



University of Nebraska at Omaha

New Faculty Directory 2020-2021



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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Biology



Paul Ayayee

Paul Ayayee joins the Department of Biology as an Assistant Professor. He studies the ecology (structure and functions) of free-living and host-associated microbiomes in a variety of ecosystems. Paul enjoys playing and watching football (soccer), playing volleyball, watching American football and baseball, reading, cooking, and music. He also likes camping and outdoors activities as well.



John Hribljan

English



Sarah Mason

Sarah Mason is the winner of an Academy of American Poets Prize, two Nebraska Book Awards, and the recipient of a Sewanee Writers' Conference Tennessee Williams Scholarship in poetry. She earned her MFA and her MA from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and is the author of two books of poetry, *Cradling Monsoons* and *This Bright Darkness*. Her poetry was most recently anthologized in *Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology*. Originally from Albuquerque, Sarah was raised on a steady diet of technicolor sunsets and green Chile. She is married to the Nebraska State Poet, Matt Mason.

History



Pedro Cantisano

I am originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and I came to the United States in 2011 for graduate studies at the University of Michigan. After two years teaching at a small liberal arts college in Ohio, I will join UNO as an assistant professor of history. My research focuses on the histories of law and urban segregation in Brazil. I teach courses on Latin American history, and specifically on human rights, legal, and environmental history. I am a big soccer fan, and I have played in amateur leagues my whole adult life.

Interdisciplinary Studies



Rachel Bash

Rachel Bash has spent the past ten years in Oregon completing doctoral work in literary modernism, teaching writing and literature, and advising low-income, first-generation students at the University of Oregon. Though she will miss the trails of the Pacific Northwest, she is thrilled to return to the Omaha area this summer to be with family. Rachel is a devoted auntie, reader, and wanderer. She has a passion for storytelling and agrees with Patti Smith that a good coffee shop is a "portal to where."

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (CONT.)

Interdisciplinary Studies (cont.)



Isabelle Beulaygue

Dr. Isabelle Beulaygue is half-French and half-Colombian. She is currently an Instructor of Exploratory Studies and Sociology at the University of Omaha, Nebraska. She earned her doctorate in Sociology from the University of Miami and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Promise at Boston University. There, she explored the social, educational, wellness, and economic conditions necessary for children and youth to thrive. Her research focuses on adolescent development and substance use and its impacts on education and well-being during adulthood. Her hobbies include horseback riding and learning Italian. Her favorite book is the “Neapolitan Novels”, by Elena Ferrante.



Mary Dinsmore

Mary recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with her Ph.D. in Environment and Resources. She is interested in primate conservation, human-wildlife interactions, behavioral flexibility, and conservation management. Her dissertation focused on the impacts of anthropogenic and natural disturbances on the behavior and habitat of northern sportive lemurs (*Lepilemur septentrionalis*) in Madagascar. When not studying conservation issues, she enjoys hiking, playing trivia, and finding the best happy hours in town. Mary is an Omaha native, so she is thrilled to be joining the UNO as an instructor of interdisciplinary studies.



Cameron Evans

Cameron is excited about joining UNO’s Exploratory Program. Coming from a highly interdisciplinary research and teaching background, he looks forward to helping students find their academic passions. His research synthesizes insights from philosophy, psychology, and social theory – but he’s always eager to learn something new. In his free time, Cameron has found it highly rewarding to help out local non-profits and youth mentoring organizations. Otherwise, he’s enjoying new trails with his partner and his two Bernese Mountain dogs.



Sara Marzioli

I have received my Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from The Pennsylvania State University. I have taught Black European Studies, Italian literature and language, Migration and World literature and film. I am at work on a book manuscript titled, *The Color of The Archive: Afro-Modernism Between the Atlantic and The Mediterranean*, which brings into conversation Twentieth-Century African Diasporic and Italian writers and film directors, whose work addresses the intersection of history, narrative, and coloniality in Europe and the black Atlantic. I have published on these topics in *African American Review*, *Atlantic Studies*, and *Modernism/Modernity*. In my free time I love to read, watch films, practice yoga and walk around aimlessly!

Mathematics



Karina Uhing

I am a Nebraska native who recently graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a PhD in Mathematics. My research focuses on studying departmental change efforts to improve student success in lower-division mathematics courses. This research informs my teaching practice, which centers on building relationships with my students and engaging them in their learning. I took several classes at UNO as an undergraduate student in the Durham School of Architectural Engineering & Construction, so I am excited to become a faculty member in the Math Department. In my free time, I enjoy staying active with my husband, Pete. Our newest hobby is playing pickleball.



Cong Wang

Cong Wang received the M.Sc. degree and the Ph.D degree in mathematics concentrating on mathematical statistics from the New Mexico State University, New Mexico, US, in 2016 and 2020, respectively. In August 2020, she will become an Assistant Professor at the Department of Mathematics, University of Nebraska, Omaha. She is the author or coauthor of many papers in international refereed journals and conference contributions. She has given several invited/contributed talks at workshops and conferences. Her research interests cover several aspects on skew normal families, mainly about parameters estimations and multivariate linear models. Besides research, hiking and cooking are the interests she likes most.

Philosophy and Religion



John Lyden

John Lyden is Professor of Religious Studies and the Blizek Professor of Religion and Film. He formerly taught at Grand View University and at Dana College. He is the author of *Film as Religion: Myths, Morals, and Rituals* (2003, 2019) and the editor of the *Routledge Companion to Religion and Film* among other publications. He is also the Editor of the *Journal of Religion & Film*. John is married to Liz, a biostatistician at UNMC, with whom he has three adult children. He loves movies (obviously), science fiction, and plays jazz clarinet when he gets the chance.



Robert Steel

Robert Steel received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh, before working as a postdoctoral fellow first at the bioethics department in the National Institute of Health's Clinical Center, and then at the Center for Population-Level Bioethics at Rutgers University. His academic work focuses on the ethical regulation of risk in biomedical research.

Political Science



Hannah Kim

I am an incoming assistant professor in the department of political science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Previously, I was a postdoc at the Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center at Stanford University. I received my PhD in political science at the University of California, Irvine where I was also an affiliate with the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD). My research examines public opinion, political behavior, gender, and democracy in East Asian countries. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling to new places. I also enjoy cooking Korean food and hiking with my dog.

Psychology



Yimin He

Yimin He completed her Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational psychology at Texas A&M University in May 2020 and is currently a senior research assistant at Oregon Health & Science University. She earned her M.S. degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Texas A&M University and her bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Economics from Peking University. Her research interests include occupational health psychology (e.g., safety climate and behavior, safety and health training, psychological well-being), diversity and inclusion (e.g., diversity climate, discrimination, workplace mistreatment), personality assessments, and quantitative methodologies (e.g., social network analysis, machine learning, computational modeling, meta-analysis). In her spare time, she enjoys yoga and cooking.

Sociology and Anthropology



Allison Schlosser

Dr. Schlosser is a Medical Anthropologist who studies health and healthcare experiences among socio-economically marginalized populations in the U.S. Her work focuses on illegal drug use and related interventions, drawing on ethnographic and mixed research methods to examine residential treatment, community-led prevention efforts, and harm reduction programs. The overarching goal of this work is to understand how cultural, social, political, and economic factors influence how marginalized members of society experience health and healing using methods that foreground their voices. Her recent research examines cultural concepts of "addiction" and patient experiences of its treatment in context of the U.S. opioid epidemic. Dr. Schlosser is also a dedicated yoga and meditation practitioner, and teaches yoga, meditation, and mindful movement classes in community and university contexts.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Accounting



Nicholas Jasa

I just finished my graduate degree at the University of Colorado Boulder, and I am returning to UNO's College of Business, where I went from undergrad and also taught briefly before my PhD program. Before going back to school, I worked as a CPA in Omaha at BKD. My research interests are primarily cyber security disclosure, accounting disclosures, and corporate governance. I'll be teaching Intermediate Accounting I in the fall, and I'm looking forward to being back at UNO. In my free time, I enjoy skiing, playing volleyball, and playing basketball. And perhaps surprisingly, I have had way more significant injuries playing volleyball than any other sport.



Lori Simonsen

I am a Certified Public Accountant licensed in Nebraska. I have been working in public accounting in Omaha, Nebraska for about ten years, specializing in tax. My undergraduate degree is from Wayne State College and I earned my Master's in Accounting from the University of Nebraska - Omaha. I previously taught in the Department of Accounting at UNO. I have a special interest in passthrough entity, estate and trust tax law. My family lives in Elkhorn. We enjoy traveling, especially to anywhere there is a beautiful beach and amazing snorkeling. I also enjoy gardening and cooking.

Applied Behavior Laboratory



Joel Elson

Joel Elson is a Research Associate in UNO's Applied Behavior Laboratory. He joined UNO in January 2020

Finance, Banking, Real Estate



Patty Bick

Patty Bick received her undergraduate degree and master's degree in electrical engineering from University of Southern California. She worked as systems engineer for a government satellite communications program for five years. After having three kids, she changed her career path and received her MBA from the University of Vermont, followed by a Ph.D. in finance from Penn State. Her research interests include mergers and acquisitions and executive compensation. Patty spent the first decade of her life in Taiwan until her family immigrated to the US and settled in New Jersey. She has lived in California, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma. Patty is married with three kids – one college graduate, one senior in college, and one college freshman. She enjoys playing piano, reading, and traveling. She has lived in or traveled to 15 countries, and hopes to be able to visit many more and sample many more cuisines!

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA

Arts



Mark Gilbert

I am currently Research Associate with the Medical Humanities program at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada, where I explore the relationships among arts, humanities, and health care and their applications in health professions education. As an artist, teacher, and researcher, I have worked on several high-profile art-based research projects using portraiture to illuminate patient and caregiver experiences of illness, recovery, and care. These studies include Saving Faces at The Royal London Hospital and Portraits of Care at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). The resultant artworks have been exhibited across North America and Europe, including the National Portrait Gallery in London. I am originally from Glasgow, Scotland, and have also lived and worked in Madrid, London and am delighted to return to Omaha where I previously lived from 2006-14.



Jason Jamerson

Jason Jamerson is a theatrical scenic designer, an avid cyclist, and a new father to a beautiful daughter named Ruby. Originally from Virginia, Jason worked on Broadway in New York City for 11 years before attending grad school at the University of Arizona. His research interests lie in the intersection of media, technology, TV, radio, film and live performance; where immersive, digital, devised, and improvisational work meet traditional forms from vaudeville and variety to the modern American Musical and beyond.

Communication



Nathan Bedsole

Nathan Bedsole's teaching and research center on the human voice. Eloquence is central to his pedagogy, and voice occupies his scholarship on rhetoric, culture, and psychoanalysis. His work has been published by Parlor Press and Intermezzo, in *Argumentation and Advocacy*, and *Journal of Communication*. He has dabbled in radio and broadcasting for over a decade, most recently at 98.9FM in Boulder, Colorado. Outside of voice matters, he enjoys his house plants, old steel bicycles, coffee, and vinyl records. Unique to him is his identical twin brother. He thrives with his partner, Heather.



William Cooney

William Cooney's study of rhetoric, with an emphasis in critical theory, explores how people come to know themselves. He is working on his dissertation, *The Cultural Function of American Educational Practice*, which examines an American response to its post-war existential crisis. Discovering a theory capable of exploring practices of self-formation animates the project. William finds joy in inciting students to a habit of reflection through collaborative inquiry; helping students discover what they intend to say guides his teaching of *Argumentation & Debate* and *Public Speaking*. For recreation, he is fond of listening to Brandon Sanderson's masterful formation of fantastical worlds.



Amy Ellefson

Amy Ellefson is excited to return to Omaha from the University of Southern Mississippi while clinging to high hopes and an ambitious writing schedule for completing her dissertation by March 2021. A decade of higher education teaching experience and nonprofit management experience complement her MA degrees in *Communication Studies* and *East-West Studies*. Amy's research specializations are gender, conflict, and strategic communication, but her work is often interdisciplinary, and she has a penchant for studying biological anthropology. When not working, Amy spends time with her husband, wrangles her teenagers, throws toys for the family dog, and enjoys arts and crafts.



Amanda Goodrich

Amanda took a *Public Speaking* class her sophomore year of high school and suddenly, the value of being able to communicate competently and confidently became very clear. She knew the field of *Communication Studies* was for her. Amanda received both her Bachelor's (2011) and Master's (2016) degrees from the University of Nebraska Omaha. In 2020, Amanda became a full-time Instructor and the Director of Forensics at UNO. Amanda will teach *Communication* classes and serve as the head coach for MavForensics. Amanda likes all things pop culture, is happily married, and spends her time with her 2-year-old puppies Frenchy and Rizzo.



Traelon Graham

I graduated from UNO with my Bachelor's and Master's degree in *Communication*. My time at UNO gave me some of the best memories and experiences of my life, especially as a competitor and coach for the MavForensics team. I'm ecstatic that I'll be working with the team again starting in the Fall! In my free time I love spending time with my 2 1/2 year old daughter riding bikes, playing outside, and acting out Disney movies (Typically, I'm Anna and she's Elsa from *Frozen*). I've traveled to Cape Town South Africa multiple times, so much so, that I was considered a local in Hout Bay.



Lei Guo

Lei is an Assistant Professor at School of Communication, College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media. Her research program centers on explaining how journalism jobs have been challenged by social and digital changes and how journalists can maintain their well-being and stay up to date with changes in the digital transformation. As a former political journalist, she's also interested in the influences of political news on audiences' attitudes toward the government and their political participation. Before starting her doctorate study at the University of Missouri, Lei has 5 years of experience as a professional journalist, working as a political reporter, writer, and editor on many television stations and newspapers in Hong Kong and Beijing. Born in Beijing and studied and worked in Hong Kong, Lei received bachelor's degree in *Rural Communication* from China Agriculture University in 2009. She also received master's and Mphil degrees in *Journalism & Mass Communication* from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling the world and reading crime novels.

Communication (cont)



Andrew Stem

After three years as an adjunct/temporary faculty, I'm excited to be hired on full time in UNO's School of Communication as a journalism instructor. I came to Omaha after six years at Valparaiso University, where I earned an M.S. in Sports Media and then taught a variety of courses as a lecturer for four years. My teaching career started as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Michigan, where I earned an M.A. in Latin. I have covered sports at three different newspapers, including the Omaha World-Herald, where I still do some part-time coverage. I'm a big sports fan, especially college sports. I enjoy running, golfing, walking the dogs, reading and relaxing with my wife, Megan. I also have more Funko Pop figures than I probably should, and I look forward to displaying them in my office (and Megan looks forward to me getting them out of the house).



Katie Storck

I was born and raised in Oakland, California. I fell in love with Communication Studies as an undergraduate at DePaul University. After college graduation I moved back to the west coast and did a year with Americorps, teaching in an under resourced high school in Los Angeles. I then went back to school and got an M.A. in Communication Studies from San Diego State University. I moved to Lincoln several years ago to pursue my Ph.D at UNL, and am currently finishing my dissertation on the communication of unhealthy romantic relationships. I am so excited to join the UNO community.

Music



Matthew Brooks

Matthew Brooks is Assistant Professor at UNO and Director of Orchestral Activities in Music & Medicine at UNO and UNMC where he is the founding music director of the Nebraska Medical Orchestra. From 2018-2020 he served as Director of Orchestras in the UNO School of Music and was appointed to the Medical Humanities faculty. Dedicated to academic conducting, Dr. Brooks led orchestras at James Madison University, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Shasta College. He remains active across the USA and abroad as a guest conductor, clinician, and speaker, having presented on topics from conducting pedagogy to music and wellness.



Miguel Harth-Bedoya

For over three decades, Miguel Harth-Bedoya has been performing around the globe conducting orchestras and operas in cities such as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Aspen, London, Paris, Berlin, Munich, Madrid, Helsinki, Buenos Aires, Lima, Sydney, Tokyo, and Kuala Lumpur. Previous music directorships include the Fort Worth Symphony, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia, Eugene Symphony, and Lima Philharmonic. Passionate about teaching, Miguel founded The Conducting Institute, with a summer orchestral conducting program as well as a variety courses for students, professionals, and music educators. He is also an environmental advocate, and created the company Cowboy Compost in Fort Worth. Miguel is married to Dr. Maritza Cáceres, and has three children: Elena, Emilio, and Elisa.



Hannah Weaver

My name is Hannah Weaver and I was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. I began studying music at a young age, beginning with piano and violin before focusing on percussion. I studied music performance at the Eastman School of Music (BM '12, DMA '19) and University of Michigan (MM '15). I played travel softball growing up and rowed crew for a year in college, but now I stay active in different ways—hiking, boxing, doing yoga, and running. I love curling up with a good book, and have recently been trying to learn French. I'm very excited to explore Omaha!

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Biomechanics



David Kingston

My research goals are to inform human joint disease mechanisms, improve people's mobility, and decrease injuries in occupational and clinical populations. My focus areas are evaluating lower limb movement patterns and forces, modeling knee loading, and muscle coordination. Past research experiences include studies on low-back issues and partnerships with military, forensic engineering, office furniture manufacturers, and animal production devices. I am an aspiring woodworker and enjoy fly-fishing when the opportunity presents. Breaking Canadian stereotypes... I never played hockey growing up in New Brunswick and have a hard time stopping on skates!



Aaron Likens

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomechanics. I want to know if optimal forms of human variability exist and if we can leverage variability to develop new technologies that improve learning, performance, and health. I have studied variability in basic perceptual, cognitive, and motor functions, as well as in complex tasks like driving, team coordination, and reading comprehension. Recent interests include applying coordination principles to develop methods that assist people with coordination difficulties resulting from age and neuromuscular disease. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking, hiking, playing music, and spending time with family and friends.

Teacher Education



Sara Churchill

I have been in education for over twenty years, teaching everything from elementary to high school. I have taught for UNO since 2006, and I earned my doctorate in 2017. My passions are school libraries and educational technology. I am an avid reader and enjoy hiking. In my other life, I'm an 80's music Bingo DJ. I'm addicted to mysteries of all forms - thrillers, cozy mysteries, Sherlock Holmes, the movie Clue (which I can almost quote word for word), escape rooms, and detective shows are all staples of my entertainment choices. I'm grateful for the opportunity to grow at UNO.



Jennifer Lemke

I am an UNO alumni having both my undergraduate and Ed.D. from the University. Being born and raised in the Omaha area, I have worked and collaborated with many local area school districts. I have been an educator for 16 years serving as a classroom teacher, literacy interventionist, new teacher mentor and literacy instructor. My literacy passions and research focus on student engagement, multicultural literature and literacy integration. Before becoming a teacher, I wanted to be a florist. I worked in a floral distribution center all throughout college doing floral arrangements for large events and weddings. It's still something I enjoy doing.

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Computer Science



Jorge Fandinno

My name is Jorge Fandinno, I was born in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. I graduated from Computer Sciences in A Corunna and then lived in France and Germany. I like swimming, especially in the ocean. Fortunately, A Corunna is next to the Atlantic Ocean, where I used to train and race. My personal wish is to swimming Gibraltar across.

Interdisciplinary Informatics



Martina Clarke

I am an Assistant Professor. My research focuses on human-computer interaction. I received my MS and PhD in Health Informatics from the University of Missouri-Columbia. I was raised in Jamaica. After graduating high school in Jamaica, I moved to the US to pursue my bachelor's degree. Due to covid, I have taken up gardening. I realized that plants attract bugs so I no longer garden. I am 6 feet tall and frequently get asked to reach high shelves in Walmart.

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONT.)

Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis (ISQA)



Deanna House

Deanna House, PhD, is an incoming Assistant Professor in Information Systems & Quantitative Analysis. She graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a PhD in Information Systems. Deanna worked in Human Resources as a Business Systems Analyst prior to her time in academia. Her research interests are related to the behavioral aspects of cybersecurity and the protective and preventative measures performed by users and organizations. She has published in journals such as Behaviour and Information Technology, Applied Economics, and Journal of Information Technology Case and Application Research and presented at conferences such as ICIS, AMCIS, Southern AIS, The Lilly Conference, and Decision Sciences Institute. Deanna also presents at the regional and national level on topics related to the intersection of technology and ethics. Fun fact/hobby: Deanna likes to rock climb and learned how many years ago at the UNO Outdoor Venture Center climbing wall!

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Criminology and Criminal Justice



Leah Butler

Leah Butler is an Assistant Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Her research is centered on corrections, with an emphasis on the effects of race and racial attitudes on public opinion of correctional policy. She also conducts research on sexual victimization and intimate partner violence. In 2019, she was selected as a recipient of the Ruth D. Peterson Fellowship for Racial and Ethnic Diversity by the American Society of Criminology. When she's not working, Leah loves cooking and baking and almost always has homemade cookies, cake, pie, or other pastries on her kitchen counter.



Zachary Hamilton

Zachary Hamilton, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justices at the University of Nebraska - Omaha. Originally from Iowa, he received his Bachelors from the University of Iowa. He received his PhD from Rutgers University and was previously employed as a Senior Research Associate at two non-profits in Manhattan – the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) and at the National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI). He then served as the Director of the Washington State Institute for Criminal Justice and was an employed as an Associate Professor at Washington State University. His main research focus is risk and needs assessment for criminal justice populations. These assessment tools are used to identify the supervision level and programming needs for juveniles and adults, those in prison or on probation and parole, and his tools are currently used in more than a dozen states. Dr. Hamilton was recently tapped by National Institute of Justice to create the risk assessment for the First Step Act (the PATTERN), which is part of the federal government's criminal justice reform; providing early release for low risk inmates in an effort to reduce the federal prison population. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters and books on risk and needs assessment, evidence-based practices, and program efficacy. His achievements were recently recognized by the American Society of Criminology, awarding him the Distinguished New Scholar Award in 2018.

Gerontology



Lindsay Wilkinson

Dr. Wilkinson received her dual-title PhD in sociology and gerontology from Purdue University. Her research combines the study of health and aging and focuses on the dynamics of how stratification influences health—and how health influences stratification across the life course and among older adults, as well as the impact of early adversity on long-term health. Dr. Wilkinson also has interests in quantitative methods and will be teaching graduate-level methods and statistics courses in the Department of Gerontology. Dr. Wilkinson enjoys traveling and spending time with her family, playing tennis, and going on walks with her dogs.

Goodrich Scholarship Program



Stevie Seibert Desjarlais

Stevie K. Seibert Desjarlais holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, M.A. in Women's Studies from San Diego State University, and B.A. in English from Pepperdine University. Her research foci include: representations of gender, race, and class in contemporary U.S. literature, film, and pop culture; feminist theory; and, critical pedagogy. Her work appears in *Pedagogy*, *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, and *Journal of Popular Film and Television*. She previously taught at UNL (2014-2019) and at the United States Military Academy at West Point (2019-2020). Stevie is excited to join the faculty of the Goodrich Scholarship Program. Personal hobbies and interests: I'm a jazz music enthusiast (I hosted a late-night radio program on the NPR station in interior Alaska for several years), a foodie (I like cooking at home and dining out), and I love long road trips. I also enjoy watching my spouse garden.

Public Administration



Barbara Gomez-Aguinaga

Barbara Gomez-Aguinaga is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Social Equity in the School of Public Administration. Her research examines the intersection of the public policy-making process and the politics of minority groups, and the ways in which public policies have different impacts on ethno-racial minorities. Previously, Barbara conducted applied policy work on immigration, health and the criminal justice system in multiple organizations. Outside of work, Barbara enjoys playing soccer, walking her dog and exploring places to eat with her family.



Danbee Lee

Danbee is joining the School of Public Administration at UNO as an assistant professor. She received her PhD in public administration from Rutgers University-Newark. Her research interests include local government management, organizational behavior, and research methods. She is currently working on the formation, measurement, and management of bureaucratic reputation within citizen-state interactions, and the effect of organizational reputation on employees' work attitudes and behavior. Her work has been published in *Governance*, *Public Management Review*, and *International Review of Administrative Sciences*. In her spare time, she enjoys jogging, working out, and traveling.

Public Administration - Aviation



Theodore Johnson

I recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) with my MPA and will be pursuing a doctorate in Public Administration from UNO this fall. I will begin this journey as an Instructor within the Aviation Institute, which has allowed for the elegant meld of my passions, higher education and aviation. I love aviation and fly whenever I have spare time. I am heavily involved in Non-Profit Organizations because I love aiding the future leaders of tomorrow and giving back to the community. I also held leadership positions in both Alpha Eta Rho and Women in Aviation, International while at EMU, and am eager to become involved in UNO's chapters. Lastly, I am a certified Aircraft Dispatcher and was the youngest Aircraft Dispatch Director in EMU's history.

Public Administration - Emergency Services



Namkyung Oh

I earned my Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh with Public Administration and Policy major. My research agenda has been the analysis of quantitative and qualitative data to enhance public-citizen partnerships for building disaster-resilient communities. My research situates within the theories of systems theory, governance, intergovernmental relationships, organizational learning, and collective decision-making. From these theoretical bases, my research explores how governments at different jurisdictions build networked governance and maintain collaborative relationships with private and non-profit organizations to manage complex policy issues in emergency management. As a policy field for the application of these theories, my research covers community resilience, collective decision-making, crisis communications, and continuity of operation of governments under disasters. I expanded these research topics into the international level and conducted case studies using research partnerships with scholars in multiple countries.

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CONT.)

Public Administration - Emergency Services (cont.)



Carol RedWing

Carol RedWing is an enrolled member of the Yankton Dakota Tribe with Santee Dakota descendency. Her research interests include issues regarding marginalized communities, tribal sovereignty, Indigenous identity, historical trauma, community engagement, and public policy. Carol received her Master of Public Administration degree, with a Nonprofit Management concentration from UNO. Along with being a board member of Mode Shift Omaha, she is also on the UNO Chancellor's Native American Advisory Cabinet. Carol loves artistic expression of all kinds and holds a special place in her heart for storytelling by means of film and music. She plays the saxophone, makes beadwork, and loves learning new languages.

Social Work



Susan Reay

Susan was a social worker in Nebraska for over 20 years before making the leap into higher education. For the last six years, Susan has been employed by UNO working as the primary investigator and program coordinator for federal and state grants totaling more than \$2 million. In addition to supporting grants, Susan has held a staff position as a Practicum Specialist in the Grace Abbott School of Social Work (GASSW). Susan recently completed her Doctorate in Education at the College of Saint Mary and happily accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at GASSW. Fun fact about Susan: last summer she and her 14 year old son hiked over 100 miles across Nebraska. This summer the only hiking she and her son are doing is at home between the couch and the kitchen.



Lisa Smith

Lisa Smith is an Assistant Professor in the Grace Abbott School of Social Work. Obtaining her PhD from the University of Louisville, Lisa studied the financial burden of cancer treatment on patients and their families. Her research interests focus on the importance of identifying best practices to address the complexity of the healthcare system and improve the financial outcomes of patients. Lisa has taught university level courses for the past 6 years primarily focusing in online education. In addition to research and teaching, she actively engages in advocacy work with the American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network. Hobbies include gardening, playing Irish and Bluegrass music on the back porch, spending time with family and friends, and learning to play tennis.



Yiwei Zhang

Yiwei Zhang received a Bachelor of Management from Zhejiang University of Technology, an MSW from Fudan University, and PhD from Fordham University. Her research interests include child well-being indicators, child nutrition and health, and transnational immigrant families. Her current research includes an examination of neighborhood effects and children's subjective well-being across countries. She has been teaching social policy and research courses at both the Generalist and Advanced year levels. She enjoys traveling, reading, and cooking.

CRISS LIBRARIES

Criss Library



Wendy Guerra

With a background in public history and library science specializing in archives, I have worked at universities in WI, a public library in the MN Twin Cities Metro, and most recently established the archival digitization program at the Minnesota Historical Society. I look forward to joining the Criss Library staff and increasing access to digital archival collections to both students and faculty. I am particularly interested in representation in digital archival collections, as well as what equitable access to resources means and how to facilitate it. Outside of work I enjoy gardening, cooking, and traveling. My next adventure will be to Corpus Christi, TX to pick up Fritzi, my new miniature dachshund puppy.



Lacey Rogers

I'm Lacey Rogers, and I am the new Access Services Librarian. Previously, I worked as a circulation supervisor at UNK and was a student worker in Love Library at UNL. I didn't know it was a goal of mine to work at all three NU campuses, but I achieved it! I'm originally from Custer, SD and am fortunate to have family there that I can visit. I enjoy reading, traveling, visiting museums, and the challenges of being owned by dachshunds. I also have an impressive collection of Converse sneakers-probably enough to open my own museum.