Summer Research Opportunity Program
June 23 — August 10, 2019
The Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) is a signature diversity program within The Graduate School at Northwestern University. We are very pleased that one-third of the program’s participants apply to The Graduate School following their summer research experience to pursue their graduate education.

SROP was launched at Big Ten Academic Alliance universities in 1986 as a gateway to graduate education for underrepresented students. Today, it has grown into an intensive supervised research experience, complemented by academic enrichment activities and exposure to graduate school as a post-baccalaureate option.

During SROP, participating students develop a research question, conduct research on a single subject over an eight-week period, learn laboratory skills and research methodologies for their discipline, and write a research paper explaining their findings. This experience culminates in a research forum in which students have an opportunity showcase their findings and celebrate their experience. These research presentations are the result of the work of talented students guided by our excellent faculty mentors and SROP group leaders.

The Graduate School is proud to advocate for a diverse graduate student and postdoctoral trainee population, as well as an equitable graduate student experience across Northwestern. This year, we have one of the most diverse groups of SROP participants in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, women in STEM, and institution type. The recruitment and retention of a diverse graduate student and postdoctoral trainee population is at the core of our mission.

Congratulations to all involved in this important research experience. We hope it serves as the spark for continued learning and innovation here at Northwestern and beyond.

My best,

**Teresa K. Woodruff, PhD**

Dean, The Graduate School and
Associate Provost for Graduate Education
Northwestern University

The Watkins Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Feinberg School of Medicine
A Message from the Assistant Dean

Thank you for joining us at the 34th Annual Research Forum for Northwestern’s Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP). We are extremely proud of our 25 SROP participants who will be sharing their summer research projects through oral and poster presentations.

The Graduate School (TGS) provided a dynamic and enriching summer research experience this year. We welcomed our SROP students to campus with two days of orientation programming including workshops on mentoring, time management, research and writing skills. Our SROP students also networked with current graduate students and administrators at professional development events, practiced presentation skills with Ready, Set, Go programming, and enjoyed a social outing to the Taste of Chicago. The success of SROP would not be possible without the partnership of many Northwestern colleagues. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our SROP Faculty Mentors, the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) and SROP Leaders, as well as TGS Leadership for their support of the program. We look forward to continuing to sponsor this wonderful program in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Damon L. Williams, Jr
Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion,
The Graduate School

A Message from the Coordinator

Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate our students’ achievements and research. I was honored to lead this program for the first time this year, and to continue our legacy of providing a dynamic summer research experience for talented undergraduate students. As an alumnus of the Northwestern Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP), I am extremely honored to have the opportunity to lead this program. SROP is and has been near and dear to my heart, as it was instrumental in my decision and preparation to pursue graduate education at Northwestern University. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in Northwestern SROP as a rising senior, mentor students as a postdoctoral leader for the past 5 years, and now lead the program as the SROP coordinator. Today, as we celebrate the 34th cohort of extremely bright and talented participants, I am honored to work alongside my colleagues who continue to work tirelessly to provide awareness and opportunities in graduate education for the next generation of thinkers and innovators. I am extremely proud of the graduate-level advise and research our SROP participants have received and conducted this summer, and it has truly been a pleasure to witness the grow and development of our scholars.

Our success this year would not have been possible without the partnership of many Northwestern colleagues and, above all, the commitment, dedication, and focus of YOU, our students. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our ODI staff, SROP Leaders, and specially our SROP Faculty Mentors, for their support of SROP over the years. I look forward to continuing working with you and continue to enhance this amazing program in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Félix L. Núñez Santana, PhD
SROP Coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion
The Graduate School
Miriam Bautista
Psychology, California State University
Faculty Mentor: Mark Beeman
Miriam is interested in the human mind and the influences our brain and environment have on our emotional and behavioral responses, particularly in children and those who deal with abnormal behaviors/psychosis. She finds love and passion for all art forms and expressions of creativity by many artists, including but not limited to Salvador Dali, Frida Kahlo, and Rocco Satochi. She practices painting and writing poetry herself. Miriam is a first-generation Mexican student who plans on pursuing a PhD in clinical or developmental psychology. The skills she obtained as a student research assistant in the Cultural Prenatal Mental Health Lab and the Creative Brain Lab, her dedication to schoolwork, and her experience as a member of multiple student organizations represent her potential to obtain a doctorate degree. With her PhD, she plans to go into either the clinical or academic realm and work with minorities like herself to encourage and strengthen people’s health, education, and future.

Juan Carlos Becerra
Political Science, Los Angeles Pierce College
Faculty Mentor: Traci Burch
Juan Carlos Becerra, also known as Kyle, is a first-generation American and college student from Los Angeles, California. He is majoring in political science at Los Angeles Pierce College and intends to transfer to a four-year university in the fall of 2020. Kyle’s interests and hobbies include playing baseball, exercising, going to the movies, learning more about his culture, and everything Star Wars. He aspires to become a professor of political science to help develop the next generation of scholars. He credits his academic accomplishments to the amazing mentorship he has received by numerous professors and counselors and is excited to mentor students as a professor one day. His research areas of interest include American politics and racial and ethnic politics. Kyle is particularly interested in political participation of racial and ethnic communities.

Myles Kobe Bowen
Biological Anthropology & International Studies, Northwestern University
Faculty Mentor: Helen Tilley
Myles Kobe Bowen is a scholar from Texas, studying biological anthropology and international studies, with a concentration in economic development in North Africa and the Middle East. As a Black man, Myles has dedicated his studies to addressing issues of institutionalized difference and social death on a national and international level, as he situates himself and his work within Black communities within the United States and within Egypt, Libya, and Sudan. Myles plans to continue his education in graduate school, aspiring to obtain a PhD in anthropology and a JD, with which he will focus on environmental law. He hopes to use these degrees and his research to highlight the ways in which environmental racism perpetuates the social death experienced by many Black populations domestically and abroad. Kyle intends on eventually using this information as an organizing point to draft improved legislation.

Stephanie Castelin
Psychology, University of Central Florida
Faculty Mentor: Tracy Fehrenbach
Stephanie Castelin is a first-generation Haitian-American, born and raised in Florida. She is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in psychology, with a minor in statistics, at the University of Central Florida. Stephanie has had nearly two years of experience conducting research on the psycho-physiological differences between bilingual and monolingual speakers. She completed an Honors in the Major Thesis that evaluated the effects of the strong Black woman schema on the mental health of black women. Beyond research, Stephanie desires to help other students and has held leadership positions in several campus organizations. She has also served as a mentor and tutor for high school and college students. In her free time, she enjoys playing the cello, journaling, and volunteering. After obtaining her bachelor’s degree, Stephanie would like to attend a doctoral program in clinical psychology to pursue a career in child clinical psychology. She hopes to advance the field of mental health for underserved and adversely-affected children through research, teaching, and treatment.
SROP Participants

Rozahnea Charles
Psychology, University of Texas at Austin
Faculty Mentor: Onnie Rogers
Rozahnea Charles was born and raised in Dallas, TX. She currently attends the University of Texas at Austin as a psychology major. Through her research, she seeks to explore identity development among African American and Latinx children and adolescents, through the analysis of their race, gender, and class. She focuses on exploring societal norms and stereotypes that play a role in their development and other contributing factors, such as traumatic experiences, that they may encounter during their youth which, in turn, influence how they perceive themselves and the world around them. She plans to obtain her PhD in developmental psychology and become a tenure professor. Rozahnea enjoys traveling and spending quality time with her friends and family. She is a first-generation college student who is not only dedicated to making a change in her life, but in the lives of others.

Carmen Crusoe
Africana Studies & Political Science, Howard University
Faculty Mentor: Danielle Bainbridge
Carmen Crusoe is double majoring in Africana studies and political science at Howard University. She aspires to become a professor of Africana Studies at a leading research institution. She is a member of the inaugural class of the Howard University Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF). As a MMUF, she received digital humanities training, where she learned how to combine her love of data, art, and accessible scholarship. Carmen is a 2018 Frederick Douglass Global Fellow to Cape Town, South Africa. She serves as a campus and global advocate for increasing the participation of underrepresented students in international educational experiences. She is also a 2019 Young Africana Leadership Initiative Fellow. Through this fellowship, she engaged in a service and research tour across Ghana. Carmen is extremely passionate about research and has completed and participated in several research projects throughout her undergraduate career. Her research interests are in 19th- and 20th-century Black social and political thought, with a focus on the Black Studies Movement, particularly disciplinary Africana Studies; social and political organizations; and intellectual history/genealogies. Carmen is also a poet and spoken word artist. She is looking forward to continuing the lifelong journey of deep thought, study, contribution, and growth.

Bernardo Duarte
Psychology, University of Iowa
Faculty Mentor: Sylvia Perry
Bernardo Duarte is a rising senior at the University of Iowa studying psychology. He currently lives in Des Moines, IA but is originally from Brazil. In his free time, he enjoys discovering new coffee shops, spending time with family and friends, watching scary TV shows and movies, and listening to music. Bernardo is also passionate about social justice, civic engagement, learning, and traveling. He is interested in the psychology of intergroup processes, specifically looking at the topics of identities, biases, stereotypes, and discrimination. His plans are to attend graduate school to receive his PhD in social psychology and become a professor, while also conducting research. He hopes to one day develop programs and interventions aimed at improving intergroup relations through decreasing biases, stereotypes, and discrimination against marginalized identities.
**Kourtney Ellis**  
History, Cornell College  
Faculty Mentor: Alvin Tillery

Kourtney Ellis is a rising senior at Cornell College, preparing to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in history and a certificate for secondary education. She grew up in Chicago, IL with her mother, her pet cats and turtle, and four siblings, two of which are in high school and two in college. While a student at Cornell College, on the rigid and fast-paced Block Program, she also finds the time to participate in extracurricular activities. Kourtney is the historian of Black Awareness Cultural Organization (BACO)/Umojja and the vice president and service and philanthropy chair of her sorority, Beta Psi Eta. In addition, she has participated as a Lunch Buddy – a program that aims to mentor third grade students from a local elementary school. When not completing school work or participating in clubs, Kourtney can be found reading fantasy novels or watching her favorite shows on Netflix.

**Jordan Louis Gurneau**  
Environmental Science, Northeastern Illinois University  
Faculty Mentor: Aaron Packman

Jordan Louis Gurneau is a Native American scholar and a member of the St. Croix Chippewas of Wisconsin. He was born and raised in his traditional homelands, what is now called Chicago. Despite his efforts, Jordan could not wait for money to find him, so he decided to enroll in City Colleges of Chicago where he received his associate in science degree. Though he was initially interested in engineering, he decided to pursue environmental science after being accepted into Northeastern Illinois University. Jordan's future plans include matriculating into a well-established research institution to start his journey to earn a PhD. He is interested in climate change topics, including anthropogenic impacts on earth, air, and water resources. Jordan is a comedian, a husband, and father to two young children and hopes his educational path aligns with his spiritual beliefs. His tribe's word for an elder man, Akiiwensii, translates to English as "earth caretaker," something Jordan hopes to achieve. Miigwech.

**Diamond Jones**  
Japanese Language & Culture, Northwestern University  
Faculty Mentor: Thomas Gaubatz

Diamond Jones is a student at Northwestern University where she is majoring in Japanese language & culture. Her research journey began during a summer where she explored the articulation of the “vengeful female ghost” figure in Japanese horror video games. She has continued to pursue her interest in game studies. In addition to being a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow (MMUF), she is also a senior health educator in the Peer Health Exchange. In this position, she teaches under-resourced high school students a skills-based health curriculum. After graduation, she plans to become a professor and work toward making academia more accessible to scholars. When not researching, Diamond enjoys creating pop-up crafts, playing video games, and reading all of Ray Bradbury’s works.

**Jaylan D. Jones**  
Chemistry, Texas Southern University  
Faculty Mentor: Neil Kelleher

Jaylan D. Jones, originally from Harvey, IL, is a first-generation college student. He is a junior at Texas Southern University, where he studies chemistry. He has been a part of multiple research projects, including Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC), entailing associated genes and their mechanism with TNBC, and Proteomics using mass spectrometry. Jaylan’s passion for research is driven by the multitude of unanswered scientific questions. He is a Louis Stoke Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) scholar. After receiving his degree, Jaylan will continue his research in an MD/PhD program. Jaylan has a special interest in mentorship and healthcare advocacy for minorities. He has a great desire to give back to his community in the many ways it has gifted him. He is an active member of American Chemical Society, National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists & Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE), Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS), and is the vice president of Boys II Men.
Gregory Keslin  
**Mathematics and Statistics, Miami University**  
**Faculty Mentor:** Adilson Motter  
Gregory Keslin is currently majoring in mathematics and statistics at Miami University in Oxford, OH. His research interests include big data, machine learning, and computational optimization algorithms. Last spring, he worked with Dr. Smucker at Miami University on optimal sub-sampling algorithms to help reduce computational costs of performing regressions on big data. As part of the SROP program, he is conducting research under Dr. Motter in the Department of Physics. Gregory is researching different methods to optimize mechanical networks. After graduation, he hopes to pursue a PhD in statistics. He is originally from Glenview, IL, a suburb of Chicago. Gregory finds joy in reading and swimming. His favorite authors include Dostoevsky and Tolstoy.

Valeria Londoño  
**Biomedical Engineering, University of Miami**  
**Faculty Mentor:** Guillermo Ameer  
Valeria Londoño is a junior at the University of Miami, where she is majoring in biomedical engineering. She plays on the University of Miami club volleyball team, a sport that she has practiced and played for 10 years. Valeria is an active member of the Society of Women Engineers, the Colombian Students Association, and the Alpha Eta Mu Beta Biomedical Engineering Honor Society. Londoño is a native from Colombia, but has lived in Miami, FL her entire life. Her first research experience took place during her first year of college, where she became very interested and passionate about the potential applications of biomedical engineering to regenerative medicine. At Northwestern University, she conducted research at the Center for Advanced Regenerative Engineering, under the mentorship and guidance of Dr. Guillermo Ameer. Valeria plans to pursue a PhD in biomedical engineering, with a focus on regenerative medicine.

Cristian Daniel Martinez-Ramos  
**Chemistry, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras**  
**Faculty Mentor:** Minoli Perera  
Cristian Daniel Martinez-Ramos was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He grew up in the town of Trujillo Alto with his younger brother and his mother and attended Colegio Nuestra Senora del Carmen, where he graduated with honors in 2016. During his schooling, he became fascinated with science, specifically how drugs interact with the body and the biochemistry behind it. After high school, he began his bachelor's degree in chemistry at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras where he is part of the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) program. Cristian aspires to acquire a PhD in biochemistry or pharmacology and to work in a government agency such as the National Institute of Health (NIH) or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He would also like to start his own biomedical company one day. Some of the activities he enjoys are traveling, swimming, watching movies, outdoors activities, and eating.

Jade Marcum  
**History, Northwestern University**  
**Faculty Mentor:** Kevin Boyle  
Jade is a rising third-year student from Montgomery, AL. She is majoring in history, with a concentration on the Americas at Northwestern University. Jade is particularly interested in the civil rights movement. Her current research focus is the Alabama State Sovereignty Commission, a government agency created under George Wallace, which had the role of circumventing voting rights in the state of Alabama, even after the passage of the Voting Rights Act. She is also interested specifically in the Middle East and North Africa, studying Arabic at Northwestern. In addition to being a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow (MMUF), Jade is also a resident assistant (soon to be senior resident assistant), residential life chair on the Homecoming Executive Board, and a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary. In her spare time, Jade enjoys dancing in shows on campus, reading, and spending time with her friends and family. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a PhD in history and continue a career in academia, in hopes of making people more excited to study history and making academia more accessible to everyone.
SROP Participants

María de los M. Méndez Santos
Biomedical Engineering, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico
Faculty Mentor: Guillermo Ameer

María Méndez Santos is a biomedical engineering student at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico (PUPR). For the past two summers she has been working at the Center for Advance Regenerative Engineering, under the guidance and mentorship of Drs. Xinlong Wang and Guillermo Ameer. María also serves as the vice president of the Biomedical Engineering Society at PUPR. She currently works at the university’s electronics lab, conducting neuromarketing research. María loves a good puzzle and is always excited for new challenges. She values education and upholds the academic excellence that has been instilled and cemented by her parents, who are both professors. In recent years, she has taken up baking as a hobby and has been known to make a great pecan pie. Upon graduation, María wants to pursue a PhD in biomedical engineering, focusing on regenerative engineering.

Spencer Alexandria Nabors
Philosophy, Spelman College
Faculty Mentor: Jose Medina

Spencer Alexandria Nabors is studying philosophy at Spelman College. She is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society and is on the dean's list. In 2019, Spencer served as president of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel Assistants Program at Morehouse College. She is only the second woman to hold this position. Spencer is a member of the Women in Spiritual Discernment of Ministry (WISDOM) Scholars Program at Spelman College. She is a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow (MMUF) and began her research journey at the Mellon Summer Institute in 2018. In addition, she is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Spencer hopes to attain a PhD in philosophy with the goal of becoming a professor. Her current research interests are in epistemology and critical phenomenology. Spencer is committed to her intellectual development, serving the community, and holding herself to the highest moral standard.

Shawn Ohazuruike
Neuroscience, Dartmouth College
Faculty Mentor: Caterina Gratton

Shawn Ohazuruike hails from Newark, NJ and attends Dartmouth College, where he is pursuing a degree in Neuroscience. Shawn runs the hurdles for the Dartmouth track and field team, serves as the vice president for Dartmouth's chapter of the Kidney Diseases Screening Awareness Program (KDSAP), and is an undergraduate adviser through Dartmouth Residential Operations, in addition to his neuroscience research. After graduating from college, he plans to take a gap year to engage in clinical research in Spain, before applying to MD/PhD programs throughout the country.

Sabrina Sanchez
Sociology, Williams College
Faculty Mentor: James Mahoney

Sabrina Sanchez is a sociology major at Williams College. She was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New York City. Outside of the classroom, Sabrina is a tour guide for Williams, treasurer of the school's radio station, a dancer in the African dance company, and a Korean language tutor. She has also engaged in a variety of academic interests throughout her undergraduate career. She previously worked as a neuroscience research assistant and spent her past summer conducting research at Columbia University on suicidality in immigrant populations. Sabrina spent her fall 2018 semester studying in Seoul, South Korea. Her senior thesis explores the role of space and monuments on North Korean nationalism and self-identity through time, aiming to apply memory and temporality theory within sociology to an often misunderstood, yet intellectually rich society. She hopes to pursue a PhD in sociology and become a professor in cultural and historical sociology.
Hannah Simmons
History, Smith College
Faculty Mentor: Leslie Harris / Co-Adviser: Kate Masur

Hannah Simmons is a history major at Smith College in Northampton, MA. She was born and raised in Memphis, TN, where she developed a love for history. Hannah’s research interests include early US history, slavery, and African American womanhood. After graduating, Hannah plans to pursue a PhD in history, with a focus on African American history. With her PhD, she hopes to become a professor and teach in a history or African American studies department. Hannah believes that researching and teaching history is important, especially given the current tense social and political climate. She believes that through teaching history, we have the ability to honor and remember people’s stories, especially those of historically underrepresented people. In her free time, Hannah enjoys writing fiction and poetry, playing music, and meeting new dogs.

Raven Schwam-Curtis
Asian Studies & Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Cornell University
Faculty Mentor: Marquis Bey / Co-Adviser: Michelle Huang

Raven Schwam-Curtis, hailing from Houston, TX, is a senior at Cornell University. She is double majoring in Asian studies and feminist, gender, and sexuality studies. Her research focuses on Afro-Asia—the study of the intersection of Asian and African diasporas. Centrally, Raven inquires about how these two diasporas built coalitions and what might be learned from those moments of collaboration and/or solidarity, especially in the 21st century. Using a feminist lens, Raven tackles the role of solidarity, allyship, and identity politics in curating a methodology for Afro-Asian coalition building. Raven draws on a diverse archive of YouTube videos, movies, articles, books, and more. As a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow (MMUF) and Hunter Rawlings III Presidential Research Scholar, she plans to continue this research in a PhD program after she graduates. In addition, she is a student administrator at Cornell’s Asian American Studies program, the co-president of the Building Ourselves Through Sisterhood and Service Peer Mentorship Program (BOSS), and a member of Asian Pacific Americans for Action (APAA). Raven enjoys playing guitar, singing, and watching curly hair tutorials on YouTube.

Danya Soto
Psychology, DePaul University
Faculty Mentor: Jason Washburn

Danya Soto is an undergraduate student at DePaul University. She is majoring in psychology, with a concentration in human development, and minoring in public law and early childhood education. Danya’s primary research interest is the impact of bilingualism and biculturalism on children and adolescents’ mental health. She is also interested in studying cognitive-behavioral therapy and mindfulness interventions in public school settings that provide mental health resources to ethnic minorities. Danya is originally from Mexico City, but moved to Chicago, IL seven years ago. She loves skiing, hiking, biking, and spending lots of time with her family. After she graduates, she intends to pursue a doctoral degree in clinical child psychology.
Marquis Taylor

History, Howard University
Faculty Mentor: Leslie Harris / Co-Adviser Kate Masur

Marquis Taylor is studying history, with concentrations in American and public history, at Howard University. In spring 2018, he was named a member of the inaugural cohort of the Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) program at Howard. Since then, he has engaged in research that largely concerns Black life throughout the African Diaspora. In summer 2018, Marquis participated in two archaeological field schools, in Milot, Haiti and St. Croix, as a University of California-Historically Black Colleges and Universities (UC-HBCU) Research Fellow. For the past year, he has served as an undergraduate research assistant on the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) approved Intra-American Slave Trade database. Currently, he is serving as a summer research assistant for Dr. Leslie Harris, professor of history at Northwestern University. A true public servant, during the 2018–19 academic year, Marquis was elected president of the College of Arts & Sciences Student Council where he represented and advocated on behalf of nearly 2,700 students and managed a fiscal budget of $330,000. Marquis plans to pursue a PhD in history and hopes to enter the professoriate, with an ultimate goal of leading a major cultural institution or university.

Gabriel E. Torres

Biological Sciences, University of Puerto Rico at Ponce
Faculty Mentor: Hiro Kiyokawa / Co-Adviser: Gemma Carviel

Gabriel was born on Queens, NY, but raised by his grandparents in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico. He is studying biology, with a concentration on biomedical sciences, at the University of Puerto Rico at Ponce. Gabriel's interest in science began at a very early age, when he noticed that he was different from other kids. While all his friends had five fingers, he had six on both hands. Throughout his childhood he always wondered why his hands were so different from normal kids, a question to which neither his grandparents nor his teachers could provide an answer. Years later he learned that he was born with post axial polydactyly, a genetic congenital malformation that gave him an extra finger. This discovery only created more questions that not even scientists could answer. The lack of answers ignited his passion and cemented his goal of becoming a geneticist.

Janelle Yanez

Creative Writing, Northwestern University
Faculty Mentor: Julia Stern

Janelle is a second-year student from North Hollywood, California. She is majoring in creative writing at Northwestern University. Janelle is interested in the representations of gender and Blackness in horror films and how the horror genre is grounds for much political and social dialogue. In addition to being a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow (MMUF), Janelle is a QuestBridge Scholar and a mentor in the Black Mentorship Program, where she works with a mentee to establish lasting relationships and a cohesive Black community on campus. After graduation, Janelle plans to pursue a graduate degree in English and hopes to one day make the literary arts more inclusive of voices like her own.
Guillermo Ameer, DSc
Daniel Hale Williams Professor
Professor, Biomedical Engineering & Surgery
Director, Center for Advanced Regenerative Engineering

Dr. Ameer is the Daniel Hale Williams professor of biomedical engineering and surgery in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the McCormick School of Engineering and the Department of Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University. He is the founding director of the Center for Advanced Regenerative Engineering (CARE). Dr. Ameer received his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and his doctoral degree in chemical and biomedical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

His research interests include biomaterials, tissue engineering, regenerative engineering, on demand patient-specific medical devices, additive manufacturing for biomedical devices, controlled drug delivery and bio/nanotechnology for improved therapeutics and diagnostics. Dr. Ameer’s laboratory pioneered the development and medical applications of citrate-based biomaterials. These materials have been adopted for various bioengineering applications by hundreds of researchers around the world. He has co-authored over 250 peer-reviewed journal publications and conference abstracts, several book chapters, and over 50 patents issued and pending in 9 countries. Several of his patents have been licensed to companies to develop medical products. Dr. Ameer is a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), a Fellow of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), and a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Dr. Ameer is an Associate Editor of the Regenerative Engineering and Translational Medicine Journal, member of the Boards of Directors of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), the Regenerative Engineering Society, and the American institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, co-chair of the BMES Diversity Committee, and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Acuitive Technologies, Inc. a company that is bringing one of his technologies to the musculoskeletal surgery market. Dr. Ameer is also a co-founder of several medical device companies.

Danielle Bainbridge, PhD
Assistant Professor, Theater

Danielle Bainbridge was postdoctoral trainee in the Department of African American Studies in the 2018–19 academic year and will begin a professorship in the Department of Theatre in the fall of 2019. Her ongoing book project Refinements of Cruelty: Enslavement, Enfreakment, and the Performance Archive examines the lives of African American sideshow and freak show performers who were also enslaved. Refinements of Cruelty establishes how the improvisational and anticipatory nature of the archival practices of slavery are mirrored in 19th century freak show performances that span the antebellum and post-Civil War United States. She calls this anticipatory accounting a ‘future perfect’ practice of archive and performance that considers “what will have been” rather than just the historical past tense. She theorizes that the archival structures that recorded enslavement and enfreakment on the sideshow stage are deeply invested in accounting equally for performers’ physical bodies as well as their performance labor. This creates a system of fungibility whereby the unfree enfreaked body accrues high value as an object of spectatorship and performance even as the terms of bondage renders that same body abjectly valueless as a traditional enslaved laborer. This occurs both onstage during life and also in the archive after death. Her project received the support of a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (2014–17).

In addition to her academic research, Danielle is also a creative writer, playwright, and web series host. She is the researcher, writer, and host of the PBS Digital Studios web series The Origin of Everything, which focuses on highlighting unusual and under told history and streams on YouTube and Facebook. Her creative nonfiction and fiction appears in Moko Magazine, Killens Review of Arts & Letters, and The Mechanics’ Institute Review Online. She was the inaugural winner of the 2015 Barry Lopez prize for creative nonfiction from Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts (judged by Nick Flynn) and a semi-finalist for the Kore Press 2016 memoir award. She received a 2016 scholarship from the Tin House creative writing workshop in Portland, Oregon. Her first play Curio premiered at the University of Pennsylvania in April 2018.
Kevin Boyle, PhD
William Smith Mason Professor of American History
Professor, History
Kevin Boyle is an historian of the twentieth century United States, with a particular interest in modern American social movements. His publications include The UAW and the Heyday of American Liberalism, 1945-1968; Muddy Boots and Ragged Aprons: Images of Working-Class Detroit, 1900-1930 (with Victoria Getis); Organized Labor and American Politics, 1894-1994; and Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age, which received the National Book Award for nonfiction, The Chicago Tribune's Heartland Prize, and the Simon Weisenthal Center’s Tolerance Book Award. It was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and was selected for community-wide reading programs in the Detroit metropolitan area and the state of Michigan. He has published essays and reviews in The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun, The Detroit Free Press, and Inc, The Rotarian, and Cobblestone magazines. He has held fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Fulbright Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, and the Andrew Carnegie Corporation.

Boyle is currently at work on two book projects: The Splendid Dead, a micro-history of political extremism and repression in the early twentieth century; and The Splintering, a narrative history of the 1960s. He teaches undergraduate courses on modern United States history, the civil rights movement, and racial violence and graduate courses in twentieth century American history, working-class history, and narrative history.

Traci Burch, PhD
Associate Professor, Political Science
Traci Burch is the author of Trading Democracy for Justice, published by the University of Chicago Press, and is co-author of Creating a New Racial Order, published by Princeton University Press. Her work has appeared in several peer-reviewed journals, including Political Behavior, Law and Society Review, and Criminology and Public Policy. Burch also serves as a research professor at the American Bar Foundation.


**Gemma Carvill, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Neurology, Pediatrics, & Pharmacology  
Gemma Carvill is an assistant professor in the Department of Neurology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL. She received her bachelor of science from the University of Pretoria and her PhD in human genetics from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Dr. Carvill performed her postdoctoral work in the laboratory of Dr. Heather Mefford at the University of Washington, where she used genomic sequencing approaches to identify novel genetic etiologies in the pediatric epilepsies. Her lab at Northwestern continues to use these technologies to define the molecular basis of epilepsy and provide answers for patients and families. Her group also uses patient-derived stem cell models to study how mutations in genes involved in epigenetic mechanisms cause epilepsy. Gemma is a recipient of a National Institute of Health (NIH) Pathway to Independence Award in 2014 and the NIH Innovator’s Award in 2018. Her independent research was made possible by early career awards from Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE), the American Epilepsy Society (AES) and most recently, the Dravet Syndrome Foundation. At Northwestern, Dr. Carvill interfaces with the adult and pediatric clinical teams to expand neurogenetics research and to facilitate genetic diagnoses for more patients and families affected by epilepsy.

**Tracy Fehrenbach, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences  
Dr. Tracy Fehrenbach is a clinical psychologist and assistant professor with the Mental Health Services and Policy Program at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine and the Co-Director of the Center for Child Trauma Assessment, Services and Interventions. Dr. Fehrenbach leads the Center’s activities within the areas of juvenile justice and health disparities. She has dedicated her career to clinical work and research that promote healing for people impacted by trauma. She is currently the principal investigator of one national and one international intervention program for justice-involved youth. She is also a co-developer of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)-Trauma version and is passionate about the culturally sensitive and meaningful application of both trauma-informed assessment and intervention. Dr. Fehrenbach also enjoys teaching and training on these topics and is always eager to learn from others in the field.

**Thomas Gaubatz, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Japanese Literature and Culture  
Thomas received his PhD in Japanese literature from Columbia University in 2016. His research interests are primarily in early modern Japanese literature, media, and society, with a focus on the role played by literature in conceptualizing urban space and the identities that it engenders. His research is also concerned with the mutual implications of literary history, material histories of the book, interpretation, and social history. His current project examines the ways in which different genres of popular narrative fiction registered and reflected upon shifts in the discourses and practices structuring urban commoner identity between the late 17th- and 19th-centuries. His other primary research focus is media theory and history, especially the history of commercial publishing in Japan and media-theoretic approaches to the woodblock-printed book. Thomas's teaching interests include premodern Japanese literature and book history; literature, media, and culture of the Meiji era (1868-1912); advanced Japanese, classical Japanese, and handwritten script; interdisciplinary and comparative approaches to urban history; and the history of and critical approaches to digital games in Japanese and global contexts.
Leslie Harris, PhD
Professor, History

Leslie Harris has focused on complicating the ideas we all hold about the history of African Americans in the United States and finding ways to communicate these new ideas to the general public. Her first body of work on New York City challenged the prevailing view of slavery as a phenomenon of the southern United States, with little impact or importance in the north. In her first book, *In the Shadow of Slavery: African Americans in New York City, 1626-1863* (University of Chicago, 2003), she examines the impact of northern and southern slavery on the definitions of class, gender, citizenship and political activism promulgated by New York's blacks and whites. That work led to her participation in the New York Historical Society's groundbreaking exhibition *Slavery in New York* (2005-2006), for which she was a principal advisor and co-editor, with Ira Berlin, of the accompanying book.

For the next decade, Harris led and participated in a number of public history initiatives. At Emory University, she co-founded and directed the Transforming Community Project (2004-2011), which used history and dialogue to address persistent challenges around racial and other forms of human diversity in higher education. In 2011, she co-convened the two-day conference “Slavery and the University: Histories and Legacies,” the first international conference on the issues raised by the recovery of histories of slavery at higher education institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

In 2014, in collaboration with Telfair Museum’s Owens-Thomas House in Savannah, GA, she co-edited with Daina Ramey Berry *Slavery and Freedom in Savannah* (University of Georgia Press), which contains the work of 30 experts on the history of slavery, Georgia, and Savannah—academic historians, museum professionals, non-academic historians, and archivists. Harris is currently at work on a book on New Orleans that uses Hurricane Katrina and her family’s history as a way to interrogate the history of African Americans in the city from the nineteenth century to the present. She also has ongoing research interests in the history of slavery, gender, and sexuality in the antebellum US south; and the historiography of US slavery.

Caterina Gratton, PhD
Assistant Professor, Psychology

Dr. Caterina Gratton is a cognitive neuroscientist and principal investigator of the Gratton Lab at Northwestern University. Dr. Gratton is originally from Champaign-Urbana, IL. She has undergraduate degrees in psychology and neuroscience from the University of Illinois and a PhD in neuroscience from the University of California, Berkeley. She did her postdoctoral work in the Department of Neurology at Washington University in St. Louis with Dr. Steve Petersen. Dr. Gratton is now an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Northwestern, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Neurology in Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine, and a preceptor in the Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience (NUIN) program. In addition to thinking about brain networks and top-down control, Dr. Gratton enjoys playing soccer and running after her twin toddlers.
James Mahoney, PhD  
Gordon Fulcher Professor in Decision-Making  
Professor, Sociology & Political Science

James Mahoney is a comparative-historical researcher with interests in political development, Latin America, and methodology. His most recent books are *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis* (2015; coedited with Kathleen Thelen); *A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences* (with Gary Goertz; 2012); *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective* (2010); and *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power* (2010; coedited with Kathleen Thelen).

Mahoney has received several awards for his work on methodology from the American Sociological Association (ASA) and American Political Science Association (APSA). His book on Colonialism and Postcolonial Development received six major awards from sections in ASA and APSA.

Mahoney has been president of the Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section and the Politics and History Section, APSA, and chair of the Comparative and Historical Sociology Section and the Development Section of the ASA. He has been associate chair of the Department of Political Science and chair of the Department of Sociology at Northwestern.

Hiro Kiyokawa, MD, PhD  
Professor, Pharmacology & Pathology

Dr. Hiro Kiyokawa is interested in the basic mechanisms of cell cycle control, cellular senescence/immortalization and malignant transformation, with a focus on protein regulation by ubiquitination. He previously demonstrated that cell cycle regulators such as p27Kip1, CDK4 and CDC25A play highly tissue-specific roles in development and oncogenesis. Ubiquitination, the covalent modification of substrate proteins with the small 76-residue protein ubiquitin, exerts diverse regulation of the fate of substrates, including the cell cycle regulators, e.g., promoting proteolysis, altering subcellular localization and modulating enzymatic activities. His current research is aimed at revealing novel functions of ubiquitination enzymes and their substrates in development and cancer, which is expected to identify new therapeutic targets against human diseases. Dr. Kiyokawa's laboratory uses a combination of protein engineering, proteomics, bioinformatics, cell biological techniques such as time-lapse microscopy and 3-D culture, and genetically engineered mouse models.

Neil Kelleher, PhD  
Professor, Chemistry

After finishing his joint graduate work with Tadhg Begley and Fred McLafferty at Cornell University in 1997, Neil Kelleher moved to the laboratory of Christopher Walsh at Harvard Medical School. This training in high performance mass spectrometry and enzymology explains much of the research performed by his independent laboratory over the last decade at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. In 2010 the Kelleher Group relocated to Northwestern University where the three main sub-groups continue working in the areas of top down proteomics, natural products biosynthesis/discovery, and chromatin biology. Dr. Kelleher has been successful in driving both technology development and applications of very high-performance mass spectrometry in both chemistry and biology. He has about 150 publications, an H-factor of 39, and provides ProSight software via the web to over 500 labs around the world. The core of the Kelleher Team is built around expertise in technology development for complex mixture analysis using Fourier-Transform Mass Spectrometry for targeted applications in proteomics and metabolomics. Dr. Kelleher harbors specific interests in the biosynthesis and discovery of polyketides and non-ribosomally produced peptides. Further themes of the Kelleher laboratory include using intact proteins for efficient detection of their post-translational modifications, with specific interests in chromatin and cancer biology.
José Medina, PhD
Walter Dill Scott Professor
Professor, Philosophy

José Medina works primarily in critical race theory, feminist and queer theory, political philosophy, communication theory, and social epistemology. His books include The Epistemology of Resistance: Gender and Racial Oppression, Epistemic Injustice, and Resistant Imaginations (Oxford University Press; recipient of the 2013 North-American Society for Social Philosophy Book Award), and Speaking from Elsewhere (SUNY Press, 2006). His most recent co-edited volumes are The Handbook of Epistemic Injustice (Routledge, 2017) and Cosmopolitanism and Place (Indiana University Press, 2017). His current projects focus on how social perception and the social imagination contribute to the formation of vulnerabilities to different kinds of violence and oppression. These projects also explore the social movements and kinds of activism (including what he terms “epistemic activism”) that can be mobilized to resist racial and sexual violence and oppression in local and global contexts. Current book projects include Racial Violence and Epistemic Activism and Theories of the Flesh: Latin-American and US Latina Feminist Theories (with Andrea Pitts and Mariana Ortega).

Kate Masur, PhD
Wayne V. Jones II Research Professor of History
Associate Professor, History & African American Studies

Kate Masur specializes in the history of the 19th-century United States, focusing on how Americans grappled with questions of race and equality after the abolition of slavery in both the North and South. Masur, a faculty affiliate of the Department of African American Studies, is author of An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle over Equality in Washington, D.C. (2010) and numerous articles on emancipation and Black politics during and after the Civil War. With Gregory P. Downs (UC-Davis), she co-edited The World the Civil War Made (2015), a collection of essays that charts new directions in the study of the post-Civil War Era.

In 2018, Oxford University Press published her new edition of They Knew Lincoln by John E. Washington. This largely forgotten classic in Lincoln studies and African American history was first published by E. P. Dutton in 1942 and is the first book-length study of Lincoln’s relationships with African Americans, including members of the White House staff and Lincoln’s Haitian-born barber in Springfield, William de Fleurville. It offers a mosaic of stories, deep research on Elizabeth Keckly’s life and authorship of her 1868 book, Behind the Scenes, and vignettes of Washington’s own childhood in the neighborhood near Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C. Masur’s introduction to the new edition explores John E. Washington’s life and work, as well as the book’s original reception and significance.

Masur has extensive experience in public history and teacher education. She was part of the editorial team that created Reconstruction: The Official National Park Service Handbook, and she and Downs co-authored The Era of Reconstruction, 1861-1900, a National Historic Landmark Theme Study published in July 2017. Downs and Masur wrote about their National Park Service work in The Atlantic Online and The New York Times, and they co-edited a Reconstruction special issue of The Journal of the Civil War Era that includes a forum on the future of Reconstruction studies and a roundtable conversation on Reconstruction in public history and memory. Masur regularly leads teacher workshops at the Newberry Library and has served as a consultant on a variety of museum exhibits and documentary films. She has separately written for The New York Times, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Washington Post, and The Atlantic Online on topics related to the Civil War, emancipation, the film Lincoln, and the history of the District of Columbia.

Masur is the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards. In 2018–19 she is on research leave courtesy of a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Faculty Fellowship and is a visiting scholar at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago. She is working on a book about police powers, the anti-slavery movement, and the origins of Reconstruction-era constitutional change. She has presented portions of that work at the National Archives, Brown University, Vanderbilt University, and other venues. A preliminary article based on her new research is published in the 2017 volume of American Journal of Legal History.

Professor Masur is also affiliated with the Center for African American History, the Department of African American Studies, and the Program in American Studies.

José Medina, PhD
Walter Dill Scott Professor
Professor, Philosophy

José Medina works primarily in critical race theory, feminist and queer theory, political philosophy, communication theory, and social epistemology. His books include The Epistemology of Resistance: Gender and Racial Oppression, Epistemic Injustice, and Resistant Imaginations (Oxford University Press; recipient of the 2013 North-American Society for Social Philosophy Book Award), and Speaking from Elsewhere (SUNY Press, 2006). His most recent co-edited volumes are The Handbook of Epistemic Injustice (Routledge, 2017) and Cosmopolitanism and Place (Indiana University Press, 2017). His current projects focus on how social perception and the social imagination contribute to the formation of vulnerabilities to different kinds of violence and oppression. These projects also explore the social movements and kinds of activism (including what he terms “epistemic activism”) that can be mobilized to resist racial and sexual violence and oppression in local and global contexts. Current book projects include Racial Violence and Epistemic Activism and Theories of the Flesh: Latin-American and US Latina Feminist Theories (with Andrea Pitts and Mariana Ortega).
**Faculty Mentors**

**Adilson Motter, PhD**  
Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor of Physics and Astronomy

Adilson E. Motter is the Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Northwestern University. Prior to joining the Northwestern faculty in March 2006, he held positions as a guest scientist at the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems, Germany, and as a director’s funded postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Nonlinear Studies at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He received his PhD in 2002 from the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) in Brazil, where he worked with Professor Patricio S. Letelier. Recent awards received by Professor Motter include an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, the Weinberg Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research, the Northwestern-Argonne Early Career Investigator Award for Energy Research, a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award, the Erdős–Rényi Prize in Network Science, and a Simons Foundation Fellowship in Theoretical Physics. He has been featured among the 30 promising scientists under the age of 40 born in Latin America identified by the Chilean magazine *Qué Pasa* and the international organization LatinAmericanScience.org, and selected Outstanding Referee of the American Physical Society (APS). Professor Motter is a Fellow of the APS and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Professor Motter’s research is focused on the dynamical behavior of complex systems and networks. This research is inherently interdisciplinary and has over the years benefited from Professor Motter’s affiliations with various programs in addition to his home Department of Physics and Astronomy. His current affiliations include the Chemistry of Life Processes Institute (CLP), Molecular Biophysics Program, Physical Sciences-Oncology Center (PSOC), Institute for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern (ISEN), Graduate Program in Applied Physics, Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics (CIERA), and Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems (NICO).

Professor Motter has served as an editorial board member of the *Physical Review X* (APS), the *Journal of Nonlinear Science* (Springer), *Nonlinearity* (IOP), *Advanced Science* (Wiley-VCH), and *Chaos, Solitons & Fractals* (Elsevier); associate editor of *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems* (IEEE) and the *Journal of Complex Networks* (Oxford University Press); and editor of *Chaos* (AIP). He has also served as a member of the Science Board of the Santa Fe Institute, Executive Committee member and Advisory Committee member of the Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems, Executive Committee member of the Northwestern Department of Physics and Astronomy, co-chair of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Workshop and Report on Multidisciplinary Complex Systems Research, and Chair of the Awards Committee of the Network Science Society. He is a former chair of the APS Topical Group on Statistical & Nonlinear Physics (GSNP) and is the current vice president and secretary of the Network Science Society.

**Aaron Packman, PhD**  
Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, & Chemical and Biological Engineering

The main focus of Aaron Packman’s work is the study of environmental transport processes, including both hydrodynamic transport processes and reactive transport processes. A lot of this work involves sediments, including transport processes in sediment beds, the implications of physicochemical particle–particle interactions for fine sediment transport, and the role of sediments in contaminant transport. Packman also teaches classes related to environmental fluid mechanics, transport, and modeling. His research group is applying fundamental, interdisciplinary methods to a variety of environmental problems in streams and other aquatic systems. Generally, they start by examining fundamental transport processes in the laboratory, but they are also working to apply this knowledge directly to natural systems. In addition, Packman’s lab is applying fundamental knowledge about transport, chemical reactions, and biological processes to understand the mobility and fate of a fairly wide range of environmentally-relevant substances, including sediments, metals, and pathogens. Because this work is interdisciplinary, it is also highly collaborative and they have a number of very close working relationships with other research groups throughout the US and Europe.
Minoli Perera, PharmD, PhD
Assistant Professor, Pharmacology

Dr. Perera is an associate professor within the Department of Pharmacology and Center for Pharmacogenomics at the Feinberg School of Medicine with expertise in pharmacokinetics, clinical pharmacology and human genetics.

Her laboratory, The Perera Lab, focuses on pharmacogenomics (using a patient’s genome to predict drug response) in minority populations. Working in this translation research space requires both clinical expertise as well as the use of high-throughput basic science approaches. The lab’s goal is to bring the benefits of precision medicine to all US populations.

Sylvia Perry, PhD
Assistant Professor, Psychology

Dr. Sylvia Perry is the principal investigator of the Social Cognition and Intergroup Processes (SCIP) Lab at Northwestern University. She is originally from Raleigh, NC. Sylvia completed a bachelor’s degree in psychology at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX (2002), and received her master’s degree (2006) and doctorate (2010) in social psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she was mentored by Drs. Linda Skitka and Mary Murphy.

Dr. Perry was a National Institutes of Health (NIH) postdoctoral associate at Yale University from 2010–14 under the advisement of Drs. John Dovidio and Michelle van Ryn (Mayo Clinic). Dr. Perry was an assistant professor of psychological science at the University of Vermont (UVM) from 2014–16. In the summer of 2016, she joined the faculty at Northwestern University, where she is an assistant professor of psychology. Dr. Perry investigates how bias awareness develops, and the implications of bias awareness for prejudice reduction, intergroup contact, and health disparities. She is excited to continue to develop her work at Northwestern.

In her spare time, Sylvia likes to read graphic novels, collect designer toys, and discover new music. She and her husband also enjoy spending time with their adorable son, Henry.

Onnie Rogers, PhD
Assistant Professor, Psychology

Onnie Rogers is a developmental psychologist whose research curiosities converge at the intersection of psychology, human development, and education. She is interested in social and educational inequities and the mechanisms through which macro-level disparities are both perpetuated and disrupted at the micro-level of identities and relationships. Her research investigates identity development among racially diverse children and adolescents in urban contexts. She asks how our social groups—and the cultural stereotypes that accompany them—shape how we see ourselves and interact with others.

Rogers is a member of the Society for Research on Child Development, Society for Research on Adolescence, and American Educational Research Association. She was a National Science Foundation (NSF) postdoctoral fellow and has received postdoctoral fellowships from the Spencer Foundation/National Academy of Education and the Ford Foundation. Her research has been published in scholarly journals, including Child Development, Journal of Adolescent Research, and Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology, in addition to invited edited volumes about child development and identity. She is an associate editor for the Journal of Adolescent Research.

She received her PhD in developmental psychology from New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development and holds a BA in psychology and educational studies from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).
Faculty Mentors

**Julia Stern, PhD**  
Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence  
Professor, English & American Studies

Julia Stern is Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence and professor of English and American studies. She offers courses in 18th-, 19th-, and early 20th-century American literature, with a focus on women's and African American writing (Rowlandson-Cather; Equiano-Larsen), the sentimental and the Gothic, Faulkner, and the films of Bette Davis. Her first book, *The Plight of Feeling: Sympathy and Dissent in the Early American Novel* (Chicago: 1997) was a finalist for the MLA's Best First Book Prize. *Mary Chesnut's Civil War Epic* (Chicago: 2010), her second book, is the first full-length literary study of Chesnut’s revised Civil War narrative. Currently, she is working on *Bette Davis Black and White*, a study of racial representation in Davis's oeuvre. Throughout her career at Northwestern, Stern has been recognized for her teaching, with awards from The Faculty Honor Roll from the Associated Student Government (3 times), the Pan Hellenic Association’s Teaching Recognition, Weinberg College’s Distinguished Teaching Award, The Charles Deering McCormick Professorship of Teaching Excellence, and the award for Weinberg College’s Outstanding Freshman Advisor.

**Helen Tilley, PhD**  
Associate Professor, History


Her current project focuses on the history of African decolonization, global governance, and the ethnoscientific projects that accompanied state building in the colonial and Cold War era. She is investigating, in particular, the different scientific studies and legal interventions in the 20th-century that originally helped to construct “traditional medicine” as a viable category of research and policy-making. She has received grants for her research from the Wellcome Trust and two Scholars Awards, for her first and second books projects, from the National Science Foundation (NSF). At Northwestern, she directs the Science in Human Culture Program and holds a faculty fellowship with the Buffett Institute for Global Studies. She is also affiliated with the programs in African studies, global health, legal studies, and environmental policy and culture.

**Alvin Tillery, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Political Science

**Jason Washburn, PhD**
Associate Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Jason Washburne's clinical interests include mental health treatment and evaluation of children and adolescents. Overarching interests include evidence-based practice and clinical outcomes. Additionally, he is interested in nonsuicidal self-injury, pediatric bipolar disorder, and the development of antisocial behaviors.

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**Thank You to Our SROP Collaborators**

Center for Advanced Regenerative Engineering (CARE) Program
NU IN-PREP Program
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program
Schnaude Dorizan
PhD Candidate, Neuroscience
Schnaude Dorizan is a fourth-year PhD candidate in the neuroscience program at Northwestern University. Her research focuses on the development of a rodent model of memory enhancement using the stimulation of cortical brain regions to better understand how changes within the cortical hippocampal network occur to enhance episodic memory. Schnaude has been recognized as a National GEM Consortium Associate Fellow, a Neuroscience Roadmap Scholar, and is the recipient of the Neuroscience of Human Cognition T32 Training Grant. Schnaude received her bachelor of science in biology and her bachelor of science in psychology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County where she was the recipient of the Meyerhoff Scholarship. Schnaude is quite passionate about mentorship and outreach. Her hope for the future is to combine her love of science and outreach so that every child is granted the opportunity and access to learn and explore the world around them. She has been an avid volunteer with the Northwestern University Brain Awareness Outreach group, a graduate student-led outreach initiative dedicated to teaching the Chicago community about the brain. Most notably, she has given presentations and workshops about her work at the Adler Planetarium and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Ultimately, Schnaude aspires to work at the intersection of science and outreach, with a passion for educating and empowering disadvantaged communities through science education.

Ivan A. Hernandez
PhD Candidate, Social Psychology
Ivan A. Hernandez is a PhD student in the social psychology program at Northwestern University. His research broadly focuses on understanding the factors that influence the identities, well-being, motivation, and academic outcomes of students from historically underrepresented racial-ethnic minority groups and lower socioeconomic status backgrounds. Ivan has been recognized as a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Fellow and Diversity Recruitment Fellow. Ivan earned his bachelor’s degree in psychological science from California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), where he was a recipient of the CSUSM President’s Outstanding Student Award and the Outstanding Graduating Student Dean’s Award from the College of Humanities, Arts, and Behavioral & Social Sciences. Ivan strives to become a researcher and professor of psychology, continuing to mentor students from historically underrepresented backgrounds and aiming to make meaningful contributions to society.

Yaquelin Morales
PhD Candidate, Performance Studies
Yaquelin Morales is currently pursuing a PhD in performance studies at Northwestern University. She earned a BA in sociology from California State University, Northridge (CSUN). During her time at CSUN, Yaquelin worked as a research assistant for multiple professors. As a Hispanic Serving Institutions Pathways to the Professoriate (HSI Pathways) Fellow, her research project Reclaiming Space: Latina Feminist Poetry as Resistance in Los Angeles examined the ways in which the Los Angeles-based Latina feminist poetry collective, Chingona Fire, established a relationship between performance and digital media to protest gentrification in their community. Her research interests include performance in communities of color and how the occupation of digital and gentrified spaces by women of color are often not recognized as social-political movements.
Julissa Muñiz
PhD Candidate, Human Development and Social Policy

Julissa Muñiz is a third-year PhD student in human development and social policy at Northwestern University. Her research examines social, cultural, historical, and legal dimensions of teaching and learning within the carceral context, centering on the experiences of incarcerated youth. In 2018, Julissa was one of thirty national recipients awarded the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. Later that year, she also received the Graduate Student Dissertation Research Travel Award and the Hans E. Panofsky Award. Prior to pursuing her PhD, Julissa received her EdM in prevention science and practice from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and, upon graduating, was awarded the 2016 Intellectual Contribution/Faculty Tribute Award. As a doctoral student, Julissa founded Northwestern's first Latinx-centered graduate student organization, Comunidad Latinx, and currently serves as the organization's president. Additionally, she is a diversity and inclusion intern through The Graduate School at Northwestern and a graduate mentor for the Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP), positions which allow her to actively work with first-generation students of color, who much like herself, have dreams of obtaining their doctorate degree. As a first-generation student, single mother, and woman of color, Julissa hopes to use her own access, privilege, and platform to carve out a pathway for other minoritized students to follow and similarly grow.

Félix L. Núñez Santana, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Neuroscience
SROP Co-Coordinator

Félix graduated from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico (PUCPR) with a BS in biology in May 2003, and later joined the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program at Northwestern where he earned a PhD in neuroscience in December 2013. His current projects include investigating how disturbances in sleep and sleep-related disorders impact Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) onset, pathology, and its progression in order to identify and study potential markers or predictors of neurodegeneration in ALS.

His other projects also include investigating how expansions of CAG trinucleotide repeats (CAG repeats) in the ATXN2 gene and other potential genetic mutations correlate to onset, development, and severity of ALS.

The data generated from these projects is intended to lead to a wide array of therapeutic targets and novel cellular mechanisms involved in ALS etiology and pathology that will soon lead to important breakthroughs in diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

In his spare time, Félix enjoys scuba diving, movies, the outdoors, and cooking. He is also a member of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Diving Society.
**Erca L. Knight**  
Senior Program Coordinator, The Graduate School

Erica L. Knight is a collegiate student advocate whose experience in higher education spans across enrollment management, student affairs and graduate admissions. A graduate of Clark Atlanta University, Erica has dedicated her career to diversifying advanced degree programs by establishing pipeline programs between minority serving institutions and top tier research institutions.

In The Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Northwestern University, Erica oversees the graduate peer-mentoring program, graduate student retention efforts and assists underrepresented populations throughout their scholastic graduate study journey. Erica formerly managed professional development and career advancement programming for the James T. Laney Graduate School at Emory University. In this capacity, Erica supported doctoral candidates in seeking careers beyond the professoriate. Previously the administrator of Graduate Relations at Spelman College, Erica assisted several hundred underrepresented women in being accepted to graduate or professional school, with the majority earning funding to attend. More notably, during her tenure in Career Planning and Development, she negotiated articulation agreements, memorandums of understanding, and feeder program agreements totaling beyond 10 million dollars in tuition assistance for Spelman women.

Erica is civically engaged and an active member of the American Civil Liberties Union, Sigma Tau Delta National English Honor Society Alumni Epsilon Chapter, The National Urban League, Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, Evanston North-Shore Alumni Chapter.

Erica has received several accolades for her humanitarian efforts and dedication to excellence, including; the Power 30 Under 30 Award for the state of Georgia, Atlanta Black Girls Rock Award, Outstanding Black Alumni of the Year, inclusion in Cambridge’s and Montclair’s Who's Who Among Professionals and Executives, Soror Service with a Heart Award, and finalist in the L'Oreal Woman of Worth Award.

**Rashaad Barnett**  
Program Coordinator, The Graduate School  
SROP Co-Coordinator

Originally from Phoenix, AZ, Rashaad has studied and worked in many parts of the country. In 2012, Rashaad graduated with his BA in mathematics from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. While at Truman, Rashaad played football in varsity athletics, was an active member Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated, and worked in local community schools. After his undergraduate studies Rashaad went on to teach high school mathematics and coach football at Regis Jesuit High School in Aurora, Colorado from 2012–17. He then moved to Chicago to pursue his MEd in higher education from Loyola University Chicago and graduated in May 2019.

Rashaad has been with Northwestern since fall 2017, holding two graduate assistantship roles with Multicultural Student Affairs and Social Justice Education. Rashaad is now the program coordinator in the Office of Diversity & Inclusion in The Graduate School. His role focuses on the recruitment of students who are of underrepresented populations into Northwestern's graduate programs.
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