

Northeastern University Oakland Faculty

The following is an introduction to some of the Northeastern University Oakland faculty who will be teaching coursework next year. These faculty have joined Northeastern University as full faculty since the merger with Mills College in July of 2022. Northeastern colleges offering degrees for the Oakland campus beginning in the fall 2023 semester are also engaged in hiring full time faculty to teach courses on the Oakland campus.

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Sahar Abi-Hassan

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Program Head of Legal Studies

Program Head of Public Policy and Political
Science (UG)

Education

PhD, Boston University



Sahar Abi-Hassan is an assistant professor of Political Science and Public Policy. She teaches courses on American politics, public policy, law and society, US constitutional law, and political methodology. In

2021 she was recognized as the Kathryn P. Hannam Professor of American Politics. Her research spans judicial politics, legal advocacy, and political methodology, where she has extensively examined the individual qualities of interest groups and the nature of interactions between, and its influence on the behavior of the courts in the United States. In a recent paper published in the Political Analysis journal, Professor Abi-Hassan and her co-authors leverage the power of network analysis with extensive knowledge of judicial politics to produce the first ideology score for all amicus-filing organizations in Supreme Court litigation. She is also part of an interdisciplinary research team working to map all the writ of certiorari petitions filed with the Supreme Court to understand how the supply of legal questions shapes the court's agenda-setting process. With a better understanding the nature of these petitions, Professor Abi-Hassan hopes to build a more comprehensive picture of how the Supreme Court populates its plenary docket. Her broader interests include the behavior of U.S. political institutions, political analysis, and quantitative political methodology.

Mario Hernandez

Assistant Professor of Sociology
Program Head of Sociology

Education

PhD, The New School



Professor Hernandez is an urban sociologist who specializes in the study of gentrification. He teaches courses in race, inequality, urban history and development, art, and gentrification. He is an assistant professor and Fletcher Jones program chair of Sociology in the department of Social and Historical Studies at Mills College at Northeastern University. Professor Hernandez's research and teaching focuses on the constructed environment of cities as the intersection for analyzing policy, economic development, and racial justice.

His current book project, entitled *Bushwick's Bohemia: Art and Revitalization in Gentrifying Brooklyn*, examines the historical and contemporary role of racism in policy and planning that led to the neighborhoods near collapse in the mid-twentieth century to its current revitalization and gentrification. Within the context of fiscal crisis and neoliberal response, the book examines the role of artists in promoting the neighborhood and priming it for other creative industries, the commercial sector and the real estate industry. The book advances the study of gentrification by situating the study of gentrification within a network analysis of action among primary neighborhood stakeholders. The project analyzes the particular impact of policy and planning within this process.

Professor Hernandez is co-developing a Community Innovation Lab which will serve as a central resource for academics, activists and policy makers working to counteract the harmful effects of gentrification. Given the rapid pace of gentrification and displacement in cities around the world, The Lab will serve as a collective hub and incubator lab for innovative ideas and creative solutions for preserving and improving communities facing the threat of displacement and other harmful consequences of gentrification. The Lab will examine both large-scale policy and community-led initiatives to characterize the full scope and success of anti-displacement measures. Professor Hernandez also serves on the board of directors of Oakland Art Murmur where he created and edits the blog Art About the Town.

Martha Johnson

Associate Professor of Political Science

Education

BA, Smith College

MA, University of California, Berkeley

PhD, University of California, Berkeley



Martha Johnson (PhD, University of California Berkeley) is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Mills College at Northeastern University, where she has been teaching since 2009. She recently served as Visiting Associate Professor of Government at Dartmouth College and as a Fulbright scholar in Benin, where she studied women's experiences as political candidates in district and local elections.

Her research focuses on politics in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Francophone West Africa, and the issues of women's political representation and bureaucratic capacity. Her work on women's political representation includes cross-national studies regarding when and why presidents appoint women to their cabinets and country case studies of women's experiences running for public office. She is particularly interested in the intersection between economic rights and opportunities for political participation. She is the editor of *Women and Power in Africa: Aspiring, Campaigning, and Government* (Oxford University Press), which examines the multiple barriers and opportunities facing women in contemporary African politics. Professor Johnson also studies the politics of bureaucratic capacity in Africa, asking how reliance on foreign aid versus other forms of revenue shapes government efforts to build stronger states. She has conducted fieldwork in Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Benin with the support of two Fulbright grants and as a consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Her work has been published in major political science and development journals and has been featured in the Washington Post's Monkey Cage blog.

Kate Karniouchina

Professor of Business
Dean of Lokey School of Business and Public Policy
Glenn and Ellen Voyles Professorship in Business
Education



Education

BA, University of Utah
MBA, University of Utah
PhD, University of Utah

Dr. Kate Karniouchina holds a PhD in Marketing, an MBA, and a BA degree in Finance from the University of Utah. Her work has been widely published in academic and industry journals including the Journal of Marketing, Strategic Management Journal, Strategy Science, International Journal of Research in Marketing, Journal of Product Innovation Management, Cornell Hospitality Quarterly, Marketing Letters, Journal of Service Management, Service Science, and European Journal of Operational Research.

Most of Professor Karniouchina's research is focused on the movie industry. She explores the areas of new product sales forecasting and examines the role of consumer buzz in cultural and experiential product diffusion. Her work is highly cross-disciplinary in nature, and she often explores strategy topics using movie producers and distributors as the backdrop for her research. She also leverages the movie and entertainment context while teaching Marketing, Data Analytics, and Research classes making data exploration scalable and rigorous, yet fun and relatable.

Kate has extensive consulting experience and is a marketing research expert who carries out projects for a number of startup, corporate, and government clients. She is a frequent judge at business plan pitch competitions and serves as an advisor to companies looking for guidance in the areas of product/market fit, new feature introduction, customer experience, product roadmap, and sales forecasting. She also served as the principal advisor in the sponsored research project for the City of Emeryville, CA, where Mills College provided outreach and education for various labor standards including Minimum Wage, Paid Sick Leave, and Fair Work Week ordinances.

Ajuan Mance

Professor of Ethnic Studies and English
Dean of Digital Learning and Innovation

Education

BA, Brown University
MA, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
PhD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



Dean Morier

Professor of Psychology
Department Chair of Psychology
Letts Villard Professor of Natural Sciences

Education

BA, Hope College
PhD, University of Minnesota Minneapolis



Dean Morier is Professor of Psychology at the Mills College at Northeastern University campus in Oakland, California. He has been a professor at Mills College since 1989. He is the director of the Social Psychology Lab at MCNU and has served as department head for the psychology department in Oakland. Morier is a social psychologist, and he earned his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis) where his research focused on social cognition and jury decision-making. Morier earned his B.A. degree in psychology from Hope College located in western Michigan. He has taught a wide range of courses in psychology including introductory psychology, social psychology, personality, intergroup relations, and the history of psychology. He also has collaborated with many students on research in his laboratory. His research has investigated cognitive biases and decision making, intergroup relations and prejudice, aging anxiety, interpersonal relations and stereotypes, and science education and attitudes toward science. His current research interests include person perception and cognitive illusions about public and private behavior of our selves relative to other persons. He also is interested in applying social psychology to social problems such as increasing environmental sustainability and implementing positive psychology findings to improving individual mental health.

Yulia Pinkusevich

Associate Professor of Studio Art

Education

BFA, Rutgers University

MFA, Stanford University



Yulia Pinkusevich is an Associate Professor of Studio Art at Northeastern University, holding joint appointments from Mills College in Oakland and the College of Art, Media and Design in Boston. As a multidisciplinary visual artist working primarily in drawing, painting and installation she creates large-scale paintings and site specific environments that explore her identity as a refugee and immigrant of Siberian and Ukrainian descent. The work considers our ecological and social systems and observes environments critically, focusing on the psychology of architecture while exploring both the physical and psychological environments sentient beings inhabit.

Pinkusevich holds a Masters of Fine Arts from Stanford University and Bachelors of Fine Arts from Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts. Yulia's art has been exhibited nationally and internationally including site-specific projects executed in Paris, France and Buenos Aires Argentina. Her work is represented by Marlborough Gallery in New York / London / Madrid, and her art is in the public collection of the DeYoung Museum, Stanford University, Facebook HQ, Google HQ and the City of Albuquerque amongst others.

Yulia's pedagogy focuses on drawing and painting in the expanded field. Her recent creative research has been supported by the Mellon Foundation and the Knight Foundation, she was awarded a Quigley Summer Research Fellowship and has been an Artist in Residence at Gray Area Arts Foundation, Facebook, Google, Autodesk Pier 9, Recology (San Francisco Dump), Cite des Arts International (Paris) and Headlands Center for the Arts amongst others. Her work is currently on view at the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco and Marlborough Gallery in New York.

Yulia has lectured at Stanford University and is currently the Joan Danforth Associate Professor of Studio Art at Mills College at Northeastern University in Oakland California, she lives and creates works on unceded Ohlone territory.

Patricia Powell

Professor of English

W. M. Keck Foundation Professor of Creative
Writing



Education

BA, Wellesley College

MFA, Brown University

Patricia Powell is a writer whose novels include *Me Dying Trial*, *A Small Gathering of Bones*, *The Pagoda*, *The Fullness of Everything*, and *The Balm Yard* which is forthcoming. The novels, which have been critically lauded, have been translated into German and Spanish, optioned for film, taught in universities, and have received awards such as the Pen New England Discovery Award, the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Writers Award, and the Ferro-Grumley Award for LGBT Fiction among others. Powell's books explore many of the issues at the center of Caribbean people's lives, issues of immigration, history, gender, identity, queer sexualities, trauma, slavery, healing and race. Her new creative nonfiction project, which she started last fall while on a research fellowship at Brown University, is on slavery, generational trauma and healing.

Before teaching at Mills, Patricia Powell was an artist-in-residence at Stanford University, a Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professor at MIT, a Briggs-Copeland Lecturer in creative writing at Harvard University, a visiting writer at Wellesley College, and a professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Powell has extensive teaching experience in fiction and nonfiction workshops, and in craft and literature classes. She has co-chaired the English Department at Mills College and has served as director of the MFA program. After Hurricane Dorian destroyed several islands in the Bahamas in 2019, she co-organized a team of healers, and traveled with them to the Bahamas to lead trauma workshops at the University of the Bahamas and in the community, and to give hands-on-healings to displaced persons in shelters. The summer of 2020, after the death of Mr. George Floyd, Powell curated a six-week series called Healing the Racial Divide for the Barbara Brennan School of Healing.

Carolyn Sherwood Call

Professor of the Practice
Department Chair of Business

Education

BA, Pomona College
PhD, University of California, Berkeley



Carolyn Sherwood Call is an economist whose professional work has explored urban and regional economies, applied microeconomics, climate change policy, and the interactions among businesses, society, and policy-making. Before coming to Mills in 2010, she taught economics at St. Mary's College of California and served as a regional economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. She earned a PhD in economics at the University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelor of Arts in American studies at Pomona College.

Catherine Wagner

Professor of Studio Art
Department Chair of Art and Visual Culture
Nancy Cook Professorship in Photography Associate

Education

BA, San Francisco State University
MA, San Francisco State University



For over forty years Catherine Wagner has committed herself to being an educator and professional artist. During this time, she has been observing the built environment as a metaphor for how we construct our cultural identities. She has examined institutions as various as art museums and science labs, the home, and Disneyland. Ms. Wagner's process involves the investigation of what art critic David Bonetti calls "the systems people create, our love of order, our ambition to shape the world, the value we place on knowledge, and the tokens we display to express ourselves."

Catherine Wagner has been an active international artist, working photographically as well as with site-specific art, lecturing extensively at museums and universities. She has received many major awards, including the Rome Prize (2013-14), a Guggenheim Fellowship, NEA Fellowships, and the Ferguson Award. In 2001, Wagner was named one of Time Magazine's Fine Arts Innovators of the Year. Her work is represented in major collections, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, SFMOMA, The Whitney

Museum of American Art, Museum of Modern Art Bologna, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Yale University Art Gallery, Museum of Modern Art NY, The Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Museum Folkwang Essen. She has had one person exhibition at Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art Bologna, and the de Young Museum, among others.

Wagner has published several monographs, including *American Classroom*, *Home and Other Stories*, *Art & Science: Investigating Matter*, *Cross Sections*, *In Situ: Traces of Morandi*, and *Place, History and the Archive*.

Wagner is the Nancy Cook Endowed Chair in Photography at Mills College at Northeastern University in Oakland California. She works closely with graduate and undergraduate students leading Critique seminars, and courses that focus on the image and idea, and art and philosophy. Wagner's art practice and educational research frequently engages with architecture. She often works alongside architects on large scale public art projects, and most recently completed an installation for the new Yerba Buena / Moscone Central Subway Station in San Francisco.

Wagner is represented by Jessica Silverman in San Francisco, and Gallery Luisotti in Santa Monica

Susan Wang

Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science
Department Head of Mathematics and Computer
Science
Elinor Kilgore Snyder Endowed Professor



Education

BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MA, Princeton University
PhD, Princeton University

Susan Wang is a professor of computer science at Mills College at Northeastern University. She served as the Director of Interdisciplinary Computer Science graduate programs at Mills College for over a decade and as the Head of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department for many years. She earned her doctorate in computer science from Princeton University.

Wang's research experiences are in algorithms, discrete mathematics, and computer science and data science education. She is interested in broadening participation in computing and data science, especially by women and underrepresented groups. Her work has appeared in journals and conferences such as the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Journal on Discrete Mathematics, ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education, International Conference on Research in Equity

and Sustained Participation in Engineering, Computing, and Technology, and International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation.

Wang has been awarded the Sarlo Professorship in honor of her excellence in teaching and the Elinor Kilgore Snyder Endowed Professorship for her contributions to teaching. She has been a co-PI of an NSF award and has served on program committees such as the IEEE/ACM Workshop on Education for High-Performance Computing and as the Chair of IEEE Mary Kenneth Keller Computer Science & Engineering Undergraduate Teaching Award Committee.

Jared Young

Professor of Biology
Olga T. Scheffler Chair in the Sciences

Education

BA, University of California, Berkeley
PhD, University of California, San Diego



Jared Young is a Professor of Biology at Mills College, where his primary teaching focus has been in Neurobiology and Genetics. He also has led undergraduates in research projects on the Neurobiology of the popular genetic model organism *Caenorhabditis elegans*.

Dr. Young received his BA in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California, Berkeley, and his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California at San Diego. He has been at Mills since 2006. In 2019-2020, he spent a sabbatical year in Kotarou Kimura's lab at Nagoya City University in Japan.

Dr. Young's research focuses on the cellular and molecular mechanisms that underlie aversive behaviors in the nematode *C. elegans*. The compact, 302 neuron nervous system of *C. elegans* makes it an excellent substrate in which to elucidate at high resolution the basis of neurobiological function. The lab's main project involves studying the basis of the worm's response to electric shock, a behavior that may reflect an emotional state and provide access to studies of emotion in this reductionist system. Another project, which was initiated by undergraduates in a Genetics lab course, is a query into the neurons and modalities involved in the worm's cliff avoidance response.

Dr. Young has been Director of the Jill Barrett Undergraduate Biology Research Program at Mills for 14 years, and also cofounded the Public Health and Health Equity major at Mills. He was the inaugural recipient of the Mills Outstanding Teaching Award, in 2012.

Lisa Urry

Professor of Biology
Department Chair of Biology and Chemistry

Education

BS, Tufts University
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



After graduating from Tufts University with a double major in Biology and French, Lisa completed her Ph.D. in molecular and developmental biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program. She has published a number of research papers, most of them focused on gene expression during embryonic and larval development in sea urchins. Lisa has taught a variety of courses, from introductory biology to developmental biology and senior seminar, as well as an experiential course called The U.S. / Mexico Border: An Immersive Experience. Lisa is deeply committed to promoting opportunities for women and PEERS (Persons Excluded due to Ethnicity or Race) in science. Lisa is also lead author of Campbell Biology and Campbell Biology in Focus, the most widely used college-level general biology textbooks in the U.S. and Canada; Campbell Biology has been translated into 20 languages.

Sarah M. Swope

Associate Professor of Biology
Department Chair of Biology and Chemistry

Education

BS, Prescott College
MS, Northern Arizona University
PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz



Sarah Swope is an evolutionary ecologist and studies three very rare plants in Marin County. She is interested in how plants cope with life in a variable world and the role of genetic diversity in promoting local adaptation. Additionally, all of her work has a conservation theme running through it. She is using her data to make predictions about whether these species are likely to evolve fast enough to keep up with climate change and to recommend ways to protect them.

Catrina D. Jaime

Assistant Adjunct Professor
Program Head Public Health and Health Equity

Education

BS, University of California, Davis
MPH, University of California, Davis
PhD, University of Pittsburgh



Maria Katrina D. Jaime was born in Manila, Philippines and immigrated to the Bay Area during her childhood. Dr. Jaime's scholarly and professional experience spans over 15 years, from working on multidisciplinary research at UC Davis Healthcare Policy and Research to conducting federally funded research and implementation of R01 community-, school- and clinically- based sexual and reproductive health and violence prevention interventions at UC Davis Health, Department of Pediatrics, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine.

As a faculty and program head at Mills College, Oakland campus, Dr. Jaime has been involved in teaching public health and health equity, academic advising, conducting student-led and community-based research, developing internships by fostering community partnerships, and leading program development in public health and interdisciplinary undergraduate programs. Other initiatives include developing and leading a Social Justice and Research Scholars and Advocate program and a Peer Mentorship program.

Dr. Jaime's current research includes various social justice research topics, including the development of an undergraduate doula training course, evaluation of the impacts of social determinants of health among low-resourced communities, promotion of Black wellness and anti-racism in the classroom, and improving the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults who have been marginalized.

Ellen Spertus

Teaching Professor

Education

BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Ellen Spertus is a computer science professor, practitioner, and researcher, with experience in compilers, computer architecture, information retrieval, mobile application development, programming environments, and open source software. She joined the Mills faculty in 1998 and worked concurrently for 11 years at Google, where she helped create the Hour of Code and App Inventor, through which millions of people have been introduced to programming. She worked in compilers and text classification at Microsoft in the 1980s and 1990s and brings her lifetime of experience and sense of humor to her teaching.

For over 30 years, Spertus has been an advocate for increasing diversity in computer science and has served on the ACM Council on Women in Computing, co-founded the Tech Intersections conference, been a Cultural Competence in Computing fellow, presented 7 times at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, taught technical interview skills at CodePath, and contributed a chapter to *She's Such a Geek: Women Write About Science, Technology, and Other Nerdy Stuff*, ed. by Annalee Newitz and Charlie Anders.

Spertus has been a PI or co-PI on two NSF awards, including an Early Career Development grant, and has published research at Principles and Practice of Parallel Programming (PPOP), the International Symposium on Computer Architecture (ISCA), Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI), the World Wide Web Conference (W3), and many other conferences and workshops. She and her work have been written about in *The New York Times*, *Wired*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, and elsewhere.

Rasika Bhalerao

Assistant Teaching Professor

Education

BS, University of Washington

PhD, New York University



Rasika Bhalerao received her PhD in computer science from NYU Tandon in 2022 under her advisor Damon McCoy. Her pronouns are she/her. Her main research interests are cybersecurity, ethics, social bias in machine learning, and teaching ethical computing. She strongly believes that the most efficient path to ethical tech is to have computer/data scientists who reflect the population that their products are

Northeastern University Oakland

Northeastern University Oakland
5000 MacArthur Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94613

oaklandadmissions@northeastern.edu
oakland.northeastern.edu
510.430.2255

designed to affect. Please feel free to reach out to her to talk about teaching, ethical computing, or online harassment! She is learning Spanish and Mandarin, and would love to practice with you!