

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

# HOODING 2023

## DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY

THE EIGHTEENTH OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY THREE



Columbian College  
of Arts & Sciences

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



# **2023 DOCTORAL HOODING**

MAY 18 | 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*

### *Congratulations, Graduates!*

This day marks the beginning of a new and exciting journey. As a graduate of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, you now carry with you the skills that our university's namesake considered essential for responsible citizenship, skills that will help you be informed and effective global citizens. I encourage you to use your studies as a foundation for contributing to your communities and making a difference in whatever field you pursue.

As students of the arts and sciences, you were driven by your desire to explore new ideas, to think broadly, be creative, ask questions and tackle new challenges. You took chances, combined your academic rigor and achievement with a spirit of exploration and adventure, and enhanced your intellectual and personal growth through GW's unique connections across the nation's capital and around the world.

During your time here, you collaborated with world-renowned scholars; benefited from research grants that positioned you to explore exciting innovations; and had access to the world's top research and cultural institutions—from the Library of Congress to the National Institutes of Health to the Smithsonian. You've also had a front-row seat to history and have experienced some truly special "only at GW" moments.

The relationships you established will provide a strong network to keep you connected with this institution and the world beyond our campus. Wherever you go, be proud to call yourself a George Washington University graduate. It is a privileged group, one that will reward you both personally and professionally.

Please know that the GW community will always be open to you, wherever and however you choose to keep in touch. I encourage you stay connected through our social media platforms and read about our continued progress—and your continued impact—in our alumni publications. When the opportunity arises, I also hope you come back to Foggy Bottom to attend an event, participate in a campus forum or visit a faculty member.

Congratulations and all my best wishes as you embark on a future of promise and unlimited possibility!

Sincerely,

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 Evangeline J. Downie  
*Associate Dean for Research*

**DOCTORAL MENTOR AWARDEE** ..... Ilana Feldman  
*Professor of Anthropology, History, and International Affairs*

**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

## American Studies

<i>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> .....	Colin L. Anderson, Julie Chamberlain
<i>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</i> .....	Julie Chamberlain, Zaynab Quadri
<i>Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) Dissertation Grant</i> .....	Zaynab Quadri

## Anthropology

<i>Charles Herber Prize for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student</i> .....	Sarah Richardson
<i>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> .....	Evy M. Vourlides
<i>Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductee</i> .....	Dana Burton
<i>National Aeronautics and Space Administration Fellow in Aerospace History</i> .....	Dana Burton
<i>National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant</i> .....	Gorkem Aydemir Kundakci, Sarah Richardson
<i>University of Pennsylvania Pre-Doctoral Fellowship for Excellence Through Diversity</i> .....	Dana Burton
<i>Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant</i> .....	Dana Burton

## Biological Sciences

<i>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> .....	Jignasha Rana, Ryan Spahn
<i>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</i> .....	Ezra Kottler

## Chemistry

<i>Benjamin D. Van Evera Memorial Prize - Effective Graduate Teaching Assistants</i> .....	Hailey Buntman, Chenyang Ma
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## Clinical Psychology

<i>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> .....	Casey M. Hearing
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## Economics

<i>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</i> .....	Scot Tyler Remick
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## English

<i>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</i> .....	Kevin T. Christensen, Emily Macleod
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## History

<i>Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> .....	Zhongtian Han
<i>Dean's Graduate Instructorship</i> .....	Zhongtian Han, Andreas E. Meyris

## AWARDS AND PRIZES

*Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductee*..... Anthony (A.J.) Cade, II

### **Human Paleobiology**

*Dean's Graduate Instructorship*..... Courtney L. Sexton

### **Industrial/Organizational Psychology**

*Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship*..... Daniel M. Ravid

*Dean's Graduate Instructorship* ..... Daniel M. Ravid

### **Microbiology and Immunology**

*Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductee* ..... Stephanie Gomez

### **Public Policy and Administration**

*Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductee* ..... Danielle Gilmore

### **Physics**

*Gus W. Weiss Prize for Outstanding Student in Physics*..... John Grant Mitchell

### **Political Science**

*Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship*..... Samer Anabtawi

*Dean's Graduate Instructorship* ..... Samer Anabtawi, Joseph Cerrone, Alexander Kirss

### *USC Korean Studies Institute US-Asia*

*Grand Strategy Predoctoral Fellowship* ..... Alexander Kirss

### **Statistics**

*Dean's Graduate Instructorship* ..... Samuel Luxenburg

*Graduate Student Teaching Award*..... Samuel Luxenburg

*Minna Mirin Kullback Memorial Prize*..... Rui Mao, Wu Xu



## 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 2022-2023 Award for Excellence in the Mentoring of Doctoral Students is presented to Professor of Anthropology, History, and International Affairs Ilana Feldman.

### **Ilana Feldman**

*Professor of Anthropology, History, and International Affairs*

Ilana Feldman joined the faculty of the George Washington University in 2007. During her tenure, she served as the director of the Ph.D. Program in Anthropology. Her most recent book, *Life Lived in Relief: Humanitarian Predicaments and Palestinian Refugee Politics* (2018), documents more than 70 years of Palestinian displacement, investigating the dynamics of refugees living with, and against, humanitarian assistance across the Middle East. Her first two books—*Governing Gaza: Bureaucracy, Authority, and the Work of Rule* (2008) and *Police Encounters: Security and Surveillance in Gaza under Egyptian Rule* (2015)—explored the dynamics of governance in the unsettled space of the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Feldman's advisees in the Department of Anthropology praise her "uninterrupted support" during every phase of their doctoral studies. They note her "instructive advising" during coursework, her "indispensable guidance" as they apply for grants, her "valuable direction and encouragement" during their preparation for comprehensive exams, and her "continued commitment" when they engage in fieldwork and prepare their dissertations. She "always takes the time to rigorously and constructively assess my work," one student commented, "and also takes seriously my professional growth in the department and beyond."

Dr. Feldman's students are especially grateful for her attentiveness to the unique challenges associated with the pandemic and for her efforts to help them "develop as scholars in ways that are healthy and sustainable." She "brings integrity to her mentorship and role as a faculty advisor," one student observed. "When she provides guidance," another student recalled, "it is always productive and delivered with kindness, support, and generosity." Dr. Feldman is "supportive in a way that is empowering;" she "exemplifies the kind of person who helps her community and the university to thrive."

# DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

## **Adriana Carolina Abadi\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* Introjective Depression as It Relates to Therapeutic Alliance and Progress

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Lilith Z. Antinori**

*Advocate:* Katherine Marshall Woods, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Symbolizing the Predator: Object Relations in the Treatment of Psychopathy

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## **Muska Anwar\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* Conducting Group and Individual Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Under Political Unrest

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Divya Babbar\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* The Narcissist and their Illegible Healer: Power, Relationality, and the Erasure of Disability in Therapeutic Training Discourse

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Reston N. Bell\***

*Advocate:* Katherine Marshall Woods, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* How Chronic Trauma Gets Addressed within the Context of the Therapeutic Relationship in Support of Identity Cohesion

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Sarah Julianna Dubendorff\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* A Mortal Gift: Influences on an elder-trainee dyad's engagement with mortality and termination throughout treatment

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Megan L. Graves\***

*Advocate:* Richard Ruth, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Major Area Paper:* Objects and Objectivity: Movement Towards Integration in Psychotherapy with a Transgender Man

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Aida S. Gruden\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* The Phantasy of Teletherapy

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Charlotte Ruth Elizabeth Howson**

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

*Major Area Paper:* The Importance of Cultural Humility and Attunement to Racism in Dynamic Therapy: Repairing Ruptures in a Cross-Racial Therapeutic Dyad

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## **Gabriella H. Iskin\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* Understanding the Nuance of Self-Compassion in Therapy in a Traumatized Self

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Kristen Renee Joseph\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* Attacks on the Dyad: Understanding Affective Displacement in Attachment Trauma

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Pavani Kherra\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* From Individual to Group Therapy: Facilitating Developmental Transition Towards Balancing Dependency & Autonomy

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Lingyue Lu\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* Contextualizing Recovery: An Intersectional and Attachment-Informed Analysis

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## **Andolyn T. Medina\***

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

*Major Area Paper:* Anti-Blackness as a Psychic Structure

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

# DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

## Maleeha Naqvi\*

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

*Major Area Paper:* Using an Intersectional Treatment Framework in a Multicultural Dyad

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Hannah Navarro\*

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

*Major Area Paper:* Making the Unspeakable, Speakable: Decoding "Communication Issues" in Couples Where Childbirth Has Been Traumatic

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Maryam Saleem\*

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

*Major Area Paper:* Identity Diffusion in Adoptees: Internalizing the White Savior

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Katie Marie Scopelliti\*

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

*Major Area Paper:* The Ideology of Neutrality and its Impact on Diverse Therapeutic Dyads

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Karen Barbara Van Winkle\*

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

*Major Area Paper:* Bridging the Gap Between Neurophysiological Research and Traditional Psychotherapy: The Application of qEEG Research to a Psychotherapy Case

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

## Mengpin Zhang\*

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

*Major Area Paper:* A Man in the Cloud: Challenges in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Narcissistic Patients with Covert Features

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2023

The doctoral internship in Clinical Psychology is 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.

Aspire Health Alliance (South Shore Mental Health)  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
Butner Federal Correctional Complex  
Howard University-Counseling Service  
Maimonides Medical Center  
Mississippi State Hospital  
Naval Medical Center - Portsmouth  
Southern Utah University  
Stony Brook University of New York-Counseling Center

SUNY Upstate Medical University-Syracuse  
The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard  
University of California - Los Angeles, Counseling  
University of Maine  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
University of Southern California/UCC  
University of Virginia - Student Health  
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

*\*Students indicated as earning their degree in summer 2023 must complete their internship before the degree is awarded.*

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Julie J. Ahn

Molecular Medicine

*Advocate:* Robert H. Miller, Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology

*Dissertation:* Glial Responses to B cells in Neuroinflammatory Demyelinating Disease

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## May Ishaq A. Al Hussein

Biostatistics

*Co-Advocate:* Qing Pan, Professor of Statistics

*Co-Advocate:* Hormuzd A. Katki, Sr. Investigator, NIH

*Dissertation:* Risk Predictions Using Panel Count Data with Informative Observation Times

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Samer M.W. Anabtawi

Political Science

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

*Dissertation:* Snatching Victory: LGBTQ Activism in the Arab World

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Colin L. Anderson

American Studies

*Advocate:* Thomas A. Guglielmo, Professor of American Studies

*Dissertation:* Culture and Containment: Race, Geographic Mobility, and Popular Culture in the United States, 1845-1900

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Görkem Aydemir Kundakcı

Anthropology

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

*Dissertation:* Eventful Things of a Frozen Conflict: Contingency, Materiality, and Movement in the Contested Periphery of Georgia

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Annika K. Balraj

Molecular Medicine

*Advocate:* Robert H. Miller, Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology

*Dissertation:* The Role of Retinal Ganglion Cell Myelination in Signal Conduction and Retinal Organization

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Aparna B. Baxi

Molecular Medicine

*Co-Advocate:* Sally A. Moody, Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology

*Co-Advocate:* Peter Nemes, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Maryland

*Dissertation:* Proteome Dynamics in Neural and Neurosensory Development

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Nicole F. Bonan

Cancer Biology

*Advocate:* Rohan Fernandes, Associate Professor of Medicine

*Dissertation:* Strategies to Treat Solid Tumors

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Erin R. Bonner

Cancer Biology

*Co-Advocate:* Javad Nazarian, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Genomics and Precision Medicine and Professor of Oncology, University of Zürich

*Co-Advocate:* Eric Vilain, Professor of Pediatrics, UCLA, Irvine; Adjunct Professor of Genomics and Precision Medicine and of Pediatrics, GWU

*Dissertation:* Characterizing the Evolving Genomic Landscape of Histone and Partner Gene Mutations in Pediatric High-Grade Gliomas

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Dana I. Burton

Anthropology

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

*Dissertation:* Evidencing Life: Thresholds of Biology and Scientific Operations Beyond Earth

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Hailey S. Butman

Chemistry

*Advocate:* Cynthia S. Dowd, Professor of Chemistry

*Dissertation:* Novel Approaches towards Inhibition of Bacterial CoA Biosynthesis

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Nicole M. Byrne

Chemistry

*Advocate:* Christopher L. Cahill, Professor of Chemistry and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Interrogation of Actinide-Ligand Bonds and Second-Sphere Interactions in Actinyl Bearing Hybrid Materials

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Anthony (A.J.) Cade, II

History

*Advocate:* Denver Brunzman, Associate Professor of History

*Dissertation:* Death or Victory: The Louisiana Native Guards and the Transformation of African American Society during the American Civil War

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Joseph M. Cerrone

Political Science

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

*Dissertation:* Immigration and Emotion: How Anger and Anxiety Shape Immigration Salience

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Julie N. Chamberlain

American Studies

*Advocate:* Melani McAlister, Professor of American Studies and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Mother Teresa and American Catholics' Mission to the World: Humanitarianism and Foreign Missions in the Mid-Twentieth Century

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Sarah I. Chastain

Physics

*Advocate:* Alexander J. van der Horst, Associate Professor of Physics

*Dissertation:* Characterizing the Radio Transient Sky

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Ruoyu Chen

Economics

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

*Dissertation:* Essays on Environmental and Housing Regulations

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Kevin T. Christensen

English

*Advocate:* Robert McRuer, Professor of English

*Dissertation:* In Order to Survive: Queer Cultural Production and the Emergence of AIDS Media

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Hyung Joon Chung

Economics

*Advocate:* Anthony Yezer, Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* Three Essays on Urban/Regional Economics and U.S. Housing Markets

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Rebecca A. Clement

Biological Sciences

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

*Co-Advocate:* Amy E. Zanne, Research Professor, the George Washington University; Professor & Aresty Endowed Chair in Tropical Biology, University of Miami

*Dissertation:* Australian Termite Diversity

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Dana E. Cobb-Lewis

Neuroscience

*Co-Advocate:* Zayd Khaliq, Senior Investigator, Cellular Neurophysiology Section, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

*Co-Advocate:* Matthew Colonnese, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology

*Dissertation:* Electrophysiological and Behavioral Characterization of the Sodium Leak Channel NALCN in Dopaminergic Neurons

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Jonah R. Coste

Economics

*Advocate:* Paul Carrillo, Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* Abate Your Enthusiasm: Three Essays on Philadelphia's Abatement Policy

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Tyson S. Dawson

Genomics and Bioinformatics

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

*Dissertation:* Characterizing Microbes and How They Impact Human Health

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Michael D. Didomenico

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Advocate:* Dylan Conger, Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration

*Dissertation:* Three Studies Testing the Effectiveness of Communications on Increasing FAFSA Completion

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Richard J. Dubblede

Cognitive Neuroscience

*Advocate:* Sarah Shomstein, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience

*Dissertation:* The Shadows Are Not All the Same: The Nature of Object Representations Depends on the Neural Circuits Involved

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Ebad Ebadi

Economics

*Co-Advocate:* Maggie X. Chen, Professor of Economics

*Co-Advocate:* Remi Jedwab, Associate Professor of Economics and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Essays on International Trade, Economic Development, and Labor Economics

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Kaitlin N. Garofano

Molecular Medicine

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

*Dissertation:* Differences in the African American and European American Platelet Transcriptomes Alter Platelet Function and May Contribute to Racial Disparities in Cardiovascular Disease and Cancer

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Kan Zhang Gianattasio

*Co-Advocate:* Dale Lupu, Research Professor of Nursing

*Co-Advocate:* Donna Infeld, Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration

*Dissertation:* A Mixed-Methods Study of the Implications of Medicare Hospice Policy Changes on Patient Utilization and Provider Behaviors

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Danielle R. Gilmore

Public Policy and Public Administration

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

*Dissertation:* Examining the Role of Education in Improving Academic and Health Outcomes among African American Populations

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Matthew B. Goetz

History

*Advocate:* Denver Brunsmann, Associate Professor of History

*Dissertation:* "The Barbary States of America": The Barbary Wars and American Racial Politics

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Stephanie A. Gomez

Microbiology and Immunology

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

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

*Dissertation:* Epigenetic Activation of Transposable Elements to Reverse Immune Evasion in Ovarian Cancer

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Maria Del Mar Gracia-Hernandez

Cancer Biology

*Co-Advocate:* Alejandro Villagra, Adjunct Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine

*Co-Advocate:* Sanjay B. Maggirwar, Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine

*Dissertation:* Histone Deacetylase 6 Inhibitors as Adjuvants for Targeted and Immune Therapies in Melanoma

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022



# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Zhongtian Han

History

*Advocate:* Edward A. McCord, Professor Emeritus of History and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* The Chinese Communist Forces' Communications Intelligence and Security: Strategy, Technology, and Culture, 1930-1953

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Nathaniel J. Harris

Economics

*Advocate:* Anthony M. Yezer, Professor of Economics

*Dissertation:* The Value of Location Comes Down to Measurement, Measurement, Measurement

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Kelsey A. Hauser

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* Leon Grayfer, Associate Professor of Biology

*Dissertation:* The Roles of Granulocytes in Amphibian Physiology and Immune Defenses

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Casey M. Hearing

Clinical Psychology

*Advocate:* Director: George Howe, Professor of Psychology and Brain Sciences

*Dissertation:* Microtrial Examining the Malleability of Psychological Flexibility in a Sample of Involuntarily Unemployed Job Seekers

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Nicole D. Hedrick

Clinical Psychology

*Advocate:* George Howe, Professor of Clinical Psychology

*Dissertation:* The Effect of a Brief Mindfulness Intervention on Cognitive Distortions: A Microtrial Exploring a Potential Mechanism for the Reduction of Depressive Symptoms

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Jared C. Heern

Political Science

*Advocate:* Sarah A. Binder, Professor of Political Science

*Dissertation:* Partisanship and the Environmental Policy Decisions of Public Utility Commissions and Implications for Climate Change

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Gonzalo S. Huertas

Economics

*Advocate:* Tomás Williams, Assistant Professor of International Finance and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Essays in International Macroeconomics

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Alyson M. Joens

Physics

*Co-Advocate:* Sylvain Guiriec, Assistant Professor of Physics

*Co-Advocate:* Jeremy Perkins, Research Astrophysicist, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

*Dissertation:* Development of Instrumentation and Methodology to Expand our View of Gamma-Ray Bursts: The Calibration of the Burst Cube Instrument and a Methodology for Measuring Spectral Lags in Gamma-Ray Bursts with Multiple Emission Components

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Michael F. Johnson

Economics

*Advocate:* Tyler Anbinder, Emeritus Professor of History

*Dissertation:* Mingled Together: Irish and African American Relations in Civil War-Era Philadelphia and Baltimore

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Mark A.R. Kaltenborn

Physics

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

*Co-Advocate:* Christopher Fryer, Research Scientist, Los Alamos National Laboratory

*Dissertation:* Smoothed-Particle Hydrodynamic Simulations of Compact Mergers, Mass Transfer, and Accretion Disk Formation

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Simon M. Kaplan

Cognitive Neuroscience

*Advocate:* Dwight J. Kravitz, Associate Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience

*Dissertation:* Top-Down Effects within a Distributed System: Investigations and Implications

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Laurn E. King

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Co-Advocate:* Cynthia Deitch, Associate Professor of Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Sociology, and Public Policy and Public Administration

*Co-Advocate:* Ivy Ken, Associate Professor of Sociology, Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Public Policy and Public Administration

*Dissertation:* Compliance, Contraception, and Care: The Objectives and Effects of the Title X Rule Change

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Alexander R.V. Kirss

Political Science

*Advocate:* Charles L. Glaser, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Why Businesses Oppose War

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Tessa J. Knox

Cancer Biology

*Advocate:* Norman H. Lee, Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology and of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine

*Dissertation:* Altering the Tumor Microenvironment and Immune Landscape through HDAC6 Inhibition in Melanoma

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Kristen M. Kocher

Genomics and Bioinformatics

*Co-Advocate:* Eric Vilain, Professor of Pediatrics, UCLA, Irvine; Adjunct Professor of Genomics and Precision Medicine and of Pediatrics, GWU

*Co-Advocate:* Ljubica Caldovic, Assistant Research Professor of Genomics and Precision Medicine

*Dissertation:* Characterization of Differential Patterns of DNA Methylation Associated with Stress during Pregnancy: Determining Epigenetic Markers of Fetal Stress and Resilience

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Ezra J. Kottler

Biological Sciences

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

*Dissertation:* Genotype by Environment Interactions of a High Marsh Foundation Species Affected by Sea-level Rise

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Leslie Y. Kwan

Public Policy and Public Administration

*Advocate:* Leah Brooks, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration

*Dissertation:* Assessing Social Determinants of Maternal and Infant Health: State Policy Strategies to Improve Population Health and Reduce Racial Disparities

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Debbie K. Ledezma

Microbiology and Immunology

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

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

*Dissertation:* Nanoparticle-based Photothermal Therapy to Treat Solid Tumors

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Xiang Li

Statistics

*Co-Advocate:* Yunpeng Zhao, Associate Professor of Statistics, Arizona State University

*Co-Advocate:* Qing Pan, Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Heterogeneous Block Covariance Model for Community Detection & Standardization of Continuous and Categorical Covariates in Sparse Penalized Regressions

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Victoria A. Lockwood

Human Paleobiology

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

*Dissertation:* Variation in Arboreal Locomotion and Hand Morphology in Modern Humans, Olive Baboons, and Chimpanzees

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Kevin Long

Mathematics

*Advocate:* Joseph E. Bonin, Professor of Mathematics

*Dissertation:* Some Problems on Matroid Invariants and Integer Polymatroids

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Jonathan E. LoTempio Jr.

Genomics and Bioinformatics

*Co-Advocate:* Eric Vilain, Professor of Pediatrics, UCLA, Irvine; Adjunct Professor of Genomics and Precision Medicine and of Pediatrics, GW

*Co-Advocate:* Ljubica Caldovic, Assistant Research Professor of Genomics and Precision Medicine

*Dissertation:* Genomics as a Global Science: on the Production, Use, and Sharing of Sequence Data

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Samuel Luxenberg

Statistics

*Co-Advocate:* Sudip Bose, Associate Professor of Statistics

*Co-Advocate:* Refik Soyer, Professor of Decision Sciences and of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Adversarial Risk Analysis for Decision-Making in Sports

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Chenyang Ma

Chemistry

*Advocate:* Claire Besson, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

*Dissertation:* Synthesis and Magnetic Properties of Functionalized tris (pyrazolyl) borate Complexes of Iron and Cobalt

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Emily MacLeod

English

*Advocate:* Holly Dugan, Associate Professor of English

*Dissertation:* Race Tricks: Skill and Spectacle in the Blackfriars Boys' Repertory, 1600-1608

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Frances A. Mallari

Clinical Psychology

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

*Dissertation:* Everyone Else Is Having Fun Except Me: Investigating the Effect of Emotional Pluralistic Ignorance on Loneliness

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Santiago Meneses Ospina

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* Adam R. Smith, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

*Dissertation:* Regulatory Mechanisms of Foraging Strategies and Nutrient Dynamics in Generalist Ant Colonies

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Andreas E. Meyris

History

*Advocate:* Eric Arnesen, James R. Hoffa Teamsters Professor of Modern American Labor History

*Dissertation:* Labor's Reconstruction: Social Democracy and Progressivism in American Trade Unions, 1917-1925

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Rui Miao

Statistics

*Advocate:* Xiaoke Zhang, Assistant Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Advances in Functional Data Analysis and Reinforcement Learning

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## J. Grant Mitchell

Physics

*Co-Advocate:* Sylvain Guiriec, Associate Professor of Astrophysics

*Co-Advocate:* Georgia de Nolfo, Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

*Co-Advocate:* Eric Christian, Senior Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

*Dissertation:* The Physics of Solar Energetic Particles and Their Detection

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Gabriel J. Montoya Vega

Mathematics

*Advocate:* Józef H. Przytycki, Professor of Mathematics

*Dissertation:* A Historical Exploration of Knot Theory, Khovanov Homology, and Framing Changes of Links and Skein Modules

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Kelly Murphy

Molecular Medicine

*Co-Advocate:* Yi-Wen Chen, Associate Professor of Genomics and Precision Medicine

*Co-Advocate:* Jyoti Jaiswal, Professor, Genomics and Precision Medicine

*Dissertation:* Characterizing an FSHD-like Mouse Model to Study a Novel Antisense Oligonucleotide Therapy

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Sylvain Nyandwi

Human Paleobiology

*Co-Advocate:* Carson Murray, Associate Professor of Anthropology

*Co-Advocate:* Emily Wroblewski, Assistant Professor of Biological Anthropology, Washington University, St. Louis

*Dissertation:* Female Chimpanzee (*Pan Troglodytes Schweinfurthii*) Dispersal and Grouping Behavior in Forest Fragments in Rwanda

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Rose D. Peterson

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* Guillermo Ortí, Louis Weintraub Professor of Biology

*Dissertation:* Phylogenomics and Evolution of Bonytongue Fishes (Teleostei, Osteoglossomorpha)

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Zaynab Quadri

American Studies

*Advocate:* Melani McAlister, Professor of American Studies and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Inherently Governmental: Private Military Contracting and U.S. Empire in the Twenty-First Century

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Madison A. Quijano

Public Policy and Public Administration

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

*Dissertation:* "It's Depressing in Here": An Exploration of Racialization Processes and Trauma Manifestation Among Families Experiencing Homelessness

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Jignasha D. Rana

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* Scott Powell, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

*Dissertation:* Drivers of Diversification Across an Intercontinental Cryptic Species Complex within the Turtle Ant Adaptive Radiation

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Daniel M. Ravid

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

*Co-Advocate:* Tara S. Behrend, Associate Professor of Industrial/Organizational Psychology

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

*Dissertation:* The Effect of Breaktime Information Privacy on Breaktime Recovery: A Measure Development and Construct Validation Study

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Scot Tyler Remick

Economics

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

*Dissertation:* Empirical Essays in Microeconomics

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Sarah L. Richardson

Anthropology

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

*Dissertation:* Viviendo la Impunidad: State Crime, Impunity, and the Materials of Meaning-Making in Early Post-Accord Colombia

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

### **Gabriel M. Royal**

Public Policy and Public Administration

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

*Dissertation:* Three Essays on Bitcoin, Energy, and Digital Asset Public Policy

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

### **Rohail Salman**

History

*Advocate:* Benjamin D. Hopkins, Professor of History and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* The Quest for a Nation: State-Making and Nation-building in Pakistan, 1947-1958

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

### **Courtney L. Sexton**

Human Paleobiology

*Advocate:* Brenda J. Bradley, Associate Professor of Anthropology

*Dissertation:* What is Written on a Dog's Face? Implications of Phenotype Diversity in Human-directed Canine Communication

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

### **Ryan A. Spahn**

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* John T. Lill, Professor of Biology

*Dissertation:* Impacts of Climate Change and Temporal Variation on Multitrophic Interactions in a Brassica oleracea Agroecosystem

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

### **Nathaniel Stearrett**

Genomics and Bioinformatics

*Advocate:* Keith Crandall, Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

*Dissertation:* Transcriptomics of Autoimmune and Inflammatory Diseases

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

### **Rachel M. Tache**

Clinical Psychology

*Advocate:* Sharon Lambert, Professor of Psychology and Brain Sciences

*Dissertation:* Cultivating Critically Conscious Direct Service Providers

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

### **Ghada S.Y. Tafesh**

Biological Sciences

*Advocate:* Ioannis Eleftherianos, Professor of Biology

*Dissertation:* Molecular and Functional Characterization of *Drosophila melanogaster* Immunity Against Zika Virus Infection

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

### **Mehrit Tekeste**

Clinical Psychology

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

*Dissertation:* Ethiopian Immigrants in the US: The Implications of Perceived Public Mental Illness Stigma and Mistrust of Mental Health Providers for Mental Health Help-Seeking Intentions

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

### **Evy M. Vourlides**

Anthropology

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

*Dissertation:* Creation from Crisis: Regenerative Design and (Re) Making the Oikos in Austerity Greece

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

### **Jialu Wang**

Statistics

*Co-Advocate:* Feifang Hu, Professor of Statistics

*Co-Advocate:* Tapan K. Nayak, Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Covariate-Adaptive Randomization in Network Data

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Yu Xia

Biostatistics

*Advocate:* Hua Liang, Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Goodness-of-Fit Tests for Several Models

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Wu Xue

Statistics

*Advocate:* Xiaoke Zhang, Assistant Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Methodological Advances in Causal Inference for Functional Data and Survival Data

*Graduation Term:* Summer 2022

## Xiaoyan Yin

Biostatistics

*Co-Advocate:* Scott Evans, Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

*Co-Advocate:* Toshimitsu Hamasaki, Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics

*Dissertation:* Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomized Trials for COMparing Personalized Antibiotic StrategieS (SMART-COMPASS): Design and Software

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Naz Yücel

History

*Advocate:* Dina Rizk Khoury, Professor Emerita of History and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Sustaining the Empire: Transformation of Property Regime in the Late Ottoman Empire, 1876-1913

*Graduation Term:* Fall 2022

## Fengyu Zhao

Statistics

*Advocate:* Feifang Hu, Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Statistical Inference on Vaccine Efficacy under Covariate-Adaptive Randomization

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Mengqiu Zhu

Statistics

*Advocate:* Yinglei Lai, Professor of Statistics

*Dissertation:* Some Research Progress in Generative Modeling and the Related Applications to Single-Cell RNA-Sequencing and Spatially Resolved Transcriptomics Data

*Graduation Term:* Spring 2023

## Naixin Zhu

Economics

*Advocate:* Nicholas Vonortas, Professor of Economics and International Affairs

*Dissertation:* Essays on Applied Microeconomics of Freemium Pricing Strategies in Mobile App Market

*Graduation Term:* Spring 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.

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 becoming an active member of the Alumni Association organizing regional and local alumni events, to mentoring a student, 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 your pride in the university and 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". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elizabeth Craig, MPA '83

*Chair, CCAS National Council for the Arts and Sciences*





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

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