for Brain Recovery, Boston University

Swathi Kiran, PhD, CCC-SLP, is the James and Cecelia Ying Professor of Neurorehabilitation in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and the founding director for the Center for Brain Recovery at Boston University. The mission of the Center for Brain Recovery is to study neurological disorders in the brain while focusing on real outcomes for the patient. She has over 150 peer-reviewed papers in these fields and has been funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Speech-Language-Hearing (ASH) Foundation. She is the past-Board Chair for the Academy of Aphasia, and Board Member for the National Aphasia Association, and the American Speech Language Hearing Foundation. She is the co-founder and scientific advisor for Constant Therapy Health, a software platform for rehabilitation tools after brain injury. Dr. Kiran is also the director for Strategic Planning Implementation at the Office of the Provost at Boston University.

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Borianna Marintcheva, Professor, Biology, Bridgewater State University

Borianna Marintcheva is an professor of Biology at Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where she teaches virology, cell biology, molecular biology, HIV biology, One Health, viruses and technology courses. By training, Dr. Marintcheva is a molecular virologist who has studied Herpes Simplex Virus Type I replication as a doctoral student at the University of Connecticut Health Center and the biology of the bacteriophage T7 single-stranded DNA-binding protein as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Marintcheva is passionate about science education, science promotion, and development of pedagogical tools advancing teaching and learning. She is an author of *Harnessing the Power of Viruses*, published by academic Press in 2018.



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Pamela Martinez, Assistant Professor, Microbiology, University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign

Pamela Martinez is an associate professor with a joint appointment in the Departments of Microbiology and Statistics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). She is affiliated with the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, as well as the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at UIUC. She is also a department associate at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her research focuses on disease ecology, particularly the impact of climate, pathogen diversity, and social inequality on infectious disease dynamics, with publications in journals including Science, PNAS, Nature Communications, and Science Advances. Pamela holds an M.S. in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Michigan, a Ph.D. in ecology and evolution from the University of Chicago, and a postdoctoral training in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Speakers



Ewa Matczyk, Assistant Professor of Modern & Contemporary Art History, University of North Carolina

Ewa Matczyk is an assistant professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. She holds a PhD in the History of art and architecture from Boston University, and an M.A. in art history from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. As an educator, Ewa is invested in a pedagogy of care that foregrounds the complementary values of community, generosity, and gratitude. Her book project, *Intervention, Memory, and Community: Public Art and Architecture in Warsaw, 1970-2019* examines a series of exhibitions, performative interventions, monuments, and public art initiatives.



Amanda Napior, Assistant Professor, Modern and Contemporary Art History, University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Amanda J.G. Napior is an assistant professor in modern and contemporary art history at the University of North Carolina. Drawing upon the scholarly traditions of American religious history, phenomenological anthropology, and critical race, gender, and sexuality studies, Amanda is exploring the lived and historical connections between faith in the possibility of personal transformation and systems of incarceration in the United States. She has been published in *The Journal of Ritual Studies* and *Journal of Correctional Education*. Amanda holds an MDiv from Harvard Divinity School with a focus on Christianity, and a BA in religion, with an emphasis on American religious history, from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

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Toyoko Orimoto, Associate Professor, Physics, Northeastern University

Prof. Toyoko Orimoto is an associate professor of physics at Northeastern University. Prof. Orimoto is an experimental particle physicist who studies the smallest constituents of nature using one of the world’s largest science experiments—the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) Experiment at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to joining the Northeastern faculty, Prof. Orimoto was a fellow at CERN (2009-2012) and the Robert A. Millikan fellow at the California Institute of Technology (2006-2009). She completed her PhD (2006) and BA (2000) at the University of California, Berkeley.



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Meighan Parker, Assistant Professor, Law, University of Georgia

Meighan Parker is an assistant professor of Law at the University of Georgia School of Law. Prior to joining the School of Law, Parker was a Bigelow Teaching Fellow and lecturer in Law at the University of Chicago Law School. Parker’s research focuses on health law and policy, with an emphasis on the legal implications of novel telehealth and digital health technologies. Her scholarship includes an article titled, “Come As You Are?: Democratizing Healthcare Through Black Church-Telehealth Initiatives,” which was published in the *Columbia Science and Technology Law Review*. She also coauthored a chapter in *Cybersecurity: A Practical Guide to the Law of Cyber Risk*. Parker earned her B.S. in biology cum laude from Spelman College and her Master of Theological Studies (focused on religion, ethics and politics) from the Harvard Divinity School. Afterward, she earned her J.D. cum laude from the University of Alabama School of Law.

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K.J. Rawson, Professor, English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Northeastern University

K.J. Rawson works at the intersections of the digital humanities and rhetoric, LGBTQ+, and feminist Studies. Focusing on archives as key sites of cultural power, he studies the rhetorical work of queer and transgender archival collections in brick-and-mortar and digital spaces. Rawson is founder and director of the Digital Transgender Archive, an award-winning collection of trans-related historical materials, and he chairs the editorial board of the Homosaurus, an LGBTQ+ linked data vocabulary.



[Staff Profile](#)

Carolyn Ruppel, Supervisory Research Geophysicist/Acting Senior Science Advisor, U.S. Geological Survey

Carolyn Ruppel is the acting senior science advisor to the chief scientist of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and a supervisory research geophysicist based at the USGS Woods Hole science center since 2006. She leads the USGS Gas Hydrates Project, which focuses on climate and energy aspects of natural methane hydrates. She received her Ph.D. at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was as a postdoctoral scholar at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution before joining the faculty at Georgia Tech, where she was tenured in 2000. While still at Georgia Tech, she spent nearly three years as a National Science Foundation program officer. Ruppel is a fellow of the Geological Society of America and a recipient of the Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award. She has informally mentored earlier career scientists for ~25 years.

Speakers



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Laura Senier, Associate Professor, Sociology and Anthropology, Public Health and Health Sciences, Northeastern University

Laura Senier’s research interests include the sociology of medicine and public health, community environmental health, and environmental justice. Her research identifies political, social, and economic barriers in research translation, or the effort to migrate scientific discoveries into clinical and public health practice. She has also studied community mobilization in communities burdened by environmental injustices, in the Boston area and in the upper Midwest.



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Jenny Spencer, Assistant Professor, Population Health, Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin

Jenny Spencer’s work uses econometric and decision science methods to focus on improving health equity in cancer screening and prevention. Dr. Spencer completed her Master’s and Ph.D. training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a two-year postdoctoral fellowship with the Training in Oncology Population Sciences program at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Spencer joined the Department of Population Health in 2021, where she her work focuses on inequities in cancer screening and cancer prevention — including cervical, breast and colorectal cancer — by race, ethnicity, income and sexual orientation.

Speakers



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Corliss Thompson, Associate Dean, Graduate School of Education; Teaching Professor, Education, Northeastern University

Corliss Thompson, Ph.D. is a Teaching Professor who serves as the associate dean of Graduate School of Education in the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University. Dr. Thompson previously served as the assistant dean of academic affairs in the GSE and special assistant to the dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Prior to working in higher education, Dr. Thompson was a program evaluator and elementary school teacher. Her scholarly expertise is within the field of teacher education and social and cultural foundations of learning.



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Amanda Woerman, Associate Professor, Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology, Prion Research Center, Colorado State University

Dr. Amanda L. Woerman is an associate professor at Colorado State University where her laboratory focuses on the role of tau and alpha-synuclein misfolding in neurodegenerative diseases. She earned her PhD in molecular medicine from George Washington University in 2013 and completed her postdoctoral training with Dr. Stanley Prusiner at the University of California, San Francisco. She was an Assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst from 2019-2023, when she was recruited to Colorado State to join the Prion Research Center.

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Benjamin Woolston, Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering, Northeastern University

Dr. Woolston joined the Northeastern Chemical Engineering department as an assistant professor in January 2020, after earning his PhD at MIT and completing his postdoctoral work at Harvard. His interdisciplinary research program – currently funded by the Department of Energy (DOE), National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF) – combines approaches from metabolic engineering, synthetic biology, biochemistry and microbiology to engineer microbes for biofuel and biochemical production, and as diagnostics and therapeutics in the Human gut microbiota. His work has been recognized through a range of awards, including the 2020 International Metabolic Engineering Society Jay Bailey Young Investigator Award, the 2021 Biotechnology and Bioengineering Daniel IC Wang Young Investigator Award, and an NIH national Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) Trailblazer Award.



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Katia Zolotovskiy, Assistant Professor, Art and Design, Northeastern University

Katia Zolotovskiy is an assistant professor in Art and Design with a joint appointment in the College of Science, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. Katia is an architect, biologist, and bio-design researcher. She holds a Ph.D. in Computation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where her dissertation focused on design and computation with biologically active materials. Katia's Biointeractive Design research lab focuses on the impact of biotechnology on everyday life and the ecosystems we live in. In her research, she collaborates with material scientists, synthetic biologists, and computational designers to develop practical ways for artists and designers to design with biological materials and systems.

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Candidates in all disciplines represented at Northeastern University are invited to apply for the ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development's Future Faculty Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (FFF). Northeastern University's mission emphasizes translational research that addresses global challenges and enhances social well-being. Moreover, the university strives to create a vibrant and diverse community, characterized by collaboration, creativity, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Northeastern University celebrates diversity in all its forms and fosters a culture of respect that affirms intergroup relations and builds community.

Click [here](#) or more information on FFF

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Sloan Research Fellowship

The Sloan Research Fellowship Program recognizes and rewards outstanding early-career faculty who have the potential to revolutionize their fields of study. The two-year \$75,000 fellowships are awarded annually to early-career researchers whose creativity, innovation, and research accomplishments make them stand out as the next generation of leaders.

Click [here](#) or more information on the Sloan Research Fellowship

The Northeastern College of Science INVEST program

The Northeastern College of Science INVEST program offers tenure track faculty positions right after the PhD or early during postdoc training. No postdoc needed: INVEST includes the optional Northeastern Science Fellows Program one-two years of funded, mentored, independent postdoc experience to ramp up your research program

Click [here](#) or more information on INVEST

The New England Higher Education Consortium (HERC)

Northeastern University is a member of New England HERC. HERC is a non-profit organization composed of a diverse group of colleges, universities, cultural institutions, and research, medical, and teaching hospitals. They provide professional development workshops and resources on various topics, including diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Click [here](#) or more information on HERC