
New England Future Faculty Workshop

July 27 & 28, 2022
9:00 am - 3:10 pm
Virtual

*Planning Committee and
Speaker Biographies*

Planning Committee

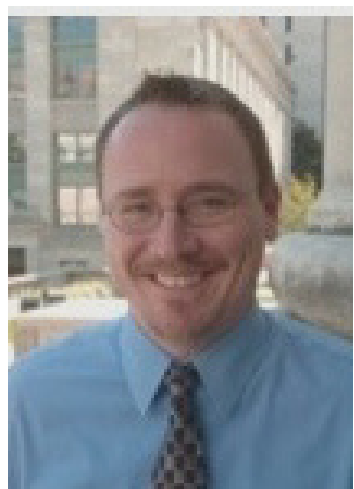
Planning Committee



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Penny Beuning, Chair and Professor of 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 Research Corporation for Science Advancement. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and a B.A. from Macalester College.



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James Gould, Director, HMS/HSDM Office for Postdoctoral Fellows, Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Gould has been implementing research, career, and professional development programs and policies for Harvard Medical Trainees since 2011. He has spoken and published on career and professional development topics in a variety of forums, locally and nationally, including articles in Nature Immunology covering CV to resume conversion, interviewing strategies, and manuscript writing. Prior to Harvard Medical School, Dr. Gould completed two postdoctoral fellowships at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health where he chaired the Fellows & Young Investigators Association. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Louisville School of Medicine and a B.S. from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

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Phil He, Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Northeastern University

Dr. He is a Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and a Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Northeastern University. Prior to his current role, Dr. He served as Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Vice Provost for Graduate Education, and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. As Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, he has co-hosted the Provost's Diversity Recruitment Forums with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and the ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development. As a member of the Presidential Council on Diversity and Inclusion, Phil has been leading a group effort focused on university-wide anti-racist and cultural literacy training, and sat on the working group to improve racial, ethnic and cultural studies at Northeastern.



Dekel Luban, Program Coordinator of the ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development

Dekel recently joined the Northeastern University ADVANCE team after previously working in higher education, arts administration, and the non-profit sector. She earned a M.A. in Political Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a B.S. in Psychology from Boston University.

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

Dr. Panagakou aims to enrich traditional teaching strategies in STEM with state-of-the-art pedagogical findings. She is a strong advocate of developing high-quality, challenging yet personalized, and enjoyable educational experiences that enable students to feel part of an active and caring community, develop critical thinking, and discover the beauty of mathematics and science. Since 2018, she has been one of the organizers of the Network Science and Education Satellite at NetSci. She holds a Ph.D. in Physics from National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, a M.S. in Applied Mathematics from University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a M.S. in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College.



Lakindu S. Pathira Kankanamge, Ph.D. student in Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University

Lakindu Pathira Kankanamge works with Professor Penny Beuning and Professor Mary Jo Ondrechen at Northeastern University. She is also a conservation biologist, and studied the Sri Lankan Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*). Her doctoral research involves two projects. The first project investigates the mutations associated with DNA polymerase kappa and their functionality towards chemotherapy. The second project is about proteins that facilitate the digestion of wood found in shipworms and those produced by its bacterial symbionts. Lakindu graduated from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, majoring in Immunology and Integrative Molecular Biology.

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Sam Stokoe, Program Manager of the ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development

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 Travelers Insurance with a professional background in Learning and Development, and University Relations within the Talent Acquisition office.



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Erinn Taylor de Barroso, Assistant Director, ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development, Northeastern University

Since joining Northeastern in 2018, Dr. Taylor de Barroso has worked on projects aimed at diversifying the faculty, creating an equitable culture, and promoting faculty development at all career stages. She has nearly 19 years of experience in higher education, with most of her previous experience focused on graduate admissions and student success. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, a M.P.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a B.B.A. from Texas A&M International University.



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

Dr. Willits is Chair and Professor of Chemical Engineering at Northeastern University. Her research interests include 3D environments that control cell response, with a particular emphasis on increasing nerve regeneration/decreasing neurodegeneration. Her lab seeks to understand the behavior of cells in vitro and enhance neural cell response in vivo. She has received grants from National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the Margaret F. Donovan Endowed Chair for Women in Engineering at the University of Akron. Willits earned a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University.



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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 B.S. in Biology from Howard University and a Ph.D. in Genetics from Harvard Medical School.

Speakers

*In order of appearance in the schedule



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Karl Reid, Senior Vice Provost and Chief Inclusion Officer at Northeastern University

Dr. Reid was appointed Senior Vice Provost and Chief Inclusion Officer at Northeastern University on April 1, 2021. He also holds the title of Professor of Practice in the Graduate School of Education in the College of Professional Studies. Prior to joining Northeastern, Dr. Reid served for seven years as the Executive Director of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), marking his return to the organization that gave him his first major leadership experience 32 years earlier. A certified diversity professional, Dr. Reid has been a leading national advocate for diversity and inclusion, and increasing college access, opportunity and success for low-income and minority youth. Dr. Reid earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in Materials Science and Engineering from MIT, and an Ed.D. from Harvard University.



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Alex Fronduto, Assistant Teaching Professor at Northeastern University

Dr. Fronduto teaches in the M.Ed. Higher Education Administration program and advises Ed.D. students on their dissertations. His previous research has ranged from the lab-based sciences (Kaposi's Sarcoma-associated Herpes Virus and Yeast-Two Hybrid System) to education (Team-based learning in health professions education and its impact on student achievement). His work experience includes working in enrollment management for 10 years at a private four-year university. His educational background includes a Doctorate in Health Sciences from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, a M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from Northeastern University, and a BS in Chemistry and Premedical and Health Studies from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Speakers



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Carolyn Ruppel, Research Geophysicist/Project Chief, USGS Gas Hydrates Project

Dr. Ruppel is currently the acting Senior Science Adviser to the Chief Scientist of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). She has been a Research Geophysicist at the USGS in Woods Hole since 2006 and leads the Gas Hydrates Project, which focuses on climate and energy aspects of natural methane hydrates. She received her Ph.D. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was as a Postdoctoral Scholar at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution before joining the faculty at Georgia Tech, where she received tenure 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 has been active in informal mentoring of younger scientists for ~25 years.



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Yadilette Rivera-Colón, Assistant Professor of Biology, Undergraduate Research Coordinator at Bay Path University

Dr. Rivera-Colón earned her Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she researched structural and biochemical properties of human lysosomal enzymes. Upon completion of her doctorate, she became an IRACDA Post-doctoral fellow at the PENN-Professional Opportunities for Research and Teaching, in the laboratory of Ronen Marmorstein, Ph.D. at University of Pennsylvania, where she focused on biochemical studies of protein acetyltransferases. As a researcher, Dr. Rivera-Colón has presented various projects and has published articles such as "The structure of N-acetylgalactosamine-6-sulfatase and implications for chondroitin-6-sulfate degradation in Mucopolysaccharidosis IVA (MPS IVA)." In addition, she has won many honors and awards, including best posters and fellowship grants.

Speakers



Carlos Hidrovo, Associate Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Northeastern University

Dr. Hidrovo received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2001. His research focuses on Multiscale and Multiphase flow and transport phenomena, surface tension interactions in micro/nanoengineered structures, and electrokinetic ion transport in porous media for applications in energy storage, portable biochemical diagnostics, thermal management, and water treatment systems.

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Christina Rotsides, Instructor of Physical Sciences, Mathematics & Engineering

Dr. Rotsides is Instructor of Chemistry at Foothill College. Her research interests include the development of libraries of small organic molecules for screening against cancer cell lines and synthetic methodologies, including the use of divalent silicon species in chemical transformations. Prior to joining Foothill, she held a postdoctoral position at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and an instructor position at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She earned a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from New York University.

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Catherine Clark, Associate Professor of History and French Studies at MIT

Dr. Clark is a cultural historian of modern Europe, who has written widely about the histories of modern France and its visual culture. She began at MIT in the Global Studies and Languages section as Assistant Professor of French Studies before moving to History in 2019. Her research is largely concerned with how the visual produces knowledge—both in the past and in contemporary historical practices. Her interest in visual culture and the city has led her to write about the histories of commercial street photography in France after 1945, the Vidéothèque de Paris, the production of Marco Ferreri's 1974 film *Touche pas à la femme blanche!*/*Don't Touch the White Woman*, shot in the destruction site of the former market pavilions at les Halles, as well as the history of dam-building in the Alps and the recent French TV show *Les Revenants*/*The Returned* (2012-2015). Dr. Clark earned a Ph.D. in History from the University of Southern California, a M.A. in French Cultural Studies from Columbia University in the City of New York and a Bachelor's degree in History from Swarthmore College.



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José Angel Araguz, Assistant Professor of English at Suffolk University

Dr. Araguz is the author of *Rotura* (Black Lawrence Press, 2022). His poetry and prose have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Poetry International*, *The Acentos Review*, and *Oxidant | Engine* among other places. He is an Assistant Professor at Suffolk University where he serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Salamander* and is also a faculty member of the Solstice Low-Residency MFA Program. He blogs and reviews books at *The Friday Influence*. Dr. Araguz earned his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati, his M.F.A. from New York University and his B.A. from the College of Santa Fe.



Adolfo Bejar Lara, Assistant Professor of Languages, Literature, & Cultures, SUNY New Paltz

Dr. Bejar Lara's areas of research include Latin American and Latinx literary and cultural studies, border and migration studies, and postcolonial and critical theory. Béjar Lara is a former DREAMer who migrated with his family from Mexico to the United States when he was 15. He plans to continue advocating for undocumented and DACA students within and beyond SUNY New Paltz migrant community. Dr. Bejar Lara holds a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Arizona and a M.A. in Spanish from the University of Kansas.



Toyoko Orimoto, Associate Professor of Physics at Northeastern University

Dr. Orimoto is an experimental particle physicist conducting research with the CMS Experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to joining the Northeastern faculty, Dr. Orimoto was a fellow at CERN (2009-2012) and the Robert A. Millikan fellow at the California Institute of Technology (2006-2009). She holds a Ph.D. and B.A. in physics from the University of California, Berkeley.

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Amanda Woerman, Assistant Professor of Biology at University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. Woerman, under the direction of Dr. David Mendelowitz, designed the first animal model of perinatal exposure to the air pollutant sulfur dioxide and identified the mechanism by which it produces tachycardia and cardiovascular disease. In 2013, Dr. Woerman joined Dr. Stanlet Pruisner's lab at University of California San Francisco as a postdoctoral fellow with an interest in studying chronic traumatic encephalopathy. Dr. Woerman developed cellular assays for characterizing tau and α -synuclein prions in human diseases, and employed these models to investigate the role of prion strains in neurodegenerative disease. Her lab is currently investigating tau and α -synuclein prion strain biology and pathogenesis. She earned a Ph.D. in Molecular Medicine from George Washington University and a B.A. in Botany/Microbiology and Politics & Government from Ohio Wesleyan University.



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Swathi Kiran, Associate Dean for Research and James and Cecilia Tse Ying Professor in Neurorehabilitation at Boston University

Dr. Kiran's research interests focus around lexical semantic treatment for individuals with aphasia, bilingual aphasia and neuroimaging of brain plasticity after a stroke. She has over 100 peer-reviewed papers and has appeared in journals such as Brain and Language, Aphasiology, Journal of Speech Language, and Hearing and Cortex. Her work is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Kiran earned a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Speech Language Pathology from Northwestern University.



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Tiffany Joseph, Associate Professor of Sociology and International Affairs at Northeastern University

Dr. Joseph joined the Northeastern faculty in 2018 after serving as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Stony Brook University from 2013-2018. Prior to that, she was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Scholar at Harvard University. Her research explores the micro-level consequences of public policy on individuals, immigrants' health and healthcare access, comparative frameworks of race and migration in the Americas, and the experiences of faculty of color and women in academia. She currently serves as the graduate program director for her department. Dr. Joseph earned both a Ph.D. and a M.A. in Sociology from the University of Michigan.



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Madeleine Oudin, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Tufts University

Dr. Oudin runs the Oudin Lab, which investigates the role of the extracellular matrix (ECM), and its associated components, in cancer metastasis and drug resistance. The ECM is required for morphogenesis and maintenance tissue integrity, and it acts as a key regulator and effector of both physiological and pathophysiological tissue function. We study cancer progression from the perspective of the ECM, focusing on how dynamic, bidirectional signaling between the ECM and cells regulates cell behavior in tumor, immune and stromal compartments. Our interdisciplinary approach will place the lab at the intersection of cell biology, translational research, and bioengineering, and we will implement innovative technologies such as intravital imaging, 3D CRISPR screens, microfluidics and implantable devices to support our research. Dr. Oudin earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience and a M.A. in Pharmacology from Kings College, London.



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Sarah Delaney, Professor of Chemistry at Brown University

Dr. Delaney's research aims to understand the biological consequences of DNA damage. Using the methods and tools of biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology Dr. Delaney probes the effects of DNA damage from the molecular to the cellular level. Her lab exploits their abilities to synthesize modified DNA nucleobases and study their properties within well-defined systems. Delaney's lab are particularly interested in the role of packaging of DNA into chromatin and how that packaging influences repair of DNA damage. Dr. Delaney earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Caltech and a B.A. in Chemistry from Middlebury College.



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Jerry Hajjar, CDM Smith Professor and Chair for Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University

Dr. Hajjar is the CDM Smith Professor and Department Chair in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University. His research focuses on steel and composite steel/concrete structures; earthquake engineering; structural stability; large-scale experimental testing of structures; regional simulation. Dr. Hajjar received his Ph.D. in Structural Engineering from Cornell University in 1988.

Speakers



Mariana Laverde, Assistant Professor of Economics at Boston College

Dr. Laverde has been an Assistant Professor of Economics at Boston College since July 2020. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 2019 and was a postdoctoral associate at the Tobin Center at Yale University between 2019 and 2020. She earned her Master's degree in economics and Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics at the Universidad de los Andes, Colombia. Mariana Laverde's research interests are in the economics of education and applied market design.

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Tara L. Parker, Chair of the Department of Leadership in Education, Professor, Higher Education at University of Massachusetts Boston

Dr. Parker is Chair of the Leadership in Education Department and Professor of Higher Education at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her research focuses on race, equity, and success in higher education, including three interrelated areas: 1) the application of critical race theory to higher education; 2) the experiences and contributions of faculty of color; and 3) the influence of public policy on developmental education. Dr. Parker earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education from New York University, her M.A. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Minnesota, and her B.A. in Communications from Marist College.

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Mariam Ismail, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at University of Massachusetts Boston

Dr. Ismail's research group is focused on the synthesis and engineering of visible light active photocatalysts for environmental remediation. Photocatalysts are metal oxides that can be activated under light energy, allowing for a series of chemical reactions to occur. The reactions that her group is targeting include wastewater remediation, reduction of greenhouse gases such as CO₂, and production of H₂ gas as an alternative fuel source. Dr. Ismail went to Northeastern University for her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering and UMass for undergraduate studies.



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Alexandra To, Assistant Professor of Arts, Media & Design and Computer Science at Northeastern University

Alexandra To is Assistant Professor at Northeastern University jointly appointed in the Art + Design (Games) department in the College of Art, Media, and Design and the Khoury College of Computer Science. She is an HCI researcher, racial justice activist, critical race scholar, and game designer. Her core research interests are in studying and designing social technologies to empower people in marginalized contexts. She uses qualitative methods to gather counterstories and participatory methods to design for the future. She has designed award-winning transformational games, received multiple ACM Best Paper awards, and published at CHI, UIST, CSCW, CHI Play, ToDiGRA, and DIS. Dr. To earned her Ph.D. in Human-Computer Interaction from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.S. and B.S. in Symbolic Systems with a concentration in HCI and a minor in Asian American Studies at Stanford University.



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Michelle Kovarik, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Trinity College

Dr. Kovarik's research is focused on applying these tools to new applications, including studies of the social amoeba *Dictyostelium discoideum*. During her postdoc, Dr. Kovarik was fortunate to be part of the Seeding Postdoctoral Innovators in Research and Education (SPIRE) program, which allowed her to integrate research and teaching during two semesters at North Carolina A&T State University. She has continued to develop her interest in teaching by participating in the NSF-funded Analytical Sciences Digital Library active learning group. She earned a Ph.D. from Indiana University and a B.S. in chemistry from Saint Louis University.



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N. Fadeke Castor, Assistant Professor of Religion and Africana Studies at Northeastern University

Dr. Castor is a Black Feminist ethnographer and African diaspora studies scholar, with research and teaching interests on religion, race, and the intersectional politics of decolonization. Before joining Northeastern University she taught Afro-Atlantic religions, popular culture, cultural anthropology, and social theory at Williams College, Duke University, and Texas A&M University. Her first book, *Spiritual Citizenship: Transnational Pathways from Black Power to Ifá in Trinidad* (Duke University Press 2017; winner of the 2018 Clifford Geertz Award for best book in Anthropology of Religion) argues that the Trinidad Ifá/Orisha religion emerges from black power as central to the development of decolonization practices and cultures in the post-colonial Caribbean. Her new project focuses on the interplay of the Black radical tradition, social justice, and African spirituality as an example of spiritual citizenship in action. Dr. Castor earned her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago.



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Alex Browman, Assistant Professor of Psychology at College of the Holy Cross

Dr. Browman's research explores how people psychologically experience and internalize social and economic inequality in their environments. In particular, he examines the consequences of these experiences for motivation and performance in education and other important future-oriented endeavors, especially for youth and young adults from less advantaged, lower-opportunity backgrounds. Across his research, Alex Browman applies his empirical findings to develop novel interventions that inoculate these individuals against the negative psychological effects of social and economic inequality. Dr. Browman earned both a Ph.D. and a M.A. in Social Psychology from Northwestern University. He earned a B.S. in Psychology & Biology from McGill University.