

A photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, a paved walkway leads from the bottom left towards the center. To the right of the path is a grassy area with several black lampposts that have white, bell-shaped light fixtures. In the background, there are large, leafy green trees and a multi-story brick building with many windows. The sky is clear and blue.

Sabbatical Celebration AY24 Sabbatical Leaves

September 18, 2025
3 - 4:30 PM

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

Abdullah Albizri

Information Management & Business Analytics

“Human-centric Artificial Intelligence & Virtual Reality to Support Knowledge Augmentation for Students Presenting with Dyslexia”

- Presented talks at CEROS Seminar Series at Université Paris Nanterre and at EMLV De Vinci Research Center (Paris) on AI and its impact on healthcare and innovation.
- Presented preliminary research findings at ICTO international conference 2025, La Rochelle, France.
- Prepared manuscript to be submitted by November 2025.to “Technological Forecasting and Social Change journal”.



Nicole Archer

Department of Art & Design

Looming Violence: Textiles and the Material Politics of Insecurity and Discomfort in the Contemporary US (book)
and

“Black Flags and Other Allegiances” (exhibition)

- Completed first draft of book manuscript (under contract with Manchester University Press)
- Completed exhibition preparation, for a co-curated show marking the US Semiquincentennial, which will open at the David C. Driskell Center - Univ Maryland, College Park (February 2026)
- Presented research related talks at: Harvard University's Graduate School of Design; Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis at the University of Amsterdam; University of Nebraska, Lincoln's Humanities on the Edge Speaker Series



Amanda Baden

Department of Counseling

Adoption and Social Media Use

Attitudes and Family Relationships

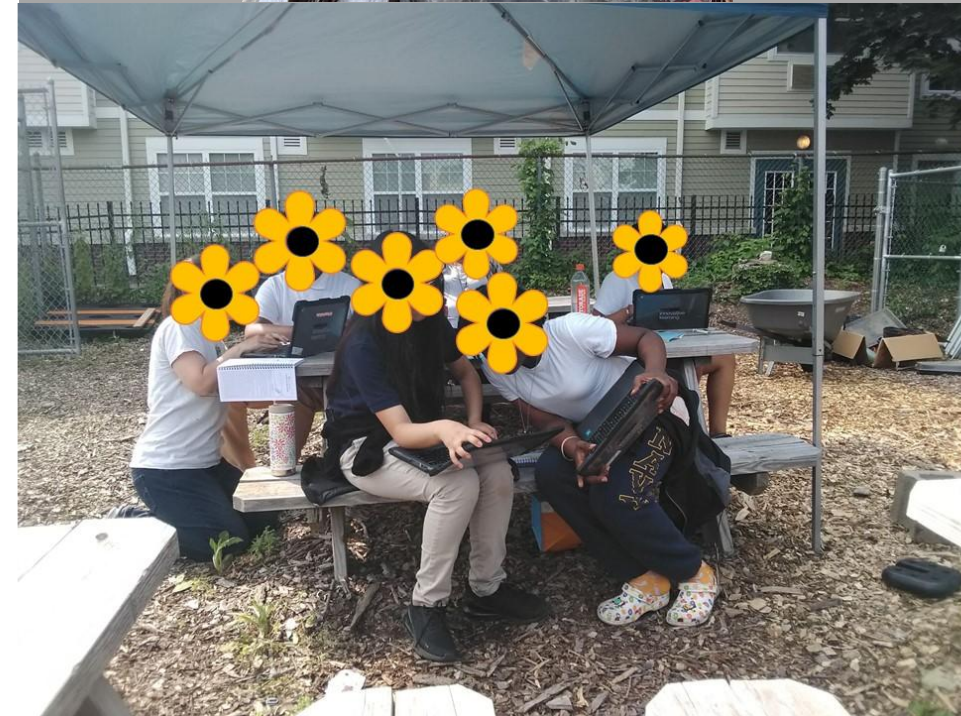
- Visiting Professor at UMass Amherst's Rudd Adoption Research Program in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
- Published 4 papers on adoption, one of which was a precursor to the study developed for this sabbatical
- Designed and collected data focusing on adult adoptees' use of social media and its relationship to adoption consciousness, adoption trauma, adoptive family relationships, adoptee community belongingness, and intellectual humility
- Launched dyadic (adoptive parents and the adult adoptee children) study of estrangement in adoptive families
- Served as faculty at the 4th Summer Adoption Research Institute (SARI) at the Rudd Adoption Research Program



Renata Blumberg

Department of Nutrition and Food Studies

- Data collection for research projects on the effects of bridging and bonding capital in community and school gardens
- Survey testing and development on parental attitudes towards nature, and the role of ecological assets in youth development
- Collaborator on two grant proposals submitted to the NJ Economic Development Authority with community partners
- One conference presentation, and one poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers
- Lead author on collaborative manuscript on advancing the Science-Policy Interface in food systems with colleagues from the Research Working Group of NJ's food policy council
- Invited to serve on the inaugural Advisory Board of the NJ Youth Food Council supported by Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development



Cortni Borgerson

Anthropology

“We’re eating the world’s most endangered animals into extinction: Madagascar’s urban lemur meat trade”

- Lemurs are the world’s most endangered mammal
- Completed the first assessment of the illegal urban trade of their meat: 2,600 participants across 17 cities across Madagascar 2024-25
 - Quantified scale and drivers of previously unknown luxury urban trade (>12,000 threatened lemurs annually)
- Findings presented at IPS Congress in July 2025
 - International Press Statement in response by IPS and IUCN SSC
 - Ministry of Env & Sust Dev considering policy changes in direct response
 - Coverage by NYTimes, National Geographic, Mongabay & more....
- First article in press within Conservation Letters (Q1, CS:10.3, JIF:5.9)



Zoë Burkholder

Educational Foundations

The Amazing Paradox

How School Desegregation Affected Black Teachers in the North

- Black teachers matter.
- Scholars have documented catastrophic losses of Black teachers after 1954 during school desegregation in the South.
- My project is the first to investigate how school desegregation affected Black teachers in the North, from 1900-today.
- Working with nonprofit organizations to engineer meaningful educational reform at state and federal levels.
- Under contract with Cornell University Press.



Ms. Ruth Acty, the first Black teacher hired in Berkeley CA public schools in 1943.

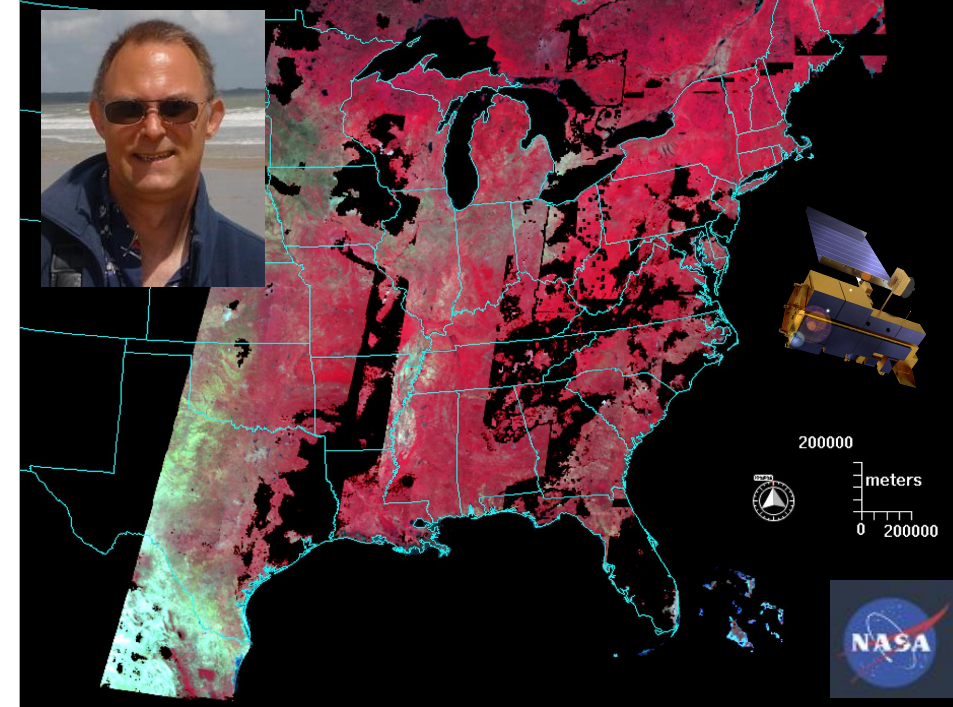
Mark Chopping

Earth and Environmental Studies

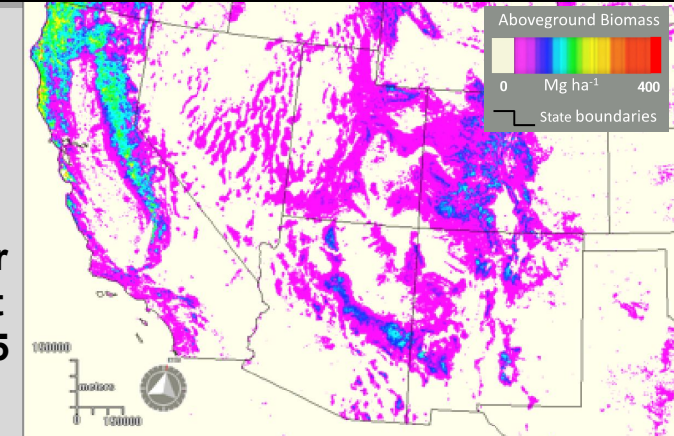
“Two Decades of Changes in Forest Biomass in the Contiguous United States from NASA’s Multiangle Imaging Spectro-Radiometer”

- Goal: Generate forest aboveground biomass (AGB) maps for the lower 48 states for 2000 – 2022. Maps for the southwest are [already published](#) at the Oak Ridge National Lab; this updates the series for the continental US). The map series reflects forest growth and losses from wildfires, bark beetle, pathogens, storm damage, and harvest.
- Retrieved and processed data (~5,000 – 10,000 files per year) and composited to remove contamination as shown (top right). Data to fill the holes from cloud cover have been acquired and processed.
- Production of the complete forest map series requires (i) AGB prediction (ii) map merging (iii) generation of Quality Assurance data.

False color composite image: RGB = composited NIR, Red, Green Bidirectional Reflectance Factors
Black: missing data, non-land areas. Year: 2000



Previously published forest AGB map series for the southwest US. Year: 2005

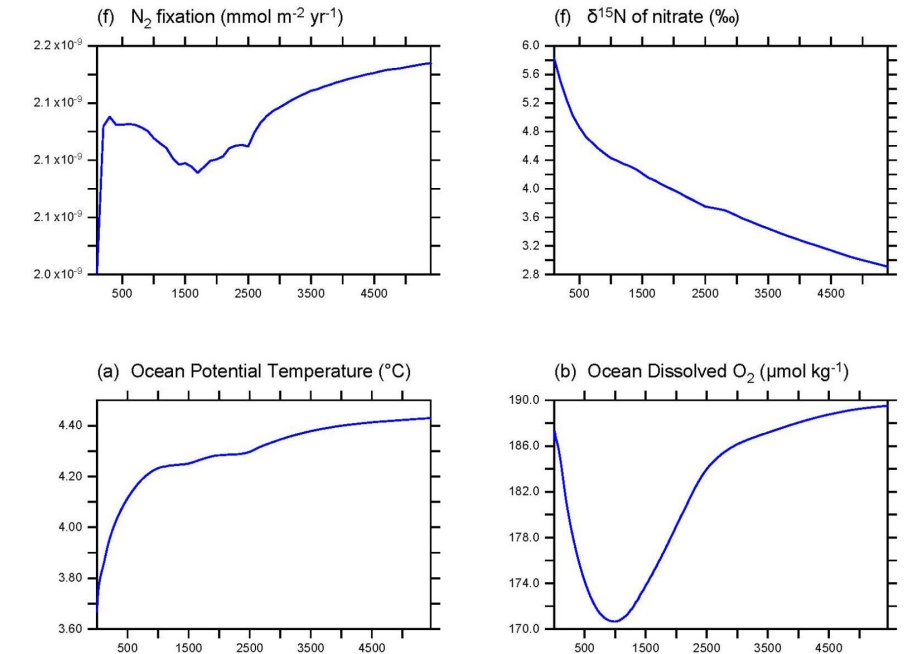


Ying Cui

Earth and Environmental Studies

“Nutrient dynamics in the subpolar North Atlantic”

- Humboldt scholar at GEOMAR Marine Research Center Kiel in Germany from Feb. 1 to July 31, 2025
- Presented sabbatical research results at the annual Geochemistry conference Goldschmidt in Prague, Czech Republic
- Part of the research results are included in a manuscript submitted to the journal “Nature” and another manuscript in preparation for “Nature Geoscience”
- Two grant proposals were submitted during the sabbatical (DOE and NSF)
- 18 peer-reviewed papers are published during FY2024-2025

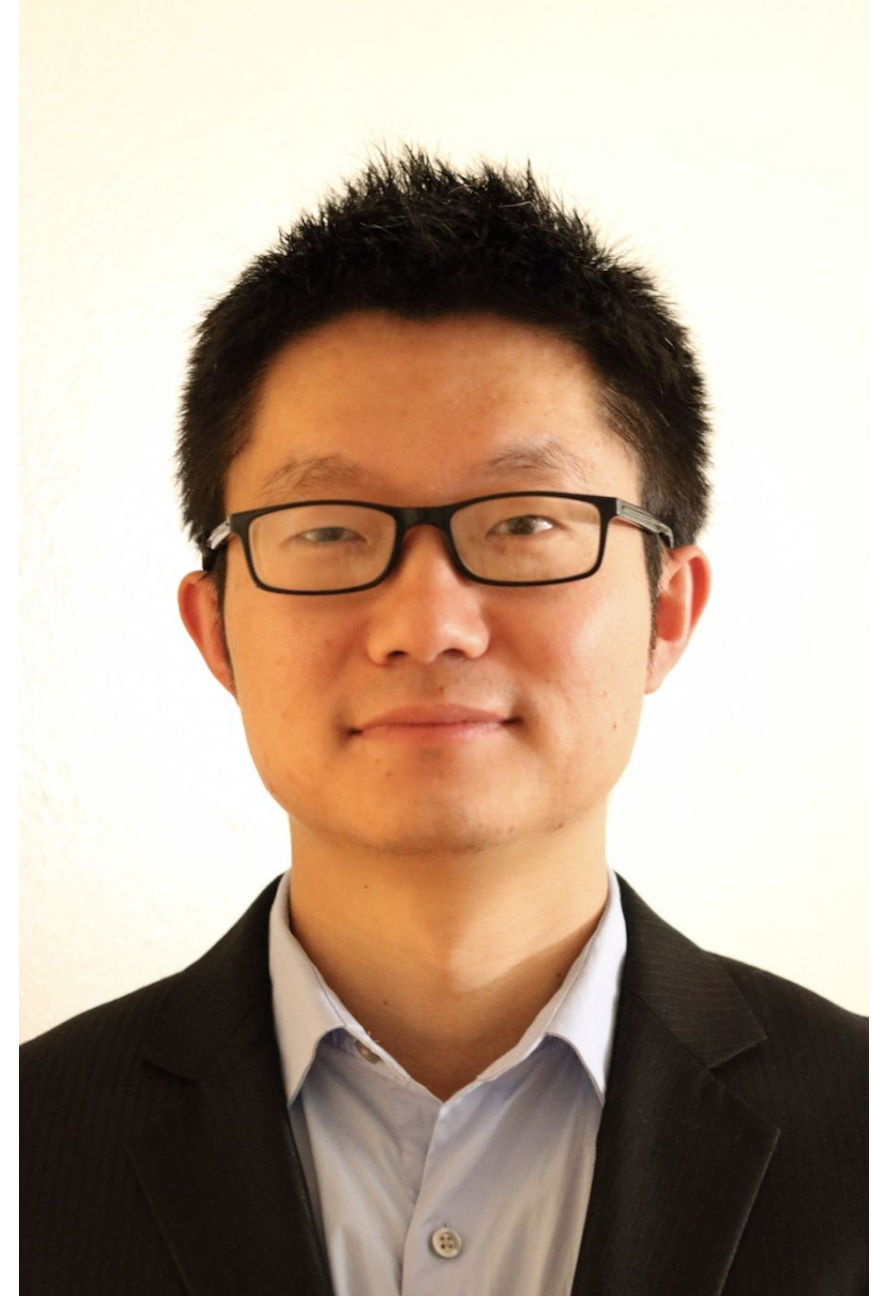


Boxiang Dong

Computer Science

On the trustworthiness and fairness of AI generated content.

- Built a dataset for AI generated image and video detection based on StableDiffusion.
- Developed a model that can detect AI text-to-video generated videos, utilizing vision-transformers, resulting in 92% detection accuracy (100+ downloads on Huggingface).
- Obtained CAHSI-Google Institutional Research Program Award (\$40,000).



Bradley Forenza

Social Work and Child Advocacy

- Community-engaged research in the community of Paterson
- Seeks to understand the perspectives of stakeholders (community members and leaders, non-profit organization staff, etc) in respect to:
 - community stress
 - empowerment
 - pursuit of social change



Rachel Garver

Department of Educational Leadership

“Mapping Multilingual Futures”

- Senior Research Fellow at the University of Vienna (Austria)
- Segregation & Integration of Multilingual Learners
 - Collaboration with Dr. Susanne Schwab on segregation of German language learners in Austria
 - Co-edited special issue of *Peabody Journal of Education* - Mapping Multilingual Futures: Forging Inclusive Schools for Multilingual Learners
 - 1 special issue edited & 2 peer-reviewed articles published
 - mentored doctoral students at the University of Vienna
- Deepening School - University Partnership
 - International workshop - Research for Educator Preparation and School Improvement Within School-University Partnerships (with school-based educators, faculty & university students from Montclair & Vienna)
 - School visit in Vienna

International Workshop:
Research for Educator Preparation and School Improvement Within
University-School Partnerships



Please join us for an online workshop on doing research within university-school partnerships. This event will foster cross-institutional learning between the University of Vienna (Austria) and Montclair State University (USA) on using research for educator preparation and school improvement.



Jessica Henry Justice Studies

Second Chances in the American Criminal Legal System

- Completed full length manuscript on second chances in the American Criminal Legal System for University of California Press
- Launched my podcast cast, Just Justice, about second chances in the criminal legal system
- Appointed to NJ Governor Murphy's historical Clemency Advisory Board and meet twice monthly to make clemency recommendations.

Sorry to miss you all. I'm at the Second Look Network Conference in Detroit! If you want to learn more about my work, check out my website at jessicahenryjustice.com.



Jun Hierholzer

Department of Art & Design

Vision Redefined: Visual Communication in the Age of AI and Where Form Meets Meaning: Concrete Poetry and Graphic Design

- Completed manuscript for *Vision Redefined*, under contract with Tongji University Press
- Delivered keynote address, "Generalist or Specialist? Rethinking Design Education in the Age of AI," at M-Scope 2025, an international symposium hosted by Tongji University, College of Design & Innovation
- Advanced *Where Form Meets Meaning* with three completed chapters; publication interest from Tongji University Press
- Research on Japanese concrete poetry for the book *Where Form Meets Meaning* (Visiting Scholar, Waseda University, Tokyo)



Jun Hierholzer

美国蒙特克莱尔州立大学终身教授
视觉传达设计专业主任

通才还是专才？
AI时代下的设计教育思考

Generalist or Specialist?
Rethinking Design Education
in the Age of AI

Francesca Laguardia

Justice Studies Department

“Carrying Risk: Pregnancy repercussions as ubiquitous but hidden”

- Analyzed over 1100 archival documents from Planned Parenthood Archives at Smith College Library; survey, interviews, and over four thousand online major media articles mentioning pregnancy and these most common repercussions.
- Presented preliminary findings at annual Law & Society Association meeting, published preliminary article Sparing the Gory Details: Legal And Social Inertia And The Refusal To Confront The Body In Pregnancy. *Northwestern Journal of Law & Social Policy*, 20(2), 83
- Invited to, and become a regular participant in, the *reproductive rights roundtable*, an academic association of attorneys working on reproductive rights issues, led by David Cohen, professor at Drexel Kline School of Law, and Kimberly Mutcherson, Professor of Law and former Co-Dean at Rutgers Law School in Camden.



Douglas Larkin

Dept. of Teaching & Learning

Supporting STEM Teaching and Learning
in Iceland.

- completed “The Reasons Teacher Stay” book manuscript for Harvard Education Press.
- My Fulbright got “paused” by the State Department but I went anyway. I worked with a national project called Strengthening STEM Education at the University of Iceland (Háskóli Íslands) to improve STEM teaching and learning.
- My Fulbright award was “unpaused” in September, so right now I am back in Iceland completing a project with the university on supporting novice teachers from the University’s teacher education program.



Rodica Martin

Physics & Astronomy

Improving the Sensitivity of LIGO Gravitational-wave Detectors

- LIGO Visiting Scholar, Caltech, Sep. 2024 - May 2025
Supported the LIGO Project with development of high-precision optical components, modeling and measurement techniques for interferometer upgrades, in order to further improve the instrument's detection sensitivity.
- Continued work on the development of Low-loss Faraday isolators for Next Generation of Gravitational-wave Detectors, supported by NSF grant awards PHY-1806839 and PHY-2012021
- Presented at *Joint March & April Meeting: Global Physics Summit 2025, March 16-21, Anaheim, CA*, and regularly at system-wide project meetings, workshops, and to LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Collaboration working groups.



Carrie Masia

Psychology

Enhancing the Applicability of an Evidence-based Intervention to Reduce Social Anxiety and Improve Educational Outcomes for Black Students in Urban Public High Schools

- Visited and Presented at Oxford University
- Two accepted papers, two submitted manuscripts, and chapter based on federally-funded project
- Supported NIMH R01 submission through MSU and served as Co-I
- Served on NIH grant review committee



Benjamin Nienass

Department of Political Science and Law

“Public Grief and Political Transformation”

- Studied *political grief*, i.e. the political impact of public rituals of mourning, in two contexts:
1) activism around the ever-increasing number of border deaths in the US, Mexico and Europe; and 2) activism in the context of the “War on Drugs” in Mexico
- Article in *Cultural Studies*, 2 book chapters, contract with Routledge’s *Rethinking Memory, Representation and Human Rights* Book Series for edited volume
- Presentations (workshops and invited lectures) at University of Osnabrück, University of Innsbruck, University of Vienna, and University of Graz (photo ➡)



Rabia Redouane

Department of World Languages and Cultures

“Female Literacy Programs in Morocco: Cases studies on women’s empowerment”

- Completed data collection among one thousand twenty five women in both mosque-based and school-based adult literacy programs in four Moroccan regions. I am working on data analysis and interpretation of findings
- Presented three papers at the International Conference on Current Issues in Education & at the 12th International Conference on Education & Social Sciences, Istanbul, Turkey, and at the International Conference on Education and Learning Sciences, Malaga, Spain
- Published two articles and third one is under review.

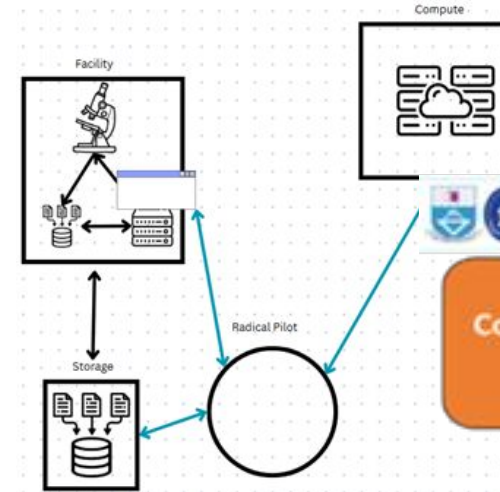


Stefan Robila

School of Computing

“Integrated Scientific Workflows: Melding Sensing Data, Tools and Computing Resources for Accelerating Scientific Discovery”

- Fall 2024: Immersed in study of workflow components such as sensors, communication, fusion and computational tools through visits and collaborations. Presented work and interacted with researchers.
- Spring 2025: Researched robust tools for intelligent workflows. Focused on the RADICAL Cybertools (RCT), a platform developed with NSF support and integrated with DoE facilities systems
- Submitted grants on sensors and cyber physical systems. Served as keynote presenter.



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Sensing



STEFAN ROBILA, PHD

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Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iași

INRIA

GRANT FROM THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Communications / Sensing

Tools / Software

Integrated Scientific Workflows

Data Streams / Fusion

Integrated Research Infrastructure

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI UDINE

Brookhaven National Laboratory

Stephen Ruszczyk

Sociology Department

“Tracing Climate Futures”

Fulbright project in Manta, Ecuador and Quito, Ecuador

- Project development and multimethod data collection with high school & university students, IRB approval in two countries
- Series of workshops with 28 classes of rural and urban high school students
- Taught a university course at the Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí (ULEAM)
 - Students conducted participatory action research projects
- Led faculty workshops and seminars for ULEAM students
- Co-organized day-long ULEAM event to share findings

Legal Dreams book project

- Conducted revisit interviews with undocumented youths in Paris & New York City, IRB approval in two countries
- Co-editing special issue on methodology used in studies of undocumented migration

NSF Build & Broaden Grant Application “Highly Recommended”

“Ins

Jornadas Sociología Espejo

Dr. Stephen Ruszczyk PhD

Docente Investigador de Sociología de la
Universidad de Montclair, New Jersey

17H00

MIÉRCOLES 28 DE MAYO DEL 2025

TEMA: MIGRAR A LA CIUDAD: ESPERANZA,
RETOS Y OPORTUNIDADES

JUEVES 29 DE MAYO DEL 2025

TEMA: DESIGUALDAD EN AMÉRICA:
REALIDADES Y OPORTUNIDADES.

MIÉRCOLES 04 DE JUNIO DEL 2025

TEMA: ¿QUÉ ES LA INVESTIGACIÓN ACCIÓN
PARTICIPATIVA?: CASOS CON LOS ESTUDIANTES
UNIVERSITARIOS.

JUEVES 05 DE JUNIO DEL 2025

TEMA: RASTREANDO EL FUTURO DEL
CLIMA: ¿QUÉ VEN LOS JÓVENES EN
SUS ESFERAS DE CRISTAL?

¿Cómo piensan los jóvenes
sobre su futuro en el contexto
del cambio climático?

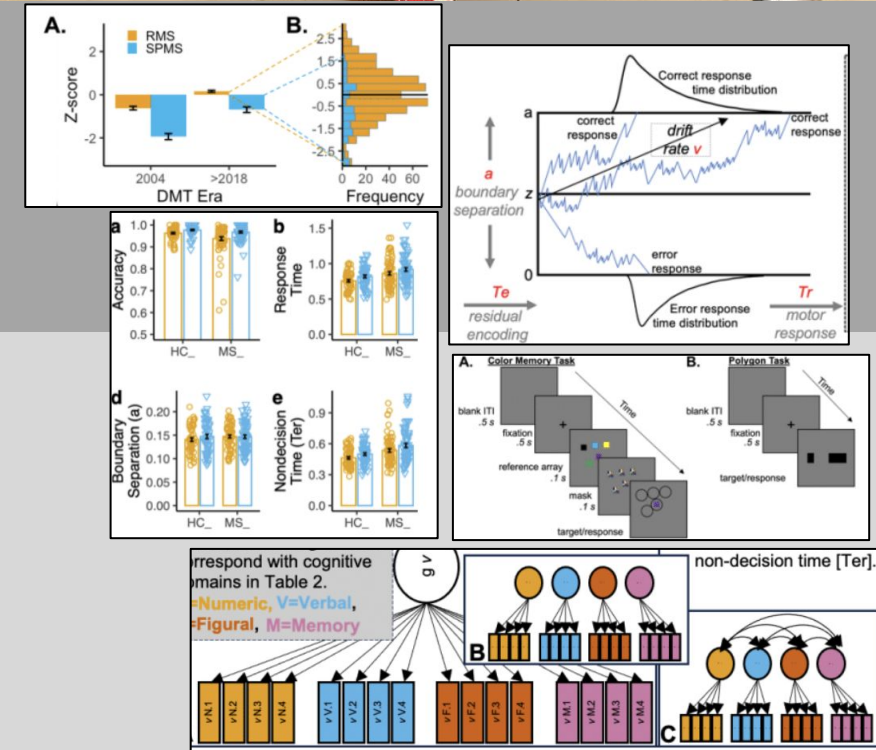


Stephen P. Ruszczyk, PhD, Universidad Estatal de Montclair,
Universidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York

Joshua Sandry Psychology Department

“Neurocognitive Disability”

- Continue working on active externally funded projects (*NIH R01NS121107*).
- Develop and refine computational modelling skills and apply to secondary data analysis of prior multiple sclerosis grants (*NMSS RG-1901-33304 & RG-1907-34364*); served as preliminary data and led to new NIH NINDS funding (*R01NS136523*) to refine measurement of cognitive disability.
- Structural MRI voxel based morphometry (VBM) self study to relate cognitive and brain changes in neurological disease.



Meiyin Wu

Department of Biology

“Mitigate Harmful Algal Blooms to Protect Human and Ecosystem Health”

- Harmful algal blooms (HABs) produce cyanotoxins that pose health risks to both animals and humans.
- Conducted a year-long field and laboratory data collection to investigate climate change impacts on HABs.
- Organized a citizen science program engaging community partners in HABs prevention, control and mitigation.
- Spent two months at the Water Quality Research Center at National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan.
- Joined the Asian-Pacific Alliance on Water Environment Research for Sustainability, an international collaboration of 12 universities from 9 countries.
- Coauthored 5 manuscripts, submitted 6 grant proposals, completed 4 media interviews, and delivered 14 presentations.



Yingying (Jennifer) Yang

Department

Cognition And Behaviors in Intellectual Disabilities

- Continued 2 NIH Grants and 1 NSF grant on spatial cognition in typically developing children and people with Down Syndrome
- Submitted a NIH R15 grant (Feb 2025) to study spatial cognition in aging adults with Down Syndrome
- Submitted a U.S. Army grant (Jun 2025) to study wayfinding using virtual reality and network psychometrics



Mayida Zaal

Teaching & Learning

Visiting Scholar @ University of Hawaii in Hilo School of Education

Expanding MSU's Red Hawks Rising (RHR) Teacher Pathway

- Engaged with grow-your-own teacher education program centering Native Hawaiian language and culture.
- Observed intergenerational community-based teacher education mentoring model
- Conceptualized student success curriculum for RHR Scholars

Advancing the Muslim Teacher Study (Spencer Foundation Grant)

- Analyzed quantitative and qualitative data
- Co-authored one manuscripts, and a book chapter
- Developed four conference proposals



Tina Zottoli

Psychology

“Developing a theoretically-grounded model of guilty plea decision making ”

- Continuation of multi-year, interdisciplinary project to develop an explanatory model of plea decision making
 - Application: reduce wrongful convictions resulting from psychologically coercive plea bargaining
- Sabbatical objectives
 - Revise & extend our conceptual model
 - Formalize that model computationally
 - Perform initial internal validation

