

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

# Hooding

## DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY

THE SIXTEENTH OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR



Columbian College  
of Arts & Sciences

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



# **2024 DOCTORAL HOODING**

MAY 16 | 5:00 P.M. | LISNER AUDITORIUM

## SEAL OF THE COLUMBIAN COLLEGE



In 1819, the Reverend Luther Rice, Obadiah B. Brown, Spencer H. Cone, and Enoch Reynolds (all Baptist ministers) set in motion the reality of a college in the District. These men raised the needed funds to purchase land in the nation's capital, petitioned the Congress for a charter, and began organizing a college.

On February 9, 1821, President James Monroe signed the Act of Congress which created the College. By design of the Congress, a special provision was included which required that “persons of every religious denomination shall be capable of being elected Trustees; nor shall any person, either as President, Professor, Tutor or pupil, be refused admittance, or denied any of the privileges, immunities, or advantages thereof, for or on account of his sentiments in matters of religion.”

The original seal was designed by James Peale in 1821, at the time of the founding of the Columbian College. This is the seal that the graduates are wearing today as medals. The seal features a Biblical lion lying down with a lamb and Greek text in an open book. The Greek translates to “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.”

In 1873, the name Columbian College was changed to Columbian University and the seal was changed slightly to reflect this. The Latin text around the outside was changed from “Columbiani Collegii” to “Universitatis Columbianae Sigillum.” In addition, some text was added to fill up the rest of the open book, since the Greek phrase only took up part of one page. In 1905, after the name changed to the George Washington University, the old seal was replaced by a completely new one.

The original Columbian College seal is currently on display in the Memorabilia Room of Gelman Library.



Paul J. Wahlbeck  
*Dean*

*Dear Graduates,*

Today marks the commencement of a journey filled with promise and endless possibilities. Your graduation from the George Washington University Columbian College of Arts & Sciences marks a new beginning, one in which you carry invaluable skills that will empower you to be informed and impactful global citizens. I urge you to leverage your academic accomplishments as a springboard for enriching your communities and effecting positive change in your chosen paths.

As a student of the liberal arts and sciences, you engaged in the pursuit of new ideas, embraced broad and agile thinking, nurtured creativity and innovation, and worked with faculty to help tackle today's most challenging issues. You melded scholarly rigor with a spirit of exploration and adventure, thereby fostering not only intellectual but also personal growth, amplified by the university's distinctive research and networking connections spanning the nation's capital and beyond.

It is my hope that the bonds you forged here will remain strong and extend far beyond our campus borders. Wherever your paths lead, wear your identity as a George Washington University graduate with pride. You are part of an esteemed cohort that will enrich your life both personally and professionally.

And please know that our university community stands open to you, welcoming your continued engagement in whatever form it may take. I encourage you to maintain connections and stay abreast of our ongoing progress—and your enduring impact—in our alumni publications. And when the opportunity arises, I hope you will return to Foggy Bottom to participate in events, engage in campus dialogues, or reconnect with faculty members.

Congratulations on this momentous achievement and accept my heartfelt best wishes as you embark on a future brimming with boundless opportunities!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. Wahlbeck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "W".

Paul J. Wahlbeck  
*Dean*  
*Columbian College of Arts and Sciences*

# ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE ..... Corcoran Brass

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONS..... Deans, Faculty and Students

WELCOME ..... Chad Heap  
*Associate Dean for Graduate Studies*

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE  
MENTORING OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS ..... Presented by Kavita Daiya  
*Associate Dean for Academic Innovation*

DOCTORAL MENTOR AWARDEE ..... Ellen Yeung  
*Assistant Professor of Applied Social Psychology*

CHARGE TO DOCTORAL CANDIDATES..... Paul J. Wahlbeck  
*Dean*

HOODING OF THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATES..... Dean and Faculty Advocates

ALMA MATER..... Millicent Scarlett  
*Adjunct Professor of Music*

RECESSIONAL ..... Corcoran Brass

*The hooding program is meant to be a guide to the ceremony.  
Although every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy, the program is not an official record of an individual's degree.*

# AWARDS AND PRIZES

## Anthropology

<i>Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship</i> .....	Matthew J. DeMaio
<i>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> .....	Scott A. Ross, Víctor E. Salazar-Chávez
<i>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</i> .....	Matthew J. DeMaio, Scott Ross, Víctor E. Salazar-Chávez
<i>National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award</i> .....	Karleen C. Ronsairo, Víctor E. Salazar-Chávez
<i>Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) Research Fellowship</i> .....	Matthew J. DeMaio
<i>Peace Scholar Award</i> .....	Scott A. Ross
<i>Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC) International Dissertation Research Fellowship</i> .....	Scott A. Ross

## Applied Social Psychology

<i>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</i> .....	Katarina E. AuBuchon
<i>Richard Walk Dissertation Award</i> .....	Rebecca K. Hoffman

## Biological Sciences

<i>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> .....	Nicolas A. Hazzi-Campo, Justus G. Jobe
<i>Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductee</i> .....	Justus G. Jobe
<i>National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program</i> .....	Justus G. Jobe

## Chemistry

<i>American Institute of Chemists Prize</i> .....	Rebekah N. Brucato
<i>Benjamin D. Van Evera Memorial Prize - Effective Graduate Teaching Assistants</i> .....	Sara K. Mattson
<i>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> .....	Marjan Dolatmoradi

## Clinical Psychology

<i>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</i> .....	Sharanya Rao
<i>Richard Walk Dissertation Award</i> .....	Sharanya Rao, Mary Mbaba

## Cognitive Neuroscience

<i>Three Minute Thesis Competition - Second Place and People's Choice Winner</i> .....	Prachi Mahableshwarkar
--	------------------------

## English

<i>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> .....	Joanna S. Falk
<i>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</i> .....	Jaime Campomar

# AWARDS AND PRIZES

## Human Paleobiology

*Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductee*..... Axelle Kamanzi Shimwa

*Wenner-Gren Foundation Wadsworth International Fellowship*..... Joanne U. Munga

## Mathematics

*National Science Foundation (NSF)*

*Graduate Research Fellowship Program*..... Dario Verta

## Political Science

*Boren Fellowship Award*..... Rosalie D. Rubio

*Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship*..... Adam C. Lenton

*Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Fellowship*..... Josiah C. Augustine

*National Science Foundation (NSF)*

*Graduate Research Fellowship Program*..... Elizabeth A. Meehan

*USC Korean Studies Institute US-Asia*

*Grand Strategy Predoctoral Fellowship*..... Amoz J. Y. Hor

*ZEIT-Stiftung Dissertation Scholarship* ..... Sultan S. Alamer

## Public Policy and Administration

*Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship*..... Jae Y. Yu

## Statistics

*Minna Mirin Kullback Memorial Prize*..... Zhou Yang



## AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE FACULTY MENTORING

The Award for Excellence in the Mentoring of Doctoral Students is given to a faculty member nominated by students in the Ph.D. and Psy.D. programs of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Mentoring and advising are crucial to the intellectual life and career trajectories of doctoral students across the arts, sciences, and professions. A good mentor is a source of wisdom and expertise, an inspiring role model, a compassionate critic, a sounding board, an advocate, and a career counselor. The 2023-2024 Award for Excellence in the Mentoring of Doctoral Students is presented to Ellen Yeung, Assistant Professor of Applied Social Psychology.

### **Ellen Yeung**

*Assistant Professor of Applied Social Psychology*

Ellen Yeung joined the faculty of the George Washington University in 2019. Her research focuses on understanding the influences of genetics and social environment on the link between addiction and chronic pain using a lifespan developmental approach. Her research aims to serve people living with substance use disorders, chronic pain, and/or HIV/AIDS. Her external sponsored projects are funded by the National Institutes of Health and the District of Columbia Center for AIDS Research. She has published widely in scholarly journals, including *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, and *Development and Psychopathology*.

Students in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences praise Dr. Yeung for fostering an environment of "growth and achievement." They admire the "eagerness and passion" that she displays in her work, noting that she "gives her heart and soul" to her students. She "goes out of her way not only to assist you with whatever questions you have," one student remarked, "but also to help you learn the skills needed to address [those questions] alone in the future."

Dr. Yeung "brings an energy and kindness [to her teaching and research] that is contagious." While her courses are notably challenging, students report that "the joy, positivity, and passion she brought to the classroom made it so everyone felt invigorated to learn." When students "have felt discouraged or overwhelmed," one advisee observed, it was Dr. Yeung's "kindness and understanding that kept [them] going." She "is always visiting our desks to check in and offer a hug to anyone who needs it," and she finds time in her busy schedule to share her expertise in statistics and data analysis with any student who requests her assistance. "The joy she expresses when discussing her students' work inspires and motivates those students in a way that is truly unique," one advisee recalled. "Dr. Yeung is truly a one-of-a-kind mentor and person."

# DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

## **Kara M. Adams\***

*Advocate:* helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* The Distance Between Us: Race, Religiosity, and the Potential for Over-Pathologization

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Guinnevere B. Baranowski\***

*Advocate:* James Sexton, Assistant Professor of Professional Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* The Impact of Interpreters on Therapeutic Alliance in a Pediatric Oncology Setting

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Eliana Chapman\***

*Advocate:* Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Beyond Echo and Narcissus: The Development of Mutuality in the Therapeutic Relationship

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Ciara A. Crighton\***

*Advocate:* Loring Ingraham, Program Director and Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* It's About the Relationship: The Therapeutic Advantages of Transference Focused Psychotherapy in Borderline Personality Disorder Treatment

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Xinwei Dong\***

*Co-Advocate:* Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* Karen L. Weise, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* How Self Psychology Helps Understand Complex Trauma and in What Ways it Falls Short

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Claudia R. Downey\***

*Co-Advocate:* Lara Sheehi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Dissociation and Dysphoria: How the Experience of Gender and Pressures of Societal Gender Norms Amplify Dissociative Processes

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Wafae Driwech\***

*Advocate:* Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* The Intersection of Religion and Psychosis: Exploring the Manifestation of Religion Resembling Psychosis and Its Therapeutic Applications When Working with Individuals Who Have Experienced Significant Trauma During Their Upbringing

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Ehsan E. Falasiri\***

*Advocate:* Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Healing Ancestral Trauma: Discovering Sameness Through the Unknown

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Alya E. Gaspard\***

*Advocate:* James Sexton, Assistant Professor of Professional Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Deciphering Psychological Functioning, and Countertransference and Transference Patterns with a Covert Narcissist Patient and a First-Time Clinician

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Emily V. Ho\***

*Advocate:* helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Splitting Off Affect to Mitigate Threats to Identity Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Case Study of a White Patient and Asian-American Therapist

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## **Lauren Noel Horton\***

*Advocate:* Loring Ingraham, Program Director and Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* What's Going On? Examining Erotic Transference-Countertransference Between a Male Client and Female Therapist-in-Training

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

# DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

## Jane T. Howitt\*

*Advocate:* Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Man in the Image of God, or God in the Image of Man?

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Yewon Kim\*

*Co-Advocate:* Lara Sheehi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Understanding Complex Trauma: The Limits of Object Relations Theory in Conceptualizing Clients with Multiple Caregivers due to Political Unrest

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Danielle I. Ledesma\*

*Co-Advocate:* Lara Sheehi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Adoption: A Primal and Colonial Wound

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Miral Malik\*

*Advocate:* Paul Gedo, Emeritus Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Navigating Imposter Syndrome with a Narcissistic Patient: A South Asian Trainee's Perspective

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Michelle L. Morel\*

*Co-Advocate:* Cheri Marmarosh, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* Loring Ingraham, Program Director and Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Children of Narcissistic Parents: The Development of Schizoid Functioning In Adulthood

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Razzan Quran\*

*Co-Advocate:* Lara Sheehi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* (De)Generative Conflict: A Case in Couple's Therapy

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Armahn Rassuli\*

*Co-Advocate:* James Sexton, Assistant Professor of Professional Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* The Role of Commercial Video Games In Psychodynamic Psychotherapy

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Alicia C. Solorio\*

*Co-Advocate:* Cheri Marmarosh, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* Karen L. Weise, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* The Parentified Child: How Early Experiences Shape One's View of Self and Others

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Jayoti Soor\*

*Advocate:* helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Confronting Whiteness Inside Out: How Therapist of Color Confronting Their Internalized Whiteness Frees Them to Confront the Whiteness in Patient?

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Emily K. Stephen\*

*Advocate:* Karen L. Weise, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Transference in the Male Patient, Female Therapist Dyad: An Exploration of Masculinity, Power, and Vulnerability

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

# DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

## Feng Xing\*

*Co-Advocate:* James Sexton, Assistant Professor of Professional Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* Sarah L. Hedlund, Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Understanding D.W. Winnicott's False Self In the Context of Complex Trauma

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Hannah S. Young\*

*Advocate:* helen DeVinney, Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* No More Masks! No More Mythology! Individuation, Difference, and Gender Transition in Couples Therapy

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

The doctoral internship in Clinical Psychology is a year-long intensive clinical training experience required for licensure as a clinical psychologist. Students apply in a highly competitive nationwide match process to secure a position congruent with their training needs and career aspirations. The following sites are the locations where this year's graduating class has trained.

American University

Barrow Neurological Institute/Phoenix Children's Hospital

Baylor College of Medicine - Menninger Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard

Broughton Hospital

Catholic University of America Counseling Center

Center for Multicultural Training in Psych, Boston University

Duke University - Counseling

Federal Bureau of Prisons - FCI/FDC Tallahassee

Florida International University

George Mason University

Mt. Sinai Services/ Elmhurst Hospital

Pace University Counseling Center

RAMS, Inc.

Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility

Saint Elizabeth's Hospital

Stanford University

The Psychiatric Institute of Washington

University of California - Los Angeles, Counseling

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - Counseling

WellSpan Philhaven CBT

*\*Students indicated as earning their degree in summer 2024 must complete their internship before the degree is awarded.*

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Sultan S. Alamer

Political Science

*Advocate:* Nathan J. Brown, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Minorities Without Majorities: The Politics of Nation-Building in Sub-Nation States in the Middle East

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Katarina E. AuBuchon

Applied Social Psychology

*Advocate:* Michelle L. Stock, Associate Professor of Psychology

*Dissertation:* The Physiological and Psychological Pain of Racial Discrimination and Potential Pain-mitigating Effects of Acknowledgement from an Ally

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Josiah C. Augustine

Political Science

*Advocate:* Henry Hale, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Like a Root Out of Dry Ground: Small Business Support for Non-Systemic Opposition Under Electoral Authoritarianism

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Kristin E. Blagg

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Advocate:* Stephanie R. Cellini, Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, and of Economics

*Dissertation:* Three Papers on Public Libraries and K12 Education

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Rebekah N. Brucato

Chemistry

*Advocate:* Adelina Voutchkova-Kostal, Associate Professor of Chemistry

*Dissertation:* Safe and Functional Ionic Liquid Systems For Solubilization and Depolymerization Processes

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Jaime Campomar

English

*Advocate:* Christopher Sten, Emeritus Professor of English

*Dissertation:* Ekphrastic Anxieties: Revising Disability, Masculinity, and Race in Warner Brothers' Moby Dick (1956)

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Minhnguyen Cao

Clinical Psychology

*Advocate:* Jody M. Ganiban, Professor of Psychology

*Dissertation:* A Developmental Model of Early Childhood Intra- and Interpersonal Contributions to Adolescent Life Satisfaction

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Xinxin Cao

Economics

*Advocate:* Arun S. Malik, Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* Essays on Transportation and Environmental Economics

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Eric G. Cheuk

American Studies

*Advocate:* Gayle Wald, Professor of English and American Studies

*Dissertation:* History Without Time: Thinking Race and Blackness After Civil Rights and in the Long Downturn

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Nicholas J. Chong

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Advocate:* Avi Dor, Professor of Health Policy and Management

*Dissertation:* Essays on Examining Health Workforce Policies Using an Equity Framework

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Blake Cooper

Pharmacology and Physiology

*Co-Advocate:* Nikki G. Posnack, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology

*Co-Advocate:* David Mendelowitz, Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology

*Dissertation:* Cardiac Consequences of Xenoestrogen Exposure: Interaction Between Bisphenol Chemicals and the Myocardium

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Madeline E. Dahut

Microbiology and Immunology

*Co-Advocate:* Claudia Palena, Senior Investigator, Head, Tumor Immunoregulation Section, Center for Immunology, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute

*Co-Advocate:* David Leitenberg, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine

*Dissertation:* Mechanisms of Immune Resistance in Advanced Prostate Cancer

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Matthew J. DeMaio

Anthropology

*Advocate:* Ilana Feldman, Professor of Anthropology, History, and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Made to Move: Placemaking and Accumulated Attachments among Palestinian Refugees from Syria

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Peter A. Devine

Economics

*Advocate:* Sumit Joshi, Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* Essays on the Economics of Networked Competition and Conflict

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Rhys J. Dickhudt

Chemistry

*Advocate:* Stephen G. Boyes, Professor of Chemistry

*Dissertation:* New Methods in Chain-Growth Condensation Polymerization for Functional Aromatic Polyamides

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Marjan Dolatmoradi

Chemistry

*Advocate:* Akos Vertes, Professor of Chemistry

*Dissertation:* High-Throughput Single Cell Analysis and Molecular Imaging by Laser Ablation Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry with Ion Mobility Separation

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Sara Maria El Oud

Physics

*Advocate:* Neil Johnson, Professor of Physics

*Dissertation:* Aggregation Dynamics of Heterogeneous Systems

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Joanna S. Falk

English

*Advocate:* Robert McRuer, Professor of English

*Dissertation:* Mere (Major) Notes: Paratextual Guise in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Brady J. Forrest

English

*Advocate:* Robert McRuer, Professor of English

*Dissertation:* A Sensuous Melancholia: A Structured Feeling

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Samuel P. Frantz

Political Science

*Advocate:* Emmanuel J. Teitelbaum, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Essays on the Origins and Consequences of Mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility in India

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Andrew A. Gepty

Clinical Psychology

*Advocate:* Sharon Lambert, Professor of Clinical/Community Psychology

*Dissertation:* The Daily Role of Activity Spaces and Social Interactions for Depressive Symptoms among Urban-dwelling Black Emerging Adults

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Ali Hassan

Economics

*Advocate:* Anthony Yezer, Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* A New Perspective on the Effects of Regulation and Public Investment

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Nicolas A. Hazzi-Campo

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* Gustavo Hormiga, Ruth Weintraub Professor of Biology

*Dissertation:* Systematics, Ecomorphological Evolution and Biogeography of the Tropical Wandering Spiders (Araneae, Ctenidae)

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Christa V. Heryanto

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* Arnaud Martin, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

*Dissertation:* Development of Molecular Tools for Lepidopteran Functional Genomics in the Plodia Pantry Moth

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Rebecca K. Hoffman

Applied Social Psychology

*Advocate:* Tonya Dodge, Associate Professor of Psychology

*Dissertation:* Testing Cognitive Dissonance as a Mechanism Behind Compensatory Behaviors in the Context of Heavy College Drinking

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Amoz J.Y. Hor

Political Science

*Advocate:* Eric Grynaviski, Associate Professor of Political Science

*Dissertation:* Making the World Safe for White Democracy: Racialized Liberalism and the Post-War International Order

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Muhammad R. H. Hossainey

Biological Sciences

*Co-Advocate:* Leon Grayfer, Associate Professor of Biology

*Co-Advocate:* Ioannis Eleftherianos, Professor of Biology

*Dissertation:* Amphibian (*Xenopus laevis*) Macrophage Development and Functionality

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Jacqueline N. Howard

Microbiology and Immunology

*Advocate:* Alberto Bosque-Pardo, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine

*Dissertation:* Harnessing the IL-15 Signaling Pathway for HIV Cure Approaches

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Justus G. Jobe

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* Keryn B. Gedan, Associate Professor of Biology

*Dissertation:* Leaf Bites to Landscapes: Scaling the Effects of Ecologically Significant Herbivores

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Melissa Julian

Clinical Psychology

*Advocate:* Huynh-Nhu Le, Professor of Clinical/Community Psychology

*Dissertation:* Development and Evaluation of the Heart2Heart Psychological Intervention for Pregnant Individuals Carrying a Fetus Diagnosed with Congenital Heart Disease

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Axelle Kamanzi Shimwa

Human Paleobiology

*Advocate:* Shannon F. McFarlin, Associate Professor of Anthropology

*Dissertation:* Variation in the Acquisition of Dietary Independence in Wild Virunga Mountain Gorillas

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Tomas F. Kanholm

Genomics and Bioinformatics

*Co-Advocate:* Katherine B. Chiappinelli, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine

*Co-Advocate:* Keith A. Crandall, Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

*Dissertation:* Transposable Elements in Oncogenic Transformation

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Barunie Kim

Clinical Psychology

*Advocate:* Christina B. Gee, Associate Professor of Psychology

*Dissertation:* Experiences of Coparenting Among Low-Income, Black and Latino Parents in Heterosexual Dyads

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Kylie I. Krohmaly

Microbiology and Immunology

*Co-Advocate:* Robert J. Freishtat, Professor of Pediatrics

*Co-Advocate:* Ljubica Caldovic, Associate Professor of Genomics and Precision Medicine, and of Pediatrics (Secondary)

*Dissertation:* Bacterial Small RNAs in Bronchiolitis

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Andrea Langeland

Biological Sciences

*Co-Advocate:* Damien M. O'Halloran, Associate Professor of Biology

*Co-Advocate:* John M. Hawdon, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine

*Dissertation:* Towards a Molecular Understanding of Host Specificity in Hookworm Infections

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Adam C. Lenton

Political Science

*Advocate:* Henry Hale, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Echoes of Empire: Subnationalism and Political Development in the Russian Federation

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Rujia Li

Economics

*Advocate:* Paul Carrillo, Professor of Economics and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Essays on the White-Nonwhite Racial Homeownership Gap in the United States

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Chuanhao Lin

Economics

*Advocate:* Anthony Yezer, Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* New Results on the Effects of Regulation: Gun Control and Land Use Planning

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Bozhen Liu

Economics

*Co-Advocate:* Bryan A. Stuart, Economic Advisor and Economist

*Co-Advocate:* Stephen Smith, Professor of Economics and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Essays on Housing Market Transaction Taxes and Migration in China

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Yunsheng Ma

Economics

*Advocate:* Tomás Williams, Associate Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* Essays on International Economics

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## James R. Macdonald

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Advocate:* Mary B. Tschirhart, Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Professor in Public Service

*Dissertation:* Three Essays on Active Definition in Government Contracting

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Prachi Mahableshwarkar

Cognitive Neuroscience

*Co-Advocate:* John W. Philbeck, Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences

*Co-Advocate:* Dwight Kravitz, Associate Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience

*Dissertation:* Natural Scene Perception: Interactions between Semantics and Space

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Kassandra Martinchek

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Advocate:* Kathryn Newcomer, Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration

*Dissertation:* Young Adults' Use of Debt and Credit During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Sara K. Mattson

Chemistry

*Advocate:* Erik A. Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

*Dissertation:* A Multi-Method Directed Evolution to Create Improved Far-Red Fluorescent Proteins

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Mary V. Mbaba

Applied Social Psychology

*Advocate:* Lisa Bowleg, Professor of Applied Social Psychology

*Dissertation:* The Stereotypical Yogi(ni): Exploring the Effects of Prototype Similarity and Racial Centrality on Black Adult Women's Willingness to Practice Yoga

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Ryan T. McRae

Human Paleobiology

*Advocate:* Bernard A. Wood, University Professor of Human Origins

*Dissertation:* An Inventory and Assessment of the Early African Hominin Fossil Record Prior to the Emergence of *Homo erectus*

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Jacob A. Medina

Cancer Biology

*Co-Advocate:* Rohan Fernandes, Associate Professor of Medicine

*Co-Advocate:* Norman Lee, Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology

*Dissertation:* Combination Photothermal Therapy and  $\alpha$ CD137 Agonistic Co-stimulation as a Therapy for SM1 Melanoma

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Elizabeth A. Meehan

Political Science

*Advocate:* Stephen Kaplan, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* The Political Origins of Corporate Transparency: Limiting Business Power by Locking in Strange Coalitions

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Ahleah F. Miles

Industrial and Organizational Sciences

*Co-Advocate:* David P. Costanza, Associate Professor of Psychology and of Organizational Sciences

*Co-Advocate:* Tara S. Behrend, John Richard Butler II Endowed Professor Human Resources and Labor Relations

*Dissertation:* Career Assessment Feedback Specificity and Students' Academic and Career Outcomes

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024



# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Djordje X. Modrakovic

Clinical Psychology

*Advocate:* Sarah K. Calabrese, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Dissertation:* The Implications of HIV Biomedical Prevention for Perceived HIV Risk and Psychosexual Health Among US Sexual Minority Men

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Michael J. Moss III

Physics

*Advocate:* Sylvain Guiriec, Associate Professor of Physics

*Dissertation:* Modeling and Analysis of Gamma-Ray Burst Dynamics and Emission

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Joanne U. Munga

Human Paleobiology

*Co-Advocate:* David R. Braun, Professor of Anthropology

*Co-Advocate:* Alison S. Brooks, Professor of Anthropology

*Dissertation:* Effects on Precision During Flake Production: Interaction between Knapper Skill and Raw Material Properties

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Samoni Nag

Cognitive Neuroscience

*Co-Advocate:* Stephen R. Mitroff, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience

*Co-Advocate:* Dwight Kravitz, Associate Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience

*Dissertation:* An Investigation Into the Prolonged Consequences of Response Inhibition

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Brendan M. O'Connor

Physics

*Co-Advocate:* Chryssa Kouveliotou, Professor of Physics

*Co-Advocate:* Eleonora Troja, Associate Professor of Physics, University of Rome

*Co-Advocate:* S. Bradly Cenko, Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, College Park

*Dissertation:* The Transient Universe: Compact Objects Near and Far

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Jennifer E. Perez

Industrial and Organizational Sciences

*Advocate:* Tiffany Bisbey, Assistant Professor of Industrial/Organizational Psychology

*Dissertation:* Leading with Vulnerability: Exploring the Effects on Perceptions of Psychological Safety and Leader Competence

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Sharanya Rao

Clinical Psychology

*Advocate:* Sarah K. Calabrese, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Dissertation:* Healthcare Experiences of US Sexual Minority Women and Gender Diverse People of Color: Understanding Stigma, Satisfaction, and Sequelae

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

## Zara Richter

English

*Advocate:* Robert McRuer, Professor of English

*Dissertation:* Minor Beat Affects

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Ellie Robbins

Cognitive Neuroscience

*Advocate:* Sarah Shomstein, Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences

*Dissertation:* Context Matters: Semantic and Perceptual Influences on Object Attention

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Karleen C. Ronsairo

Anthropology

*Advocate:* Jeffrey P. Blomster, Professor of Anthropology

*Dissertation:* Crafting an Urban Society: A Study of Raw Material Procurement for Pottery Production at Yucuita and Etlatongo in the Mixteca Alta of Oaxaca, Mexico

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Scott A. Ross

Anthropology

*Advocate:* Sarah E. Wagner, Professor of Anthropology

*Dissertation:* Networks of Protection: Infrastructures of Intervention in Northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Charlotte A. Rossetter

Industrial and Organizational Sciences

*Advocate:* David P. Costanza, Associate Professor of Psychology and of Organizational Sciences

*Dissertation:* Understanding the Role and Impact of Organizational Culture: An Exploration of Adaptive and Family-Owned Business Culture Characteristics

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2024

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Dylan P. Royce

Political Science

*Advocate:* Henry Hale, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Universalism: How It Affects States' Behavior, and How It Drove the US Into a New Cold War With Russia

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Rosalie D. Rubio

Political Science

*Co-Advocate:* Nathan J. Brown, Professor of Political Science

*Co-Advocate:* Michelle Allendoerfer, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning, American Political Science Association

*Dissertation:* From Guardianship to Governance: Assessing the Institutional Development and Autonomy of the Jordanian General Intelligence Directorate

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Víctor E. Salazar-Chávez

Anthropology

*Advocate:* Jeffrey P. Blomster, Professor of Anthropology

*Dissertation:* The Milpa and the Feast: A Study of Early Village Life in the Early Formative Community of Etlatongo in the Mixteca Alta of Oaxaca

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Abbey L. Salvat

Industrial and Organizational Sciences

*Advocate:* Tiffany Bisbey, Assistant Professor of Industrial/Organizational Psychology

*Dissertation:* Where Can I be Me? The Role of Social Support in Authentic Identity Expression for TNB Employees

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Jakob T. Samsel

Microbiology and Immunology

*Co-Advocate:* Richard A. Koup, Deputy Director, Vaccine Research Center Chief, Immunology Laboratory and Immunology Section, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health

*Co-Advocate:* Rebecca M. Lynch, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine

*Dissertation:* Characterization of HIV-1 Neutralizing Antibody Responses in Rhesus Macaques

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Jessica K. Schenck

Neuroscience

*Co-Advocate:* Michael Bukrinsky, Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine

*Co-Advocate:* Robert H. Miller, Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology and Vivian Gill Distinguished Research Professor

*Dissertation:* HIV-1 Nef Contributes to Myelin Impairment and Neuroinflammation in the Murine Central Nervous System

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Hannah C. Smith

Neuroscience

*Advocate:* Paul J. Marvar, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

*Dissertation:* Evaluating Angiotensin Type 2 Receptors in the Medial Prefrontal Cortex: Implications for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Associated Cardiovascular Disease

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Danielle K. Sohail

Cancer Biology

*Co-Advocate:* Catherine M. Bollard, Professor of Pediatrics, and of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine

*Co-Advocate:* Alberto Bosque-Pardo, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine

*Dissertation:* Interrogating Strategies to Enhance Cell-Based Therapies for the Treatment of HIV and HIV-Associated Cancers

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Peter G. Solazzo

Physics

*Co-Advocate:* William Briscoe, Professor Emeritus of Physics

*Co-Advocate:* Igor Strakovsky, Research Professor of Physics

*Dissertation:* Measurement of the  $\Sigma$  Beam Asymmetry of the  $\bar{\gamma}p \rightarrow a_0^0(980)p$  Reaction at  $E_\gamma \approx 9$  GeV in the GlueX Experiment

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Joshua H. Sparks

Statistics

*Co-Advocate:* Hosam M. Mahmoud, Professor of Statistics

*Co-Advocate:* Srinivasan Balaji, Assistant Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Investigating Multicolor Affine Urn Models with Multiple Drawings

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Dickson B. Su

Political Science

*Advocate:* Christopher Warshaw, Professor of Political Science

*Dissertation:* Policy Change in the American States

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Kan Sun

Economics

*Advocate:* James Foster, Oliver T. Carr Professor of International Affairs and Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* Essays on Measuring Poverty and Mobility

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Amruta A. Tendolkar

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* Arnaud Martin, Associate Professor of Biology

*Dissertation:* The Regulation and Role of the Hox Gene Ultrabithorax in Hindwing Identity in Lepidoptera

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Alexis S. Uluutku

Human Paleobiology

*Advocate:* Bernard A. Wood, University Professor of Human Origins

*Dissertation:* The Role of Character Displacement and Ecological Niche Incumbency in Hominin Evolution

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Neerja N. Vashist

Genomics and Bioinformatics

*Co-Advocate:* Eric Vilain, Adjunct Professor of Genomics & Precision Medicine

*Co-Advocate:* Robert Freishtat, Professor of Pediatrics

*Dissertation:* Investigating the Role of the Gut Microbiome in Modulating the Development of Konzo

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Dario Verta

Mathematics

*Advocate:* Valentina Harizanov, Professor of Mathematics

*Dissertation:* Computability-theoretic complexity of computable magmas

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Mansi Wadhwa

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Advocate:* Burt Barnow, Amsterdam Professor of Public Service and Economics

*Dissertation:* Bridging the Gender Gaps in Labor Markets and in Caregiving: Empirical Evidence from Two Family Leave Programs

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Benjamin W. Walusiak

Physics

*Advocate:* Christopher L. Cahill, Professor of Chemistry

*Dissertation:* Assembly and Structure-Property Relationships of Perovskite Derivatives and Lanthanide Hybrid Materials

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Ziyuan Wang

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Advocate:* Joseph Cordes, Professor of Economics, Public Policy & Public Administration, and of International Affairs

*Dissertation:* State Financial Incentives and Solar Energy Adoption in the United States

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023

## Michael D. Womble

Chemistry

*Advocate:* Michael J. Wagner, Associate Professor of Chemistry

*Dissertation:* The Application and Performance of Carbon Nanochain Cathodes and Highly Concentrated Electrolytes in Li-O<sub>2</sub> Batteries

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Xiaoying Yang

Economics

*Advocate:* Arun S. Malik, Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* Essays on Transportation and Environmental Regulations

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Zheyu Yang

Economics

*Advocate:* Graciela L. Kaminsky, Professor of Economics and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Essays on Financial Market, Monetary Policy, and International Capital Flows

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Zhou Yang

Statistics

*Advocate:* Fang Jin, Assistant Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Explainable Learning with Meaningful Perturbations

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Yat To Yeung

Political Science

*Advocate:* Daniel Hayes, Professor of Political Science

*Dissertation:* The Role of Ethnic Origin in Asian American Politics

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Jae Y. Yu

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Co-Advocate:* Sanjay K. Pandey, Shapiro Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration

*Co-Advocate:* Burt Barnow, Amsterdam Professor of Public Service and Economics

*Dissertation:* The Bamboo Veil in the U.S. Army: Cultural Conflict and Asian American Leadership

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2024

## Yuhao Zhang

Statistics

*Co-Advocate:* Adam Ciarleglio, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

*Co-Advocate:* Huixia Judy Wang, Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Missing Data in Classification and Functional Data Analysis

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Marko Zilovic

Political Science

*Advocate:* Kimberly Morgan, Professor of Political Science

*Dissertation:* Three Essays on the Mainstream Right in Post-Communist Central and Southeast Europe

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2023



Elizabeth Craig, MPA '83

### *Dear Graduate:*

On behalf of the Columbian College National Council for the Arts and Sciences, I offer my congratulations on your significant achievement and welcome you to the George Washington University alumni community. Do not underestimate your accomplishment and the opportunities that await you!

As an alumna of this historic institution, I fully appreciate the excitement of this very special moment in your life and remember that feeling well. You are now a member of a select group of individuals, bonded by a college for which you will forever be proudly associated. I encourage you to remain involved and, more importantly, engaged with the university as you enter this next phase of your life. Your opportunities to make a difference are endless—from mentoring a student, to becoming an active member of the Alumni Association organizing regional and local alumni events, offering services as a career advisor or being a guest lecturer, and providing philanthropic support. Each of these types of engagement offers unique and wonderful opportunities to continue showing support and your pride in the university. And, of course, passing on that GW spirit!

My work as a volunteer on the National Council—which is comprised of alumni, parents, and friends who advise the dean of the Columbian College—has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me. I hope you find similar avenues of engagement and find opportunities to advance GW's promise and potential.

Finally, it is not lost on anyone that your time here has required significant personal dedication and financial commitment. We are grateful for your investment and hopeful that your degree will lay the groundwork for future success in whatever career you choose.

Again, congratulations! It is both an honor and a pleasure to welcome you as a graduate of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, and I hope to see you at a GW event soon.

Raise High!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Craig".

Elizabeth Craig, MPA '83  
*Chair, CCAS National Council for the Arts and Sciences*

# ALMA MATER



Hail al - ma ma - ter, to thy spir - it

guid - ing, Know - ledge thy close - est friend in its strength a -

bid - ing, Pledge we fi - del - i - ty ne'er its place re -

sign - ing, Hail thee George Wash - ing - ton.





# SHARE YOUR DAY

**#GWCommencement**

**#CCASOnward**

**COLUMBIAN COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

801 22nd Street, NW, Phillips Hall • Washington, D.C. 20052

Phone: 202-994-6210 • [columbian.gwu.edu](http://columbian.gwu.edu)

✕ [@gwucolumbian](https://twitter.com/gwucolumbian) [f/gwucolumbian](https://www.facebook.com/gwucolumbian)

CCAS-2324-28

**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, DC