



University of Houston  
DOWNTOWN



2023  
*Faculty  
Awards*

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

2:30 – 4 p.m.

Milam-Travis Room

# WELCOME

**Faculty Senate President-elect — Dr. Bernardo Pohl**

Remarks from UHD President

**Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D.**

Senate Report

**Faculty Senate President — Dr. Krista Gehring**

Faculty Awards Committee

**Dr. Robert McKee — Chair**

University-Funded Faculty Leave Awards Committee

**Dr. Toni Hoang — Chair**

Faculty Development Projects Awards Committee

**Dr. Peter Li — Chair**

Distinguished Faculty Awards Committee

**Dr. Azar Rejaie & Dr. Hsiao-Ming Wang — Chairs**

Recognition of Faculty Years of Service

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

**Dr. Deborah Bordelon**

## Outstanding Lecturer

**Zeenat Mitha**

Arts & Communication

**Sanghamitra Saha**

Natural Sciences

**Sam Sen**

Natural Sciences

---

## Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity

**Michael Duncan**

English

**Song Ge**

Nursing

**Steve Zhou**

General Business, Marketing, & Supply Chain

---

## Excellence in Service

**Jonathan Chism**

History, Humanities & Languages

**Dietrich von Biedenfeld**

General Business, Marketing & Supply Chain

---

## Excellence in Teaching

**Godwin Agboka**

English

**Krista Gehring**

Criminal Justice

**Ling Xu**

Computer Science & Engineering Technology

## Distinguished Faculty Award

**Ronald Beebe**

Urban Education

**Windy Lawrence**

Arts & Communication

---

## University-Funded Faculty Leave Awards

**Dr. Jonathan Chism, Assistant Professor of  
African American Studies**

*Department of History, Humanities & Languages:*

Dr. Chism's work, *African American Religion: An Introduction*, is under contract with Routledge Press. The book will offer an up-to-date survey of African American religious history that draws on secondary literature and select primary sources in the field. His work aligns with UHD's commitment to diversity and inclusion and will enhance appreciate of the richness and diversity of the African American experience and help scholar and students understand the long and ongoing Black struggle for freedom and justice in America. Dr. Chism also plans to propose a new course in African American Religious History.

**Dr. Laura Cesarco Eglin, Assistant Professor of English**

*Department of English:*

Dr. Cesarco Eglin plans to explore through poetry what it means to be multicultural and multilingual. The poetry collection, whose working title is "Refractions, Reflections, Translations: Migrating Tongues," unfolds language into what expresses this rhizomatic reality of interconnections and coexistence of cultures and languages, and, concomitantly, language as the object of wonder and fascination, that which is being examined. Language as communication, language as resistance, language as thought, language as sound, language as home, language as defamiliarization, language as navigation, language as object and subject. This project is relevant to UHD as a Hispanic and Minority Serving Institution, and its students, most of whom are from a multicultural background and are bilingual.

## **Dr. Katharine Jager, Professor of English**

*Department of English:*

Dr. Jager's book manuscript revision of *Making Books, Making the Self* with her collaborator will be submitted to Medieval Institute Publications/ARC Humanities Press's interdisciplinary "global history, culture and heritage" series and draws directly from UHD's teaching pedagogy. The project is an inquiry into how North American students with limited archival access might interrogate, theorize and remediate digitized pre-modern manuscripts. Dr. Jager positions her work as an intervention into medieval studies, manuscript studies, the history of the book, theories of the archive, multimodality, and critical pedagogy.

## **Dr. Peter Li, Associate Professor of Political Science**

*Department of Social Sciences:*

Dr. Li's work focuses scholarly attention on the conversation ramifications of inter-state diplomacy involving nonhuman animals and brings a new question (diplomacy and conservation) to the current studies of China's soft power. His project has significance to the international relations discipline, the Department of Social Sciences, CHSS, and the University by enhancing POL 3317 Animal Rights & Politics, which he has taught since 2016. The project also adds value to towards a minor program focused on animal welfare.

## **Dr. Claude Rubinson, Associate Professor of Sociology**

*Department of Social Sciences:*

Building upon his existing work and software development for conductive Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), Dr. Rubinson will endeavor to rewrite his Kirq software that will improve performance, better support QCA practice, and incorporate modern procedures, metrics and protocols that are currently missing. His work also includes the draft of a monograph to serve as a manual for the software. The primary significance of this project lies in its benefits to the international community of QCA researchers, offering them a free, user-friendly and powerful tool for conducting QCA.

## Faculty Development Projects Awards

**Dr. Stephanie Babb**, Associate Professor of Psychology

Project Title: *Online Learning Consortium Innovate 2023  
Conference and Teaching Workshop*

**Dr. Amy Baird**, Professor of Biology

Project Title: *Enhancing Evolution Teaching and Research Through Genomics*

**Dr. Anita Chadha**, Associate Professor of Political Science

Project Title: *Internationalizing our UHD core curriculum,  
POLS 2305: Federal Government*

**Dr. Vaishali Chaubal**, Lecturer of Biology

Project Title: *AAC&U Conference, Writing Workshop, and  
New Scientist subscription*

**Dr. Pablo Delclos**, Assistant Professor of Biology

Project Title: *Attendance at the 2023 SICB Annual Conference and  
the 2023 SMBE Annual Meeting*

**Dr. Song Ge**, Assistant Professor of Nursing

Project Title: *Fourth World Nursing Congress in 2023*

**Dr. Aaron Gillette**, Professor of History

Project Title: *Enhancement of German Language Skills in Preparation  
for a Possible Fulbright US Scholar*

**Dr. Elizabeth Gilmore**, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

Project Title: *The Importance of Prevention and Understanding the Impact  
of Trauma: Attendance at the 2023 International Summit of Preventing,  
Assessing and Treating Trauma Across the Lifespan Conference*

**Dr. Mahmud Hasan**, Assistant Professor of Safety Management

Project Title: *ASEE 2023 Conference*

**Dr. Liza Lane**, Assistant Professor of Social Work

Project Title: *Trauma Research Foundation's Certificate Program in  
Traumatic Stress Studies and The Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics  
Training Certificate for Individuals - Phase 1*

**Dr. Natalia Matveeva**, Professor of Communication Studies

Project Title: *Virtual Instructional Design Certificate offered by the  
Association for Talent Development*

**Dr. Meghan Minard**, Lecturer of Biology

Project Title: *Gaining Skills and Equipment for STEM Teaching*

**Dr. Sanghamitra Saha**, Lecturer of Biology  
Project Title: *Annual Symposium on the 42ND Annual Conference  
on the First Year Experience*

**Dr. Shahnaz Savani**, Assistant Professor of Social Work  
Project Title: *International Association of Suicide Prevention,  
32<sup>nd</sup> World Congress, Piran, Slovenia.*

**Dr. Ashwini Tiwari**, Associate Professor of Education  
Project Title: *67th Annual Meeting of the Comparative and  
International Education Society (CIES) Conference*

**Dr. Michael Tobin**, Associate Professor of Biology  
Project Title: *Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting*

**Dr. Eszter Trufan**, Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Project Title: *American Chemical Society Conference Spring 2023*

**Dr. Vassilios Tzouanas**, Professor of Computer  
Science & Engineering Technology  
Project Title: *Delta V Distributed Control System Training*

**Dr. Yingchun Wang**, Associate Professor of Management  
Project Title: *“Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Business Strategy”  
offered by MIT Sloan School of Management*

## Recognition of Faculty Years of Service

### **20 Years**

**Professor Syed Aftab Ali**, Lecturer – Finance & Mgmt Info Systems

**Dr. Joanna Kaftan**, Associate Professor – Social Sciences

**Professor Tara C. Nuwal**, Lecturer – Applied Administration

**Dr. Andrew Pavelich**, Professor – History, Humanities & Languages

**Dr. Lee Usnick**, Professor – Gen Bus, Market & Supp Chain

### **25 Years**

**Dr. Irene Linlin Chen**, Professor – Urban Education

**Dr. Charles Jackson**, Professor – English

**Dr. Chynette Nealy**, Professor – Gen Bus, Market & Supp Chain

### **30 Years**

**Dr. Leena Kumar**, Professor – Social Sciences

### **35 Years**

**Professor Mitsue Nakamura**, Lecturer – Mathematics & Statistics

**Dr. Elizabeth Pelz**, Associate Professor – Criminal Justice

**Dr. Marvin Williams**, Professor – Accounting & International Business



**UHD**  
University of Houston  
DOWNTOWN