



USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

PHD HOODING CEREMONY

USC DANA AND DAVID DORNSIFE
COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SCIENCES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME AND INSTRUCTIONS

STEVEN FINKEL
COLLEGE DEAN OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

ADDRESS

AMBER D. MILLER
DEAN

PRESENTATION

OF THE HOOD TO PHD CANDIDATES

CLOSING REMARKS

AMBER D. MILLER
DEAN

RECESSIONAL

THE AUDIENCE IS ASKED TO STAND AS THOSE WITH NEWLY CONFERRED DOCTORATES AND FACULTY FORMALLY RECESS. PLEASE REMAIN STANDING UNTIL ALL HAVE EXITED THE TENT.

RECEPTION

HOSTED BY USC DORNSIFE ON ALLYSON FELIX FIELD, BEHIND THE STAGE,
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY.

AMBER D. MILLER
DEAN

STEVEN FINKEL
COLLEGE DEAN
OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

WILLIAM DEVERELL
DIVISIONAL DEAN FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

IAN EHRENREICH
DIVISIONAL DEAN FOR THE LIFE SCIENCES

MOH EL-NAGGAR
DIVISIONAL DEAN FOR
THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

REBECCA LEMON
DIVISIONAL DEAN FOR THE HUMANITIES

Today you reach a milestone on your personal and scholarly path that reflects rigorous effort and dedication to learning. Successfully navigating this path is a testament to your ability to solve difficult problems and overcome unforeseen challenges with intelligence and poise. Along with your family and friends, the USC Dornsife community is proud to celebrate these achievements.

Having earned your Doctor of Philosophy degree, you are entrusted with a scholar's most important responsibility: to generate, explore, and transmit new knowledge. I am confident that each of you will leave an indelible mark on your field. I also encourage you to explore new ways through which your talent and leadership as scholars trained in the liberal arts can be applied to create positive impact on society.

Remember, too, that after you leave campus, you will always remain a valued member of the Trojan Family. Please keep us informed of your ongoing endeavors, whether they are within the academy or in another profession. Your success in the world will shine a light on USC Dornsife, helping us to build even stronger doctoral programs for those scholars who follow in your footsteps.

Congratulations and best of luck in the boundless opportunities that await you.

AMBER D. MILLER, PHD

DEAN

PHD CANDIDATES

KARLA ABUYEN

Molecular Biology

Dissertation Chair: Moh El-Naggar
Dissertation: Electrochemical Studies of Outward and Inward Extracellular Electron Transfer by Microorganisms From Diverse Environments

CARLOS ALAS

Physics

Dissertation Chair: Christoph Haselwandter
Dissertation: Physical principles of membrane mechanics, membrane domain formation, and cellular signal transduction

ATIQA HAMOUD S ALMUZAINI

Applied Mathematics

Dissertation Chair: Jin Ma
Dissertation: Set-Valued Stochastic Differential Equations with Unbounded Coefficients and Applications

IAN ANDERSON

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Wendy Wood
Dissertation: Beyond Active and Passive Social Media Use: Habit Mechanisms Are Behind Frequent Posting and Scrolling on Twitter/X

JESSICA ANDREWS

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Brent Melot
Dissertation: Understanding Intercalation-Driven Structural Transformations in Energy Storage Materials

QI QI "AMANDA" ANG

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Matthew Kahn
Dissertation: Location Choice and the Costs of Climate Change

MAITRA ANWESHA

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Jahan Dawlaty
Dissertation: Elucidating Local Electric Fields and Ion Adsorption Using Benzonitrile : Vibrational Spectroscopic Studies at Interfaces and in Bulk

INDU ARAVIND

Physics

Dissertation Chair: Stephen B. Cronin
Dissertation: Hot electron enhanced photocatalysis and plasmonic sensing using metallic gratings

PRAGYA ARYA

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Nibert Schwarz
Dissertation: Perceptions of Social Consensus: A Metacognitive Perspective

ALEXANDER ATAMIAN

Neuroscience

Dissertation Chair: Giorgia Quadrato
Dissertation: Generation of human pluripotent stem cell derived cerebellar organoids to model development and disease

AIDA BAREGHAMYAN

Neuroscience

Dissertation Chair: Don Arnold
Dissertation: Novel tools to manipulate synaptic connectivity.

JENNIFER BEATTY

Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography

Dissertation Chair: David Caron
Dissertation: Characterizing protistan assemblages and quantifying protistan grazing in the North Subtropical Gyre

MICHAEL BRADY

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Brent Melot
Dissertation: Investigating the Structure-Property Relationships of Complex Fluorides for Electrochemical Energy Storage

JULIA BROWN-BERNSTEIN

History

Dissertation Chair: William Deverell and George Sánchez
Dissertation: Liberalizing Belonging: Race, Service, and the Making of the Postindustrial Borderlands

ALYSIA BURBIDGE

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Daphna Oyserman
Dissertation: Difficulty-as-Impotence and Difficulty-as-Impossibility: Unpacking the Context-Sensitivity and Consequences of Identity-Based Inferences from Difficulty

CLAIRE CAMPBELL

Neuroscience

Dissertation Chair: Megan Herting
Dissertation: Independent and interactive effects of depression genetic risk and family socioeconomic status on emotional brain development and behavior

MEGAN CASSINGHAM

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Mark Thompson
Dissertation: Effects of Cationic Species on the Structure and Properties of Hybrid Organic-Inorganic Materials

JOHN CHAPEL

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Jeffrey Weaver
Dissertation: Essays on Well-being Disparities in the United States and Their Social Determinants

CHUN CHIEN

Neuroscience

Dissertation Chair: Dion Dickman
Dissertation: Deciphering the Molecular Mechanism Underlying Presynaptic Homeostatic Plasticity

PHD CANDIDATES

HAYUN CHO

East Asian Languages and Cultures
Dissertation Chair: Sunyoung Park
Dissertation: Testimonial Emotions:
Witnessing and Feeling the 1990s in
South Korean Women's Literature
and Film

ASHTON COOPER

Art History
Dissertation Chair: Suzanne Hudson
and Amelia Jones
Dissertation: "How hard to give form to
oneself honestly": Liberation Politics
and the Remaking of Painterly
Expression in 1970s New York

MICHELLE CORNELIUS

*Political Science and International
Relations*
Dissertation Chair: Ann Crigler
Dissertation: Partisan Media Bias vs.
Structural Media Bias: Which One
Dominates in a Polarized Environment?

MICHAEL COUMANS

Chemistry
Dissertation Chair: Susumu Takahashi
Dissertation: Development of Surface
Resonator for High-Field ODMR and EPR

THOMAS CZYSZCZON-BURTON

Chemistry
Dissertation Chair: Michael Inkpen
Dissertation: Air-Free Single Molecule
Conductance Measurements

BEHNAZ DAVOUDINASAB

Chemistry
Dissertation Chair: Vadim Cherezov
Dissertation: Structural Studies of The
Human Prostaglandin D2 Receptor 1

JUAN DE LOS RIOS

Chemistry
Dissertation Chair: Surya G Prakash
Dissertation: Synthesis and Design of
Nanostructured Catalysts for their
Electrochemical Applications in Fuel
Cells and Beyond

KELLY DEWEESE

Molecular Biology
Dissertation Chair: Sergey Nuzhdin
Dissertation: Ecologically responsible
domestication of kelp facilitated by
genomic tools

SOURAV DEY

Chemistry
Dissertation Chair: Anna Krylov
Dissertation: Modeling X-ray
spectroscopy in condensed phase

SHIVALEE DEY

Chemistry
Dissertation Chair: Stephen Bradforth
Dissertation: "Pushing the boundaries of
ultrafast absorbance and fluorescence
spectroscopy: Dynamic Probing of
condensed phase molecules"

JOSE DIESEL

Molecular Biology
Dissertation Chair: Sergey Nuzhdin
Dissertation: Exploring the Genomic
Landscape of Giant Kelp: Biotechno-
logical Implications and Sustainable
Development

ANTHONY DIMARIO

Sociology
Dissertation Chair: Josh Seim
and Rhacel Parreñas
Dissertation: Palliating the Poor:
Harm Reduction, Labor, and the
Governance of Suffering in Los Angeles

YUXUAN DU

*Computational Biology and
Bioinformatics*
Dissertation Chair: Fengzhu Sun
Dissertation: Constructing
Metagenome-Assembled Genomes
and Mobile Genetic Element Host
Interactions Using Metagenomic Hi-C

NICHOLAS EARHART

English
Dissertation Chair: John Carlos Rowe
Dissertation: The Poetics of the
Los Angeles River

JINGYI FANG

Economics
Dissertation Chair: Monica Morlacco
and Thomas Chaney
Dissertation: Three Essays on China's
Rural-Urban Dual System

YAEL FINDLER

Sociology
Dissertation Chair: Nina Eliasoph
Dissertation: Putting Suffering into
Words: Organizations' Projects to
Manage Speech about Military Trauma

COLETTE FLETCHER-HOPPE

*Marine Biology and Biological
Oceanography*
Dissertation Chair: Jed Fuhrman
Dissertation: Spatial and Temporal
Dynamics of Marine Microbial
Communities and Their Diazotrophs
in the Southern California Bight

KIERSTEN FORMOSO

Geological Sciences
Dissertation Chair: Dave Bottjer
Dissertation: Ancestral Facilitation and
Constraint of Aquatic Function Across
Multiple Secondarily Aquatic Amniote
Clades

KATHARINE GALBRAITH

Psychology
Dissertation Chair: Stanley Huey Jr
Dissertation: Using Integrative
Data Analysis to Evaluate Gender
Differences in Multisystemic Therapy
Effects for Justice-Involved Youth

THEJANI GAMAGE

Applied Mathematics
Dissertation Chair: Jin Ma
Dissertation: Reinforcement Learning
for Optimal Dividend Problem

PHD CANDIDATES

YILIN GAO

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Fengzhu Sun
Dissertation: Enhancing phenotype prediction through integrative analysis of heterogeneous microbiome studies

JUDITH GAURIAU

Geological Sciences

Dissertation Chair: James Dolan
Dissertation: Towards an understanding of fault-system mechanics: From single earthquakes on isolated faults to millennial-scale collective plate-boundary fault-system behavior

CALEB GHIONE

Molecular Biology

Dissertation Chair: Matt Dean
Dissertation: Understanding the Evolution and Development of Sexually Selected Traits

GORAN GIUDETTI

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Anna Krylov
Dissertation: Simulations Across Scales: Insights into Biomolecular Mechanisms, Magnetic Materials, and Optical Processes

CAITLIN GIUSTINIANO

Slavic Languages and Literatures

Dissertation Chair: Sally Pratt
Dissertation: From Prutkov to Kharms: Tracing Nonsense in the Russian Literary Tradition

AMANDA GODBOLD

Geological Sciences

Dissertation Chair: Dave Bottjer
Dissertation: Deciphering long-term dynamics of reef community assembly and regeneration in shifting deep time environments

JOSE GODINEZ CASTELLANOS

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Stephen Bradforth
Dissertation: Ultrafast pyrimidine dimerization in DNA: A journey from nucleosides to chromatin

YANG GOH

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Mark Thompson
Dissertation: Film Deposition and Optoelectronic Properties of Low-Dimensional Hybrid Lead Halides

ALAINA GOLD

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Christopher Beam and Gayla Margolin
Dissertation: Romantic relationships and well-being: How relationship factors influence mental health and communication

KATIE GOOGE

English

Dissertation Chair: John Carlos Rowe
Dissertation: Speculating Backward: Speculative Rewritings of the Past as Anti-Colonial Protest

ANA GURGENIDZE

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Susumu Takahashi
Dissertation: Computational study of spin states and properties of molecular spins

MADDELYN HARDEN

Molecular Biology

Dissertation Chair: Sergey Nuzhdin
Dissertation: Characterizing Heat Stress Response in Kelp: An Integrative Approach Using Genomic Analysis and Fluorescence Microscopy

ANNASTASIA HAYNIE

Physics

Dissertation Chair: Anthony Piro
Dissertation: Using Supernova Light Curves to Learn About Their Progenitors

SARAH HENNESSY

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Assal Habibi
Dissertation: Behavioral and Neural Correlates of Music-Evoked Nostalgia Across the Lifespan

TRI HOANG

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Matthew Kahn
Dissertation: The Impact of Digital Transformation on Urban Communities, Welfare, and Distributional Outcomes

WEIZHAO HUANG

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Caroline Betts
Dissertation: Essays on Firms and Trade in China

YI-JU HUNG

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Thomas Chaney
Dissertation: Migration, Location, and Economic Opportunity

SAMANTHA IKEHARA

American Studies and Ethnicity

Dissertation Chair: Nayan Shah
Dissertation: Atmospheres of Relief: Air and Militarism in the Pacific Ocean

WENHAN JIANG

Mathematics

Dissertation Chair: Aravind Asok
Dissertation: Chow-Witt Rings of Toric Surfaces

WEI JIANG

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Liang Chen
Dissertation: Comparative Transcriptomics: Connecting the Genome to Evolution

PHD CANDIDATES

YIBEI JIANG

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Remo Rohs
Dissertation: Understanding the Structural Basis of Transcription Factor-DNA Binding through Molecular Dynamics

LINDSAY JOLIVETTE

East Asian Languages and Cultures

Dissertation Chair: Youngmin Choe
Dissertation: Horrific Environments: Confronting the Nonhuman in Korean and Japanese Ecomedia

SIMON JUDKINS

History

Dissertation Chair: Steve Ross
Dissertation: Suspicious Knowledge: Citizenship, Surveillance and The Interwar Origins of Modern Disinformation in The United States

MILAD KASSAIE

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: John R. Monterosso
Dissertation: Age Effects in Learning from Rewards and Punishments

MOON JUNG KIM

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Chao Zhang
Dissertation: Development of Chemical Tools to Illuminate and Perturb Biological Systems

SILBIA (SILVIA) KIM

Linguistics

Dissertation Chair: Elsi Kaiser
Dissertation: Interpretation of pronominal forms across languages

ELIZABETH KOCHINSKI

Religion

Dissertation Chair: Lori Meeks
Dissertation: Saving the Myriad Spirits” The Development and Diversification of the Segaki Ghost-feeding Ritual in Medieval Japan

ANNE LAGATTA

Art History

Dissertation Chair: John Pollini
Dissertation: “The Most Beautiful and Enduring Images”: Visual Culture in the Principate of Tiberius (14-37 CE)

HO MING (JORDY) LAM

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Vsevolod Katritch
Dissertation: High Performance Challenges and Solutions in Structural Bioinformatics

THEODORE LANCE

English

Dissertation Chair: John Carlos Rowe and Emily Hodgson Anderson
Dissertation: Finishing the Human: American Shakespeare Performance and White Racial Destiny from 1866 to 1922

DARIO LAUDATI

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Vincenzo Quadrini
Dissertation: Essays in Macroeconomics and Macro-Finance

FRANCES LAZARE

Art History

Dissertation Chair: Suzanne Hudson
Dissertation: About Others: Intimacy and Abstraction in Paint and Print, New York, 1945-1960

LEO LERNER

Population, Health and Place

Dissertation Chair: John Wilson and Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati
Dissertation: To what extent can wicked problems of health and place be addressed through clumsy solutions? Three experiments in reconstituting networks of spatial knowledge production.

MEIYING LI

Sociology

Dissertation Chair: Jennifer Hook
Dissertation: A tale of two labor markets—how the link between occupational sex segregation and the gender wage gap varies in higher- and lower-skilled occupations, 1997–2019

ZIYI LIANG

Applied Mathematics

Dissertation Chair: Larry Goldstein
Dissertation: Conformalized Post-selection inference and Structured Prediction

BRIAN LIN

Creative Writing and Literature

Dissertation Chair: Elda María Román
Dissertation: “Personality Scores: A Performance for My Life” (essays) and “Who Do You Think You Are?” (novel)

YINGI LIN

Population, Health and Place

Dissertation Chair: Emily Smith-Greenaway and Laura Ferguson
Dissertation: The Social Reach of Fertility-Related Behaviors: Three Essays on the Spillover of the Fertility Context on Child Health

MYLES LITTLE

Art History

Dissertation Chair: Vanessa Schwartz
Dissertation: Blackout: Photography, Darkness, and New York City, 1965-1985

HAOXING LIU

Applied Mathematics

Dissertation Chair: Gary Rosen
Dissertation: Delta Method Confidence Bands for Parameter-Dependent Impulse Response Functions, Convolutions, and Deconvolutions Arising from Evolution Systems Described by Analytic Semigroups of Operators with Regularly Dissipative Generators.

PHD CANDIDATES

YUKANG LIU

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Peter Qin
Dissertation: Dissecting the Distinct effects of DNA Stability, Topology, and Guide Length in CRISPR-Cas9 Targeting and Efficiency

MICHELLE LIVINGS

Population, Health and Place

Dissertation Chair: Mellissa Withers and Emily Smith-Greenaway
Dissertation: Socio-ecological Influences on Adolescent Mental Health

KAYLA LOVE

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Lin Chen
Dissertation: mRNA Oxidation and its Relation to p53 Amyloid Formation and Disease

ASHTON LOWENSTEIN

Physics

Dissertation Chair: Clifford Johnson
Dissertation: Branes, Topology, and Perturbation Theory in Two-Dimensional Quantum Gravity

YIJING LU

Linguistics

Dissertation Chair: Louis Goldstein
Dissertation: The dynamical foundation of articulation in stuttered speech

SHIYANG LU

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Toby Mintz
Dissertation: The Effects of Language Experience on Statistical Learning in Infants and Adults

PETER LUU

Molecular Biology

Dissertation Chair: Scott Fraser and Thai Truong
Dissertation: Neural Basis of Number Sense in Zebrafish

DAN MA

Molecular Biology

Dissertation Chair: Lin Chen
Dissertation: The Development of Bi-Functional Photo-Crosslinking Probe and BioHiChIP assay for Enhanced Understanding of Transcription Factor-DNA Interactions

JIE MA

Materials Science

Dissertation Chair: Mark Thompson
Dissertation: Molecular Design Strategies for Blue Organic Light Emitting Diodes

KONSTANTIN MALLON

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Mark Thompson
Dissertation: Molecular Materials for Organic Photovoltaics, Light Emitting Devices and In₂O₃ Nanoribbon Sensors

ODED MAROM

Sociology

Dissertation Chair: Nina Eliasoph
Dissertation: Political polarization, Community Organizing, and Modes of Civic Engagement: How Local Context Facilitates Political Extremism Among American Libertarians

SARAH MATHEWS

Slavic Languages and Literatures

Dissertation Chair: Sally Pratt
Dissertation: The Metaphysical Materiality of Vladislav Khodasevich and T.S. Eliot's Poetry

BROOKE MCCALLUM

Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture (Comparative Media and Culture)

Dissertation Chair: Akira Mizuta Lippit
Dissertation: Sound Off: On Misrecognition and Unsettling Representation in the Militarized Americas, Japan, and Okinawa

MEAGAN MEYLOR

English

Dissertation Chair: William Handley
Dissertation: Something in the Air: Literary Atmospheres of Los Angeles

RAKTIM MITRA

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Remo Rohs
Dissertation: Deciphering Protein-Nucleic Acid Interactions with Artificial Intelligence

CARLOS MORA PEREZ

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Oleg Prezhdo
Dissertation: Excited State Process In Perovskites

MURIELLE MORALES

Molecular Biology

Dissertation Chair: Matthew Pratt
Dissertation: Developing and exploiting small molecules to study O-GlcNAc modification

ANNA NADTOCHIY

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Scott Fraser and Thai Truong
Dissertation: Computational Tools for Large-Scale Analysis of Brain Function and Structure

KOTA NAKAMURA

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Robert Dekle
Dissertation: Essays on Japanese Macroeconomy

CHARLIE (SABRINA) NAPOLITANO

Creative Writing and Literature

Dissertation Chair: Aimee Bender
Dissertation: The Grotesque Pastoral: Queer Bodies in the Southern Landscape

PHD CANDIDATES

PADIDEH NASSERI

Neuroscience

Dissertation Chair: Mara Mather
Dissertation: Investigating the effects of paced respiratory oscillations on LC-NE system

QIANHUI NI

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Henrike Moll
Dissertation: The Scope and Limitations of Young Children's Belief Understanding

LINA NIE

History

Dissertation Chair: Joshua Goldstein
Dissertation: Going Offshore: Maritime Exchanges in East Asian Seas from the Eleventh to the Fifteenth Century

SHIYING NIE

Geological Sciences

Dissertation Chair: Sylvain Barbot
Dissertation: From laboratory friction to numerical models of fault dynamics

KATHARINE OGLE

Creative Writing and Literature

Dissertation Chair: David St. John
Dissertation: Blue Mind: On the Language and Literature of Marine Depth

CLARISSA OLIVAR MAGALLANES

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Travis Williams
Dissertation: Synthesis and study of osmium tetraaryl complexes & catalytic approaches to composite material recycling

IFETAYO OLUTOSIN

Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture (Spanish and Latin American Studies)

Dissertation Chair: Natalie Belisle
Dissertation: Deciphering Representation: Sowing the Seeds of Afro-Descendant Aesthetics in Contemporary Latin American Film

TERAYA PARAMENTA

American Studies and Ethnicity

Dissertation Chair: Dorinne Kondo
Dissertation: (Re)Making Paradise: Race, Tourism, and The Aftermath of Violence In Bali

RIHYUN PARK

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Geert Ridder
Dissertation: Essays on Empirical Analysis of Competition and Strategy within Platform Industries

JOSHUA PARK

Molecular Biology

Dissertation Chair: Susan Forsburg
Dissertation: Investigating the Role of Ploidy on Genome Stability in Fission Yeast

CATHERINE POND

Creative Writing and Literature

Dissertation Chair: Susan McCabe
Dissertation: Bright Portals: Illness & the Environment in Contemporary Poetry

SANDHYA PRATHAP

Neuroscience

Dissertation Chair: Katie Page
Dissertation: Prenatal and Brain Factors Shape Appetite Regulation and Weight from Childhood Onwards

ANNA PUSHKIN

Neuroscience

Dissertation Chair: Bruce Herring
Dissertation: Uncovering cell type-specific roles of proteins involved in glutamatergic synapse regulation

JINGYI RAN

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Oleg Prezhdo
Dissertation: Charge Carrier Dynamics in Inorganic Materials: Ab Initio Analysis and Machine Learning Applications

KHALIAH REED

English

Dissertation Chair: Karen Tongson
Dissertation: Fifty Shades of Fandom: Black Women, Shame, and the Changing Same of Fanfiction

RYAN REYNOLDS

Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography

Dissertation Chair: Naomi Levine
Dissertation: Applications of computational techniques on high-throughput genomic datasets reveal novel insights into microbial metabolic guild identification and metabolic niche differentiation in marine systems

WILLIAM RICHARDS

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Valery Fokin
Dissertation: Controlled Heteroatom Functionalization of Carbon-Carbon Bonds by Aerobic Oxidation

NAOMI RODGERS

Geological Sciences

Dissertation Chair: John Platt
Dissertation: On the Hunt for Cryptic Thrusts: Hot Rocks, Low Geothermal Gradients, and Elusive Structures in the Eastern Great Basin, Nevada

KASEY ROSE

Neuroscience

Dissertation Chair: Jeannie Chen
Dissertation: Multimodal Investigation of Rod Photoreceptor Structure and Function in Healthy and Diseased States.

AUSTEN ROSENFELD

Creative Writing and Literature

Dissertation Chair: David St. John
Dissertation: Earth, My Dearest, I Will: Rilke as Poet of Porousness, Motherhood, and Deep Ecology

PHD CANDIDATES

YANA RYJOVA

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Gayla Margolin
Dissertation: Home is where the heart is: Couple communication and relationship functioning in naturalistic home-based contexts

PONGKWAN SAWASDIPAKDI

Political Science and International Relations

Dissertation Chair: Brian Rathbun
Dissertation: Hard Feelings: Friendship, Betrayal, and Outrage in International Relations

JONAS SCHAAB

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Mark Thompson
Dissertation: Molecular modulation to fine-tune optoelectronic properties of OLED materials

JI YOUN SEO

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Peter Kuhn
Dissertation: Characterization of Lung Cancer Using Liquid Biopsy

KIRSTEN SEUFFERT

East Asian Languages and Cultures

Dissertation Chair: Akira Mizuta Lippit
Dissertation: Adjusting Images: Women's Bodies and Embodied Experience in Cinema and Visual Culture in Japan, 1974-1989

ISABEL SIBLE

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Daniel Nation
Dissertation: The Role of Blood Pressure Variability in Cognitive Decline, Cerebrovascular Disease and Alzheimer's Disease

ANA SILVERSTEIN

Molecular Biology

Dissertation Chair: Pinchas Cohen
Dissertation: Exploring Mitochondrial-Immune Communication: The Impact of Mitochondrial-Derived Peptides on Aging and Immune Function

KATIE ELIZABETH SIPPEL BYRD

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Richard John
Dissertation: Improving Health Decision Literacy: Enhancing Informed Health Decisions Through Podcast Interventions

HAYUN SONG

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Hashem Pesaran
Dissertation: Three Essays on Linear and Non-linear Econometric Dependencies

SARA SPEARS

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Surya G Prakash
Dissertation: Electrochemical Iron Deposition: An Environmentally Sustainable Alternative For Primary Iron Production

ANDREW STEWART

Philosophy

Dissertation Chair: Jon Quong
Dissertation: Five Roles of the Political Philosopher

OSKAR SUNDBERG

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Charles McKenna
Dissertation: Bone Voyage: Bone-Targeted Drug Delivery Systems

KIM SUNGAH

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Kyung Jung
Dissertation: Studies on Methane Functionalization: Efficient Carbon-Hydrogen Bond Activation via Palladium and Free Radical Catalyses

CHUNYU TAN

Physics

Dissertation Chair: Stephan Haas
Dissertation: Entanglement Parity Effects in Quantum Spin Chains

TIANQI TANG

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Fengzhu Sun
Dissertation: Deep Learning in Metagenomics: From Metagenomic Contigs Sorting to Phage-Bacterial Association Prediction

BABALOLA TOLULOPE

Political Science and International Relations

Dissertation Chair: Jane Junn
Dissertation: Cultural Heterogeneity, Colonialism, and Black Americans' Political Behavior and Attitudes

LUIS MIGUEL TOQUERO PEREZ

Linguistics

Dissertation Chair: Alexis Wellwood and Roumyana Pancheva
Dissertation: The grammar of measurement, comparison and number

CHRISTINA TRANG

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Michael Inkpen
Dissertation: Self-Assembled Monolayers Formed from Charged Components

KATRIN TSCHIRGI

Creative Writing and Literature

Dissertation Chair: David Treuer
Dissertation: The Big Sky Devil: Violent Geographies and Domesticity in the Mountain West

PHD CANDIDATES

WING YEE TSE

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Mark Lai
Dissertation: Pooling Historical Information While Addressing Uncertainty and Bias for Power Analysis: A Bayesian Approach for Designing Single-level and Multilevel Studies

VARDGES TSERUNYAN

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Stacey Finley
Dissertation: Understanding the Impact of Cell-to-Cell Variability on Intracellular Signaling in CAR Cells through Mathematical Modeling

DORA VANETTE

Art History

Dissertation Chair: Amy Ogata
Dissertation: Architecture of Care: Building for Aging in Mid-century America, 1945-1968

KEVIN VARGAS

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Valery Fokin
Dissertation: An exploration of the “on-water” reactivity of SuFEx reagents and their utilization in the synthesis of covalent opioid-receptor antagonists

MICHELLE VASQUEZ RUIZ

American Studies and Ethnicity

Dissertation Chair: George Sanchez
Dissertation: Settler Crimmigration: Histories of Indigenous Transborder Mobilities

DAVID VELAZQUEZ

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Smaranda Marinescu
Dissertation: Molecular Cobalt hosphinothiolate Complexes for Electrocatalytic Production of Sustainable High-Value Fuels

JEN-CHIEH WANG

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Kyung Jung
Dissertation: Mechanistic Studies on the Radical Pathways of Sulfonylation towards the Efficient and Selective Carbon-Hydrogen Bond Activation of Hydrocarbons

BINYOU WANG

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Matthew Pratt
Dissertation: Chemical Approaches to Characterize O-Glcnac Effects in Protein Aggregation

JIAKANG WANG

Mathematics

Dissertation Chair: Nicolai Haydn
Dissertation: Some results about random dynamical systems

GEORGE WANG

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Remo Rohs
Dissertation: Structural Analysis of Forkhead Transcription Factor-DNA Binding Interactions

EMILY WARREN

History

Dissertation Chair: Joan Piggott
Dissertation: The Heian Origins of Japan’s High Cuisine

BRIAN WEAVER

Physics

Dissertation Chair: James Boedicker and Christoph Haselwandter
Dissertation: BioPhysics of Bacterial Vesicles

RACHEL WILKIE

Population, Health and Place

Dissertation Chair: Jennifer Ailshire and Annie Nguyen
Dissertation: Global Inequalities in Aging and Health: Life-course Disadvantage and Place

JESSE WILSON

Philosophy

Dissertation Chair: Ralph Wedgwood
Dissertation: Cognitive Boundaries for Rational Coherence Requirements

PAWEL WOJCIK

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Anna Krylov
Dissertation: Quantum Mechanical Description of Electronic and Vibrational Degrees of Freedom in Laser-Coolable Molecules

SIU HEI WONG

Political Science and International Relations

Dissertation Chair: David Kang
Dissertation: Of Words and Deeds: A 70-year Analysis on China’s Official Rhetoric and Costly Actions since 1949

ZACHARY WOOD

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Megan Fieser
Dissertation: Understanding selectivity, efficiency, and sequence control with simple Lewis acids for the synthesis of diverse polyester copolymers and the dechlorination of poly(vinyl chloride)

XIAOJUN WU

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Adam MacLean
Dissertation: Data-driven Learning for Dynamical Systems in Biology

BO WU

Applied Mathematics

Dissertation Chair: Ken Alexander
Dissertation: Some result concerning the critical point of directed polymers.

PHD CANDIDATES

MENGYA XU

Population, Health and Place

Dissertation Chair: John Wilson and Kayla de la Haye

Dissertation: Food Access in Los Angeles County: The Role of the Food Environment, Transportation Modalities, Activity Spaces, and Time

LAI XU

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Rand R Wilcox

Dissertation: Robust Principal Component Analysis and Regression via Projection Distances in High-Dimensional Data

MAYA YANEZ

Geological Sciences

Dissertation Chair: Jan Amend

Dissertation: Habitability of Saturn's Moon Titan for Acetylenotrophy: Laboratory Culturing and Energetics as Predictive Tools for the Search for Life

JIANZHI (QUENTIN) YANG

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Mark Chaisson

Dissertation: Validating Structural Variations: from Traditional Algorithms to Deep Learning Approaches

QIFAN (ALICE) YANG

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Paul Thompson

Dissertation: Data Mining Methods for Continuous Neuroimaging Genetics

SARAH YEOMANS

Art History

Dissertation Chair: John Pollini

Dissertation: Roman Civic Medicine: The Archaeology of Practices and Practitioners in the Imperial Age

WILLIAM YOUNG

Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture (Comparative Media and Culture)

Dissertation Chair: Samuel Steinberg

Dissertation: The Media Slave: 21st Century Televisual Narratives of the Early Modern Black Body

XIN YU

Population, Health and Place

Dissertation Chair: Rob McConnell and Daniel Hackman

Dissertation: Susceptibility to Autism Likelihood Associated with Prenatal Ambient Air Pollution Exposures: Identifying Vulnerable Populations

LUANA ZAGAMI

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Michael Inkpen

Dissertation: Charge Transfer and Transport in Osmium Tetraaryl Complexes

JESSICA ZAISS-BOWMAN

Geological Sciences

Dissertation Chair: Naomi Levine

Dissertation: The impact of Lagrangian environmental variability on the growth of phytoplankton

YUXIANG ZHAN

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Frank Alber

Dissertation: Studying the Role of Genome Structure in Gene Function by Population-Based Modeling and Statistical Learning

YICHI ZHANG

Psychology

Dissertation Chair: Mark Lai

Dissertation: The Bayesian Region of Measurement Equivalence (ROME) Framework for Establishing Measurement Invariance

HONGYU ZHANG

Molecular Biology

Dissertation Chair: Myron Goodman

Dissertation: AID Scanning & Catalysis and the Generation of High-Affinity Antibodies

BINGZHI ZHANG

Physics

Dissertation Chair: Quntao Zhuang

Dissertation: Phase Transitions and Applications of Quantum Neural Networks

CHENCHEN ZHAO

Mathematics

Dissertation Chair: Greta Panova

Dissertation: On the Kronecker product of Schur functions

WEI ZHOU

Economics

Dissertation Chair: Jeffrey Weaver

Dissertation: Essays on Effects of Reputation and Judicial Transparency

ZIYUE ZHU

Chemistry

Dissertation Chair: Surya G Prakash

Dissertation: Probing fluorniated carbenes: a pathway to fluoroalkylations

WENXUAN ZUO

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dissertation Chair: Fengzhu Sun

Dissertation: Exploration of Human Microbiome Through Metagenomic Analyses and Computational Algorithms

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