Cornell University Summer Success Symposium
Advancing & Including Diverse Doctoral Scholars
Deondra Rose, Ph.D.
Cornell Bouchet Scholar
Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Political Science
Duke University

Deondra Rose is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Political Science at Duke University. Her research focuses on the feedback effects of landmark social policies on the American political landscape. Her first book, *Citizens by Degree* (Oxford University Press, 2018), examines the development of major U.S. higher education policies—including the National Defense Education Act of 1958, the Higher Education Act of 1965, and Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments—and their impact on the gender dynamics of American citizenship.

A summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Georgia, Deondra received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University, with a specialization in American Politics and public policy. Prior to entering academia, Deondra worked in Georgia and Minnesota politics, and she is an alumna of Barack Obama’s 2006 “Yes We Can” Campaign and Political Training Program.

Natalie Hofmeister
PhD Candidate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Cornell University

Natalie is a 4th-year Ph.D. candidate jointly affiliated with the Fuller Evolutionary Biology program at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Her research focuses on why very few birds are common world-wide, and she uses genomic tools to examine bird evolution across time and space. At Cornell, she serves as a facilitator for the Intergroup Dialogue Project, as a member and now president of Graduate Women in Science, and several other roles on campus. She’s still searching for the perfect balance of research, teaching, and service, and counts on her dogs to maintain her work-life balance.

Yoselinda Mendoza
PhD Student, Sociology
Cornell University

Yoselinda Mendoza is a doctoral student in sociology and Dean’s Excellence Fellow at Cornell University. She earned her BA degree in psychology and social behavior at the University of California, Irvine. Her research interests focus on inequality, immigration, and housing. As a second-generation Mexican-American born and raised in Santa Ana (CA), a predominantly low-income Latinx immigrant city, Yoselinda became interested in exploring how contexts of reception shape immigrant integration in varied social facets. Yoselinda currently serves as the secretary, and formerly served as co-chair, for the Latin@ Graduate Student Coalition. She is also a member of the Graduate Professional Student Diversity Council. Finally, she has served as a mentor for the M Comunidad/My Community mentoring program geared to support Latinx undergraduate students on campus.
Dr. Tremayne Waller is the Associate Director of the Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives and Director of Student Success Programs. He is the Lecturer and Director of Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program and has over 17 years of experience in higher education. Prior to taking on this lecturer and director role in January 2013, Tremayne was the Associate Director for Diversity Programs in Engineering and Associate Director for Diversity Programs in Architecture, Art, and Planning. In these positions, Dr. Waller develop and strengthen partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, government, and other educational institutions to continue to expand education opportunities, increase retention, and enhance the success of students, faculty, and staff across Cornell University (NY). He earned his doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Jessica Abel
PhD Candidate in English
Cornell University

Jessica Abel is a PhD Candidate in English at Cornell University. She earned her Bachelor's degree in English and Religion at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and her Master's degree in English at Cornell. She is the two-time recipient of the Cornell English Department Martin Sampson Teaching Award (2017 & 2018). She is also the 2018 recipient of a Diversity Provost Fellowship (Spring), and the Deanne Gebell Gitner ’66 and Family Annual Prize for Teaching Assistants. She will defend her doctoral project, "Teaching Joyce's 'Ulysses': Foundations for First-Time Undergraduate Readers" in November 2018.

Rodrigo Alatriste-Diaz
Cornell Bouchet Scholar
PhD Candidate in Development Sociology
Cornell University

Rodrigo Alatriste-Diaz is a Ph.D student in Development Sociology at Cornell. His research interest span Latinx migration in the United States, environmental sociology, and social movements. Rodrigo's dissertation focuses on social determinants of health, city planning, and how immigrant communities mobilize for environmental justice and health equity in California's Central Valley.
Hugh Bullen
PhD Candidate in Chemical and Biomolecular Biology
Cornell University

Hugh Bullen is a 5th year PhD candidate in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering depart at Cornell University. Prior to attending Cornell, he obtained a B.E. In chemical engineering from Stony Brook University. During that time he conducted research at two national laboratories. He is currently investigating the nucleation and growth of 2D materials for next generation semiconducting devices at the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source. Hugh was also the recipient of the Cornell Sloan fellowship, the Provost Diversity Fellowship and the Commercialization Fellowship. Hugh is also an avid traveler and a triathlete, when he isn't recovering from sporting related injuries.

Cedric Clark
PhD Student, Food Science and Technology
Cornell University

I started undergraduate studies at the University of Kansas as a biochemistry major. Although I grew up mainly in Kansas, by undergrad, it had been 8 years since I lived there. During those 8 years, I took an interest in biological sciences. As I entered undergrad, I had the idea that I wanted to do research. I was not sure of the field, so I dabbled starting my sophomore year. I decided I liked research and wanted to pursue it further. When I graduated in 2017, I immediately started a PhD program in the Food Science Department here at Cornell. In this department, I study the effect of compounds readily found in food and the environment, and their effect on hormone production and response. This interest stemmed from concern of environmental stability and overlapped into food safety. Now, I hope this work pushes me further into a research or a regulatory position after graduation. During this journey, I keep sane through prayer, exercise, hanging with friends, and more. I love meeting people who like to talk, and who happen to have awkward senses of humor, and eating good food (preferably free food).

Chelsea Stephens
PhD Student, Biomedical Engineering
Cornell University

As a rising 2nd year PhD student in biomedical engineering, my research focuses on the biofabrication of a thick, vascularized tissue flap to treat chronic, non-healing wounds. Under the mentorship of Dr. Jonathan Butcher, I am specifically studying the effects of perivascular paracrine signaling and hemodynamic flow patterns on microvessel formation using a novel biosynthetic hydrogel system. I’m originally from Los Angeles, California and graduated from Syracuse University in 2015, with a BS in bioengineering. Upon the completion of my doctoral program, I plan to matriculate into medical school to eventually practice reconstructive surgery with a subspecialty in breast reconstruction. As a physician scientist, I will continue to engage in research focused on the use of tissue-engineered, vascularized fat for replacing oncologic breast tissue in cancer patients. During my leisure time, I enjoy hot yoga, painting, Netflix (currently binge watching ‘The Office’ for the second time), and interacting with my dog, Onyx, via FaceTime because she sadly lives with my parents at home in LA.
S3 MODERATOR & PANELISTS

Christine Holmes

Associate Professor of Communications, Director of Humanities and Sciences Faculty Diversity and Development
Ithaca College

Christine Holmes serves as the director of the Office of Postdoctoral Studies at Cornell University which provides support for the over 600 postdocs on campus. Christine has worked at Cornell for 26 years, and became the first director of the Office of Postdoctoral Studies in 2005. In that capacity, she monitors the status and needs of the campus postdoctoral community, and serves as an advocate for postdoctoral issues to the Vice Provost for Research and Cornell’s administration; she provides career counseling for all postdocs and organizes workshops, seminars and social activities for postdocs. She received her BS in Management from Nazareth College in 1985 and her MBA from St John Fisher College in 1988. Prior to joining Cornell she worked in the trade show Industry.

Donathan Brown, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature
Cornell University

Dr. Donathan L. Brown is an Associate Professor, a 2017 U.S. Fulbright Professor, and the inaugural Director of Faculty Diversity and Development for the School of Humanities and Sciences. Dr. Brown, an expert in race and public policy, especially as it relates to African Americans and Latinos, was the Immediate Past Editor of the Journal of Race and Policy, and has authored and edited four recent books. In addition, Dr. Brown's commentary has appeared in places like the Huffington Post, the Canadian Broadcasting Cooperation (CBC), the Christian Science Monitor, La Opinión, La Raza & elsewhere abroad.

Naminata Diabate, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature
Cornell University

Naminata Diabate is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Cornell University. A scholar of sexuality, race, biopolitics, and postcoloniality, Professor Diabate’s research primarily explores African, African American, Caribbean, and Afro-Hispanic literatures, cultures, and film. Her current teaching and research interests focus on forms of gendered, sexual, and racialized agency in a variety of cultural products (oral tradition, narrative film, documentary, literary fiction, autobiographies, and social media). These explorations of practices and filmic and literary texts in Malinke, French, English, and Spanish, on which she has published, take the trans African context as their points of departure to make broader contributions to transnational reflections on questions of agency and resistance. Her latest publications include “The Cinematic Language of Naked Protest.” (Critical Interventions, 2017), “Genealogies of Desire, Extravagance, and Radical Queerness in Frieda Ekoço’s Chuchote Pas Trop” (Research in African Literatures, 2016), and “Women’s Naked Protest in Africa: Comparative Literature and Its Futures” (2016). Her monograph, Naked Agency: Genital Cursing and Biopolitics in Africa, is forthcoming from Duke University Press, and currently Diabate is working on her second book: African Sexualities and Pleasures under Neoliberalism.
Christopher Hernandez, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering
Director of Graduate Studies for Mechanical Engineering
Cornell University

Dr. Hernandez is an Associate Professor in the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and the Meinig School of Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University. Additionally he is an Adjunct Associate Scientist at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Hernandez earned a B.S. in Engineering Sciences Cum Laude with a specialty in Biomedical Engineering at Harvard University and graduate degrees in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University. Prior to joining the faculty at Cornell University he trained as a post-doctoral fellow in Department of Orthopaedics at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and the Department of Mechanical Engineering at UC Berkeley. Hernandez served as Assistant Professor of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering and Orthopaedic Surgery at Case Western Reserve University before joining the faculty at Cornell. Dr. Hernandez is a member of the Orthopaedic Research Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, and the Biomedical Engineering Society. Dr. Hernandez serves on the Program Committee for the Orthopaedic Research Society and has served as a permanent member of an NIH study section (AMS).

Melanie Stein, Ph.D.
Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Mathematics
Trinity College

Melanie Stein is Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Mathematics. She graduated with an A.B. in Mathematics from Harvard College in 1983, and she received the Ph.D. in Mathematics from Cornell University in 1991. She taught for three years at the Ohio State University and spent one year on a NATO-NSF fellowship at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universitat in Frankfurt, Germany before coming to Trinity in 1995.

Professor Stein's research is principally in geometric group theory, a field straddling the border of algebra and topology. The main goal of her research is to investigate the algebraic properties of infinite groups by studying the geometric properties of the groups themselves and other topological spaces on which they act.

Professor Stein’s goal in teaching is to help her students learn to think clearly and logically and to enable them to experience the beauty of mathematics. The small class size setting at Trinity complements her teaching style; she especially enjoys working with students one-on-one.
Colleen McLinn, Ph.D.
Director of Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning
Cornell University

Colleen McLinn directs Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) at Cornell, a Graduate School initiative involving close collaboration with the Center for Teaching Innovation. As the CIRTL Program Director, she prepares graduate students and postdocs for successful academic careers through development of teaching, researching mentorship and other key skills. She coordinates Cornell's participation in the CIRTL Network, a group of 42 research universities collaboratively offering seminars and coursework on career preparation topics and three important themes for advancement of higher education: teaching as research, learning communities, and learning through diversity. Colleen's interests include helping graduate students and postdocs gain experience with strategies for innovative and evidence-based teaching and mentoring, and contributing to projects that diversify the professoriate. Dr. McLinn received a Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from University of Minnesota and previously was an extension associate at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, where she developed online and print curriculum materials and played a leadership role in grant-funded science education efforts. In her spare time, she serves on the Advisory Board for the Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom, a project partner of the Center for Transformative Action.

Chris Fromme, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics
Cornell University

Chris Fromme is an Associate Professor in the Weill Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology and the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. After graduating from Cornell with a B.A. in Biology in 1999, Chris did his graduate studies with Greg Verdine at Harvard University, receiving a Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 2004. He then did postdoctoral work as a Miller Institute Fellow with Randy Schekman at UC Berkeley. He joined the Cornell faculty in 2008.

Aaron Joiner
Cornell Bouchet Scholar
PhD Candidate in Biochemistry, Molecular, and Cell Biology
Cornell University

I graduated from Beloit College (a small liberal arts school) in Wisconsin with a B.S. in Biochemistry in 2012. Before coming to Cornell for my Ph.D., I took two years away from school to decide what I wanted to do. During that time, I worked in various roles as a university administrator. I also spent six months doing research for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. I'm currently a fifth year doctoral candidate in the field of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology. I work in the lab of Dr. Chris Fromme in the Weill Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology, where we study membrane trafficking. Specifically, we are interested in the proteins that regulate trafficking events at the Golgi complex. Outside of the lab, I volunteer for the Upward Bound program, helping adolescents who will be first-generation college students apply to and prepare for college.
Nelly Andarawis-Puri, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Cornell University

Dr. Andarawis-Puri joined the Cornell MAE faculty as the Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor in January 2016. Prior to her appointment at Cornell, she was an Assistant Professor in the Leni and Peter W. May Department of Orthopaedics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. She holds a B.S. from Columbia University in Biomedical Engineering, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in Bioengineering, specializing in Biomechanics, with Dr. Louis Soslowsky as her graduate mentor. Following her graduate studies, she completed her post-doctoral training with Dr. Evan Flatow in the Department of Orthopaedics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai with the goal of strengthening the clinical translation aspect of her biomechanics research. She held an independent faculty position in the Orthopaedics department at Icahn School of Medicine from January 2012 until her appointment at Cornell. Dr. Andarawis-Puri’s work in tendon research spans both basic science and translational applications. The general objective of her lab is to determine the structural and regulatory role of the extracellular matrix (ECM) of the tendon in the pathogenesis of tendinopathy and impaired healing of ruptured tendons.

Monideepa Chaterjee
PhD Student, Biomedical Engineering
Cornell University

Moni is a 3rd year PhD student in Biomedical Engineering studying tendon repair in the Andarawis-Puri lab. She also serves as a Graduate Student Coordinator for the Diversity Programs in Engineering’s Ryan Scholar program, and previous Outreach Chair for Biomedical Engineering Society. Her interests include science policy and communication, and K-12 STEM outreach.

Jenny C. Mann
Associate Professor, English Language and Literature
Cornell University

Jenny C. Mann is a scholar of early modern English literature and culture. Her research focuses on the relationship between rhetoric, natural philosophy, knowledge formation, and poetic expression in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Her teaching combines early modern literature and the history of knowledge, with a particular emphasis on utopia and literature/science studies. Her first book, Outlaw Rhetoric: Figuring Vernacular Eloquence in Shakespeare’s England (Cornell University Press 2012), argues that the translation of classical rhetoric into the everyday vernacular becomes a means of literary invention in the sixteenth century, turning classical figures of transport and exchange into native stories of fairies and Robin Hood. Her current project, Orpheus on Trial: Renaissance Poetics and the History of Knowledge, investigates how Renaissance writers conceptualize the power of eloquence, an occult force that penetrates the body and moves populations into action.
Sara Xayarath Hernández, M.R.P.
Associate Dean for Inclusion & Student Engagement, Graduate School, University Diversity Officer, Cornell University

Sara Xayarath Hernández is the Graduate School Associate Dean for Inclusion & Student Engagement and a University Diversity Officer at Cornell University. She provides vision, leadership, and overall management for Graduate School initiatives and policies related to diversity and inclusion. Hernández leads the Office of Inclusion & Student Engagement (OISE) and the Graduate School’s efforts to recruit, retain, and support a diverse graduate student body. OISE in collaboration with other Graduate School and university partners, leads student engagement and professional development programming that fosters community and develops skills to enhance academic success, improve retention and completion rates, and prepare students to pursue academic and non-academic careers following attainment of their graduate degrees.

Hernández serves as the Co-Director and Co-PI for the Cornell AGEP Program and as Co-PI for Cornell’s Alfred P. Sloan Foundation funded UCEM Program. She is a first generation college student and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University.
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