

## Stevens Initiative Connected Classrooms

### Faculty Scholars Biographies



#### Osama Abu Salah | Ajman, UAE

Lecturer, College of Business Administration  
Ajman University

**Osama Abu Salah** is the coordinator of the General Education Program (GEP), head of GEP Council, and a faculty member of the College of Business Administration at Ajman University (AU). He joined AU in the former Unit of General Studies two years ago as a lecturer responsible for the Innovation & Entrepreneurship courses and activities. He is one of the UAE representatives of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Education Initiative, organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with Stanford University. Before joining AU, Osama worked more than ten years contributing to

establishing entrepreneurial companies in the medical and pharmaceutical markets in the Middle East and North Africa. Throughout his career, he has taught, trained, and mentored many ambitious students in the area of innovation and entrepreneurship.



#### Robyn Albers | Abu Dhabi, UAE

Senior Instructor, Business Communications  
Zayed University

**Robyn Albers** is Coordinator and Senior Instructor of Business Communication at Zayed University. She holds an M.Ed from the University of Southern Queensland and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. For over two decades, she has been teaching in Taiwan, South Korea, Canada, and the United Arab Emirates. Living and working in foreign countries gives her the opportunity to immerse herself in culture and bring these intercultural experiences to the business classroom. Her main area of research is in the scholarship of teaching and learning. Robyn has found that students learn best by getting involved in meaningful, authentic projects so they can implement the skills learned in the classroom. As such, she has involved her students in community service-learning projects and virtual exchanges between students from

the UAE and the US. Robyn teaches because it is the best way to effect change.



*This program is supported by the Stevens Initiative, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, with funding provided by the U.S. Government, and is administered by the Aspen Institute. The Stevens Initiative is also supported by the Bezos Family Foundation and the governments of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.*





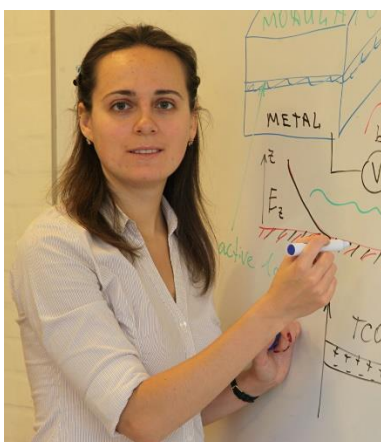
### **Nadera Alborno | Dubai, UAE**

Associate Professor, School of Education

**American University in Dubai**

**Dr. Nadera Alborno** is an associate professor in the School of Education at the American University in Dubai (AUD). Her areas of expertise are the development of inclusive education in the UAE, the preparation of teachers for inclusion, the empowerment of people with disabilities through education and employment, and the provision of assistive technology to support persons with disabilities. In addition, Nadera works with local communities to support families with children with disabilities and raise awareness about their rights to equal opportunities in education and employment. She also advises organizations on inclusive policies and practices. A

recipient of the AUD President's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2006-2007 and the British University in Dubai Pioneer award 2017, she regularly participates in local and international research conferences and has published several articles, case studies, and book chapters addressing teacher education, inclusive employment, and the development of inclusive communities.



### **Viktoriia Babicheva | New Mexico, USA**

Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

**University of New Mexico**

**Dr. Viktoriia Babicheva** is an assistant professor at the University of New Mexico. She joined the university after her postdoctoral experience in the College of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Prior to that, Viktoriia worked in the Birk Nanotechnology Center at Purdue University and Center for Nano-Optics at Georgia State University. Her research focus is nanophotonics, nano-optics, and photonic materials, and the work specialization is on localized and delocalized nanoparticle resonances in periodic arrays, hyperbolic metamaterials, and near-field imaging of layered materials. She is also the author or co-author of more than 55 peer-reviewed journal articles, 30 conference publications, and one book

chapter. Her publications have more than 1,800 citations in total according to Google Scholar.



### **Ganesh Balakrishnan | New Mexico, USA**

Professor and Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

**University of New Mexico**

**Dr. Ganesh Balakrishnan** is a professor and Regents' Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of New Mexico (UNM). He is also the Chair of the Optical Science and Engineering program and the Associate Director of the Center for High Technology Materials at UNM. Ganesh's area of expertise is the development of electronic, photonic, and optoelectronic devices using molecular beam epitaxy (MBE). In the past ten years, he developed a comprehensive laboratory that has the capability to grow, characterize, process, and package semiconductor solar cells, detectors, and lasers. His teaching interest includes introductory courses in solar technology and nanotechnology, and more

advanced undergraduate and graduate courses in semiconductor physics, epitaxy, and photovoltaics.



**Gonzalo Baptista | Baltimore, Maryland**

Assistant Professor, Spanish  
**Morgan State University**

**Dr. Gonzalo Baptista** is Assistant Professor of Spanish at Morgan State University. He has lived and studied in four countries so far. After graduating from Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain with a B.A. in Hispanic Philology, he moved to Torino, Italy in 2003 where he undertook a Master of Arts in Creative Writing (in Italian) at the Scuola Holden. He has published his own creative short-narrative and poetry in niche venues in Chile, Italy, Mexico, Peru, and Spain. After teaching at University of Torino for three years, he moved to the United States in 2012 to pursue a Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies. During the research process, he spent one year in Mexico, where he has returned several times. He has taught Spanish language courses at the University of Virginia, Emory & Henry College, and currently at Morgan State University, a National Treasure. He studies the connections between literature and migration, exiles, diasporas, and biographical narratives.



**Sanaa Belabbes | Casablanca, Morocco**

Assistant Professor, Healthcare Management  
**Mohammed VI University for Health Sciences**

**Dr. Sanaa Belabbes** is an assistant professor at Mohammed VI University for Health Sciences (UM6SS). She holds a Ph.D. in Management and is an alumna of the Leadership Development Fellowship Program of the U.S. Department of State. Sanaa started working at UM6SS in 2018, where she teaches healthcare organization management and research methodology. Her current areas of interest are governance and workforce development in healthcare organizations.



**Latifa Belfakir | Fez, Morocco**

Professor, Linguistics and Leadership Studies  
**Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University**

**Dr. Latifa Belfakir** is a Linguistics and Leadership Studies professor at Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University. She has had a long and fruitful teaching experience in Meknes before she started her journey at the faculty of Letters and Human Sciences in Fez. She is presently both enjoying working as a full professor in the Department of English Studies and as the coordinator and leader of the Language, Communication & Society Master program. She is keen on enhancing her students' soft skills and encourages extracurricular activities that are on par with the core or content courses.



**Stephen L. Bishop | New Mexico, USA**

Associate Professor, French and African Studies

**University of New Mexico**

**Dr. Stephen L. Bishop** is the Director of the International Studies Institute and an associate professor of French and African Studies at the University of New Mexico. His research and teaching focuses on questions of law and literature, representations of shame, comparative feminisms, and child soldiers, primarily in an African context, but also European and American. He also organizes and leads study abroad trips to France and Ghana. Stephen has a Ph.D. and J.D. from the University of Michigan and a B.S.

from the University of Illinois.



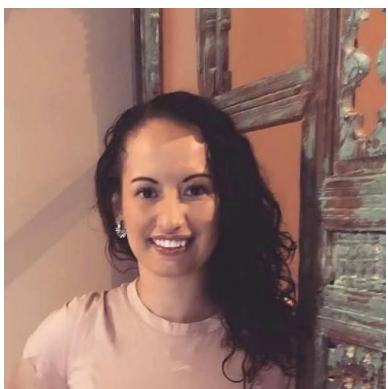
**Radouan Boukharfane | Ben Guerir, Morocco**

Professor and Research and Education Fellow

**Mohammed VI Polytechnic University**

**Dr. Radouan Boukharfane** is a professor and Research and Education Fellow at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, specializing in Applied Mathematics. Prior to this, he spent two years as research scientist in the Extreme Computing Research Center at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia, and one year as post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Aerodynamics, Energetics and Propulsion of the National Higher French Institute of Aeronautics and Space in Toulouse, France. Radouan received a joint MSc. from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Ecole Polytechnique of

Montreal, Canada, and from ISAE-SUPAERO in Toulouse, France, and Ph.D. from Prime Institute in Poitiers, France. His ongoing and future research involves fundamental study of flow physics including turbulence, transitional flows, and multi-phase flows. His research is dedicated to an improved theoretical understanding of these complex fluids and contributes to optimizing the engineering quantities of interest in industrial application.



**Jennifer Crespo | Ben Guerir, Morocco**

Project Manager, Language Lab

**Mohammed VI Polytechnic University**

**Jennifer (Jen) Crespo** is a project manager at the Language Lab at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University. Jen has over 15 years of experience working in various sectors of higher education in New York City, including residential life, special events, student development, and student success. Her passion is not only teaching but assisting students at any point of their college career. She began teaching Introduction to University Life in 2016, which helped jumpstart her career of teaching English as a Foreign Language in 2018. She holds a B.A. in Applied

Psychology and M.S. in Mental Health Counseling from Pace University in New York, as well as a post-bachelor's certificate from the City University of New York in Disability Studies, and is TEFL-certified from the ITA Academy in Chicago. Jen has taught ESL to a wide range of individuals, from children to adults. At Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Jen is involved in projects, as well as language instruction. Her goal is to help students thrive in any way possible, both in and out of the classroom.



**Joseph Cutrone | Maryland, USA**

Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science  
**Goucher College**

**Dr. Joseph Cutrone** is assistant professor of Mathematics, Data, and Computer Science at Goucher College. He completed his doctorate, with a specialization in algebraic geometry, in 2011 at the Johns Hopkins University. Prior to his arrival at Goucher in 2013, Joseph taught at Johns Hopkins, Towson University, and Northwestern University. At Goucher College, he teaches a broad range of first- and second-year mathematics courses. He also runs Goucher College's competitive mathematics team, which participates in the Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Competition and the Putnam Exam.



**Christine Cress | Oregon, USA**

Professor, Educational Leadership & Policy  
**Portland State University**

**Dr. Christine Cress** is a professor of Educational Leadership & Community Engagement at Portland State University. She was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Turkey and has taught two COIL courses with Reitaku University in Japan. She earned her Ph.D. at UCLA and is an accomplished scholar (over 50 publications and 100 professional presentations) focused on learning environments, community-based learning experiences, and the impact of campus climate on student development outcomes and faculty productivity. She and her co-authors published a best-selling textbook, *Learning through Serving*, for faculty and students on how to realize effective learning and community gains through community-based learning projects.

Dr. Cress has consulted on Learning, Leadership, and Assessment projects for California Campus Compact, the Community College National Center for Community Engagement, and over 30 colleges across the country.



**Fatima Zahra El Amrani | Dakhla, Morocco**

Assistant Professor, Business English  
National School of Business and Management in Dakhla, University of Ibn Zohr

**Dr. Fatima Zahra El Amrani** is an assistant professor of Business English in the National School of Business and Management in Dakhla, University of Ibn Zohr in Morocco. Fatima Zahra holds a Ph.D and an M.A in Gender Studies from University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah in Fez. She has authored a number of publications. She has served as a reviewer.

**David Francis | Washington, USA**

Professor, Operations Management and Marketing  
**Green River College**

**David Francis** is a professor of Operations Management and Marketing at Green River College. David held management positions at United Parcel Service (UPS) in Operations, Sales, Marketing, and Consulting for over 30 years. He supervised tractor-trailer drivers, managed public relations and communications, designed a company museum, created cross-border processes, and implemented a large-scale employee culture change. After engineering a \$20M logistics savings for Amazon.com, he moved to UPS's external Sales and Marketing side where he designed new tools and products, negotiated multimillion dollar contracts, created numerous skill development courses for account managers and marketing executives, and culminated his career by re-engineering sales and marketing processes for UPS of

China. David holds a B.A. in Biblical Studies, an MBA, and a graduate certificate in eBusiness. He began teaching adjunct business courses in 2017. His passions include entrepreneurship, supply chain development, marketing, international business, and international travel.

**Matthew Gebhardt | Oregon, USA**

Associate Professor, Real Estate Program  
**Portland State University**

**Dr. Matthew Gebhardt** is an associate professor of Urban Studies & Planning and of Real Estate Development and is Director of the Institute for Metropolitan Studies at Portland State University, having previously worked as a lecturer in Town & Regional Planning at the University of Sheffield. Matthew's research concerns the translation of visions, plans, and policies into action and the structures and institutions that facilitate or constrain this process and produce (un)intended outcomes. His particular areas of interest are affordable housing, interim uses, and green/blue infrastructure. He teaches courses in real estate development, housing policy, planning practice, professional ethics, and urban theory. Prior to pursuing

his doctorate, Matthew was a senior associate at an interdisciplinary consulting firm where he performed and managed a variety of planning, development, and design projects for public, private, and non-profit clients.

**David Grossman | Maryland, USA**

Associate Professor, International Business and Marketing  
**Goucher College**

**Dr. David A. Grossman** is an associate professor of International Business and Marketing in the Business Program as well as the Associate Director of the Center for Education, Business and Professional Studies at Goucher College. He teaches international business, marketing, and strategic management courses. Students in David's classes incorporate topics by applying them into practical situations on campus and in the community for various entities. His current research interests include the aspirations of the middle class as well as the entrepreneurial spirit in emerging markets. David's areas of interest focus on market entry strategies, aspirations of the middle-class consumer, and entrepreneurial spirit in emerging markets. His scholarly

work includes these topics that have been published in journals such as The Journal of World Business, Thunderbird International Business Review, and International Business Review.



**Belkacem Harroud | Oujda, Morocco**

Associate Professor, English Language and Literature  
**Mohammed First University**

**Dr. Belkacem Harroud** is an associate professor of English language and literature at Mohammed First University. He obtained his undergraduate degree in English language and literature and pursued a master's degree in Humanities and Area Studies: Colonial and Postcolonial Discourses from Mohammed First University. Belkacem received his Ph.D. in English language and literature from Ibn Zohr University in Agadir. He worked as a high school English teacher for 11 years before joining preparatory classes for engineering school for two years. Belkacem's

research interests lie within visual discourse and its intrinsic affiliations with ideology.



**Aziz Ifzarne | Khouribga, Morocco**

Professor of Mathematics  
**Sultan Moulay Slimane University**

**Dr. Aziz Ifzarne** is a professor of mathematics at Sultan Moulay Slimane University. Aziz holds a Ph.D. in mathematics as well as a college degree in computer science. He has over 20 years teaching and mentoring experience in higher education, in addition to his involvement in extracurricular activities. Aziz enjoys making videos in Classic Arabic and Moroccan dialect for the YouTube channel Popular Science. He is a writer, music composer, and a music workshops trainer. He has written books in poetry and logic riddles, as well as various articles. Aziz is interested in the relationship between music and mathematics, errors of logic, and critical thinking and mathematical problems in the Moroccan oral tradition.



**M. Michelle Illuminato | Oregon, USA**

Associate Professor and Head of the CORE Program, Portland State University

**M. Michelle Illuminato** is an associate professor and head of the CORE Program at Portland State University. In her 25-year career as educator and socially engaged artist, she has designed innovative first-year studies and abroad programs at four major American universities and prestigious art academies in Florence, Milan, and Belgrade, Serbia. A practicing artist, she creates events, public exchanges, and artworks to help reveal the complicated and often contradictory relationship between people, their culture, and the land they live on. Michelle's work is large-scale, collaborative, and has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Other research

interests include ecology, collections, mapping, and tourism. Michelle received numerous awards and grants including the Key to the City of Aliquippa and Best Event in Pennsylvania. Her project the Lost & Found Factory was recognized nationally as one of the most compelling public artworks of 2015 by the Americans for the Arts and Public Art Network. In 2017, she received the Master Teacher Award from the Foundations: Art, Theory, and Education national teaching association.

**Tizreena Ismail | Ajman, UAE**

Lecturer, College of Education and Basic Sciences  
**Ajman University**

**Dr. Tizreena Ismail** is a lecturer at the College of Education and Basic Sciences at Ajman University. She obtained a Ph.D. from Exeter University in the UK and has over 15 years of successful experience teaching a variety of English language and applied linguistic courses. Her experience includes teaching composition in a North American-style higher education institution. Tizreena's research interests are in dialogic pedagogy, and the role of student-teacher interaction in the teaching of English language and literacy. She is also interested in examining the role of talk in enhancing writing studies pedagogy and how this relates to critical issues in literacy development of EFL learners. Tizreena has presented and published papers across curriculum,

language and media, writing identity, and the impact of dialogic practices on learner identity and learner motivation of writing students. In addition, she has recently been focusing on active learning classrooms that promote equitable, collaborative pedagogy and how such transformative teaching methodologies can lead to effective learning environments.

**Ali Jafri | Casablanca, Morocco**

Assistant Professor, Human Physiology and Nutrition  
**Mohammed VI University for Health Sciences**

**Dr Ali Jafri** is an assistant professor of Human Physiology and Nutrition at the Mohammed VI University for Health Sciences where he held the position of Coordinator of the Dietetics and Nursing bachelor programs between 2017 and 2019 and initiated the Clinical Nutrition Master program. Ali has been an executive member of the African Nutrition Society since 2012 and is a board member of various scientific organizations. His research on dietary sodium has paved the way towards drafting a policy lowering added sodium chloride in the food industry in Morocco. Ali has a

particular interest in developing leadership capabilities in nutrition and health professionals in Africa since he participated to the African Nutrition Leadership Program in South Africa in 2011.

**Cherki Karkaba | Beni Mellal, Morocco**

Senior Lecturer, English Studies  
**Sultan Moulay Slimane University**

**Dr. Cherki Karkaba** is a senior lecturer at Sultan Moulay Slimane University. He was in charge of international relations for the president of the university between 2010 and 2016. He also worked as a vice dean and as head of the department of English Studies at the faculty of Arts and Humanities. Cherki is the founder and editor-in-chief of Middle Ground: International Journal of Literary and Cultural Encounters. After obtaining the A-Level in a Moroccan High school in Casablanca, he studied English at the University of Brest in France where he defended a Ph.D. dissertation on father symbolism in the works of Virginia Woolf. Cherki taught French in two comprehensive schools in South Yorkshire in 1985-86 and worked as

a lecturer of French in the University of Swansea in Wales in 1988 and 1989. He also taught English in the University of Brest for a few years before being appointed as an assistant professor in Beni Mellal, Morocco. He is also a visiting lecturer in the University of Toulon, France. Cherki has published research works and organized conferences related to the issue of otherness.



**Priya Kapoor | Portland, Oregon**

Professor, International and Global Studies  
**Portland State University**

**Dr. Priya Kapoor** is a communication scholar, and a professor of International and Global Studies at Portland State University. She specializes in critical/cultural theory, media studies, and intercultural communication. Her latest research on community radio in South Asia is situated at the intersection of non-commercial media, digital divide, international development, climate change, migration and youth mobilization. An anthology of the UNESCO Chair of CR, Community Radio in South Asia: Reclaiming the airwaves, features her 2020 chapter: "Community Radio for Creating Communication Channels: Theoretical Musings from Himalayan Rural Locales." She authored research paper "Shah Rukh Khan: Journey from Charisma to Celebrity" in anthology *Stardom in Contemporary Indian Cinema* (2020). Her essay "Provincializing Whiteness: We are all Calibans" is published in the Journal *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research* (2020).



**K. Scarlett Kingsley | Georgia, USA**

Assistant Professor, Department of Classics  
**Agnes Scott College**

**Dr. K. Scarlett Kingsley** is an assistant professor in the Department of Classics at Agnes Scott College. She is an intellectual historian, and her research is primarily focused on ancient Greek history, philosophy, and cognitive approaches to the humanities. Scarlett has published recent articles on these themes at the journals *Classical Quarterly* and *Mnemosyne*. Scarlett's first monograph, "Herodotus and the Presocratics: Inquiry and Intellectual Culture in the Fifth Century," and a co-edited volume, *The Authoritative Historian: Tradition and Innovation in Ancient Historiography*, are both currently under review. Scarlett completed her Ph.D. at Princeton University, an M.St. at the University of Oxford, and a B.A. at Florida State University. At Agnes Scott College, she teaches courses on Greek and Latin at all levels, ancient Mediterranean history, gender and sexuality, and race and ethnicity.



**Julia Caroline Knowlton | Georgia, USA**

Professor of French  
**Agnes Scott College**

**Dr. Julia Caroline Knowlton** is a professor of French at Agnes Scott College, where she has taught for twenty-five consecutive years. She is the author of four books and the recipient of an Academy of American Poets College Prize. She was named Georgia Author of the Year in 2018. Julia's teaching and research expertise includes the French Enlightenment, feminist theory, poetry, French Fashion and French/Francophone Culture(s).



**Said Laassiri | Ben Guerir, Morocco**

Assistant Professor, Heterogenous Catalysis

**Mohammed VI Polytechnic University**

**Dr. Said Laassiri** is an assistant professor in heterogenous catalysis at Mohamed VI Polytechnic University. He received his Ph.D. in Heterogenous Catalysis in 2014 from the University of Laval in Quebec, Canada and the University of Poitiers in France. His Ph.D. work involved the investigation of structure – redox properties – catalytic activity relationship in oxidation reactions catalyzed by hexaaluminate and perovskite mixed oxides. Following his Ph.D., Dr. Laassiri joined the School of Chemistry at the University of Glasgow (UK) as a research associate working in the catalytic synthesis of

ammonia. In 2018, he was awarded a research grant from the AAP "Make our planet great again" for the development of novel approaches for delocalized ammonia synthesis. Dr. Laassiri's current research focuses on the domain of heterogeneous catalysis with a particular emphasis on the elucidation of structure-catalytic activity relationship. The underlying theme is the development of alternative materials (e.g. mixed oxides, nitrides and carbides) as novel catalytic materials with applications in a variety of catalyzed reactions (oxidation reactions, methanation reaction, ammonia synthesis...etc).



**Mason Marzbali | Dubai, UAE**

Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering

**American University in Dubai**

**Dr. Mason Marzbali** is Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the American University in Dubai. He has worked on cutting-edge research and development projects in collaboration with international companies such as Siemens, Rolls-Royce, and Pratt & Whitney while he was a researcher and lecturer in Canada before joining the American University in Dubai in 2017. With Siemens, he holds an international patent, method, and system for reducing liquid droplet impact damage by super-hydrophobic surfaces. Mason is an active reviewer for

Journal of Physics of Fluids, Journal of Fluid Flow, Heat and Mass Transfer and IEEE. He is also the recipient of several prestigious awards and scholarships such as Hydro Quebec Study Award. He received multiple research grants from governmental agencies such as Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Le Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Nature et les Technologies (FQRNT), Consortium de Recherche et d'Innovation en Aérospatiale au Québec (CRIAQ), Hydro Quebec, and Nano Quebec.



**Ramin Masoudi | Dubai, UAE**

Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering

**American University in Dubai**

**Dr. Ramin Masoudi** is an associate professor of mechanical engineering at the American University in Dubai. He is the recipient of a Ph.D. in Systems Design Engineering from the University of Waterloo in Canada in 2012. His expertise includes math-based modeling of dynamic systems, multibody dynamics, space robotics, and mechanical vibrations. Ramin offers courses on control systems, mechanical vibrations, robotics, computer-aided mechanical design, dynamics, numerical methods for engineers, solid mechanics, and engineering graphics and visualization. He was formerly a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Waterloo, working on dynamic modeling and design of nonlinear systems along with control-

oriented model design & reduction, in collaboration with Toyota Technical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA and Maplesoft Inc. in Waterloo. Ramin has been a member of ASME and AIAA since 2009. He is a reviewer of several prestigious journal publications, including ASME *Journal of Computational and Nonlinear Dynamics*, and received an Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology in 2011 and University of Waterloo International Graduate Student Award.



### **Said Mentak | Oujda, Morocco**

Professor of English

**Mohammed First University**

**Dr. Said Mentak** is a professor of English at Mohammed First University, where he has been teaching since 1988. He got his doctoral degree in postmodernism and the American novel in 2000 and was awarded a Fulbright Visiting Lecturer Scholarship to three American universities in Alabama in 2006. He published a book on postmodernism in the United States in 2010 and translated four books from English into Arabic. He has published many articles and chapters in both English and Arabic. He started the Master Program in Green Cultural Studies in 2015.



### **Mohammed Moubtassime | Fez, Morocco**

Professor of English

**Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University**

**Dr. Mohammed Moubtassime** is a professor of English at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University. He holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Linguistics from the Faculty of Humanities at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University and currently teaches grammar, theoretical linguistics, Morpho-syntax of Natural Languages, Business English, public speaking and debating, gender development and ICT, leadership and entrepreneurship, and critical thinking and analytical skills at the Faculty of humanities. Mohammed was Head of the Department of English Studies, and the Coordinator of three cohorts of English Modular degree programs. Mohammed acted as an expert for accreditation of the B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. programs at the Moroccan

Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Professional Training. He is an alumnus of the State Department Professional Fellowship Program on "Young Entrepreneurs" at the University of Michigan. His research interests are linguistics, curriculum development, didactics, teaching and learning issues, ICT and foreign language learning, educational management, digital media, social entrepreneurship, project development, and corporate communication. Mohammed has coordinated a State Department program to challenge extremism and is Project Leader of the English Teaching Internship Initiative. His most recent publications are The Grammar of Moroccan Arabic, Anthology of Moroccan Poetry, The Novice's Guide to Research, and English Grammar Made Simpler.



### **Ian Michael | Dubai, UAE**

Associate Professor, Marketing, Branding and Innovation

**Zayed University**

**Dr. Ian Michael** is an associate professor of marketing, branding, and innovation at Zayed University. His academic and industry experience spans over 40 years. Prior to becoming an academic, Ian worked in various industries such as travel and tourism, banking and finance, hospitality, advertising, pharmaceutical, transportation and logistics, where he held senior positions in industry in India and Australia. Ian moved to academia in 1998 as Lecturer of Marketing at Victoria University, Melbourne. Ian is a Certified Practicing Marketer, and Fellow of the Australian Marketing Institute. He is also an AMI mentor for Emerging Markets. Ian is a board member with the Emirates Down Syndrome Foundation, a not-for-profit organization based in Dubai, UAE. He is a jury member of the dispute committee

for the Advertising Business Group, Dubai. In 2014, he was honored with an Al-Safeer award (Dubai Ambassador) by Dubai Tourism and Commerce Marketing.



**Khalis Mohamed | Casablanca, Morocco**

Assistant Professor, Epidemiology

**Mohammed VI University for Health Sciences**

**Dr. Khalis Mohamed** is an assistant professor of epidemiology at the International School of Public Health at the Mohammed VI University for Health Sciences in Casablanca. He coordinated several projects in the field of epidemiology and public health over the past seven years. Khalis has mainly focused his research on dietary and lifestyle-related risk factors of cancer.



**Julie Moore | Washington, USA**

English Instructor

**Green River College**

**Julie Moore** is a tenured English Instructor at Green River College where she has taught College Composition, Pre-College Writing and Reading, and a variety of literature classes. Julie has an M.A. in English and a graduate certificate in Community College Teaching from Western Washington University. She also co-authored an integrated reading and writing college textbook titled "Crossroads," a project that emerged from her classroom experiences integrating and accelerating reading and writing instruction at the pre-college level. In addition to her classroom experience, Julie is the Learning Outcomes Committee Chair, helping to guide assessment efforts across campus. She also held the position of Teaching and Learning Center Coordinator at Green River College, helping to launch professional development for faculty on her campus. Julie is committed to the open access nature of community colleges and helping her students gain the skills and confidence they need to reach their educational goals.



**Ruth Mueller | Washington, USA**

Professor of Ethnomusicology

**Green River College**

**Dr. Ruth Mueller** is a tenured ethnomusicologist in the Music Department at Green River College. Ruth received her Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from the University of Sheffield, UK in 2013. She teaches courses in global traditional and popular musics. While at Green River, Ruth has started the Asian Drumming Ensemble, a group that learns and performs the traditional South Korean drumming, samulnori. Her research focuses on gender and cultural preservation on the Korean Peninsula as well as fieldwork methodologies. Her current research is a collaborative project that deals with risks and trauma of female-identified scholars while undertaking fieldwork. Ruth is the current President of the Association for Korean Music Research and is active in the Society for Ethnomusicology where she is the Co-Chair of the Fieldwork Mentorship Project and the Secretary for the Section on the Status of Women.



**Asmaa Naïm | Casablanca, Morocco**  
Associate Professor of Radiotherapy  
**Mohammed VI University for Health Sciences**

**Asmaa Naïm, MD** is an associate professor at Mohammed VI University for Health Sciences and referent of the radiotherapy department Casablanca Cancer Centre at Sheikh Khalifa International University Hospital. Asmaa has been teaching as an associate professor of radiotherapy at Mohammed VI University of Health Sciences (UM6SS) since March 2016 after completing her residency at the University Hospital Hassan II in Casablanca and graduating in 2013. She spent a one-year research fellowship in Spain in 2011 and 2012, and also performed many short fellowships in France, Belgium, and China. With the obtention of international diplomas in advanced technics on radiotherapy, especially Stereotactic radiotherapy, and in

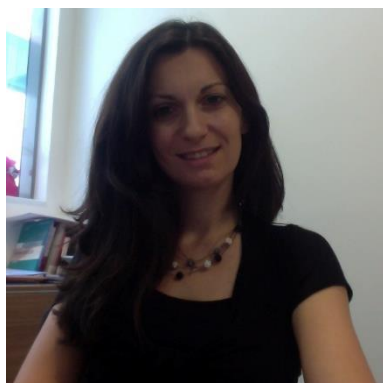
simulation in health and in medical pedagogy, Asmaa has many published papers and is involved in ongoing research projects with a special interest in advanced technology in radiotherapy, neuro-oncology, and pediatric oncology. She presented her research at many national and international meetings. Asmaa has a special interest in implementing innovative modern pedagogy and is an active member of the educational committee of the simulation center.



**Arlette Ngoubene-Atioky | Maryland, USA**  
Assistant Professor, Psychology  
**Goucher College**

**Dr. Arlette Ngoubene-Atioky** is an assistant professor in the Center for Psychology at Goucher College. She teaches courses in international psychology, with an emphasis on cross-cultural psychology, global mental health, community psychology, indigenous psychology, and immigration psychology. Arlette also teaches Psychological Distress and Disorder, Qualitative Research Methods in Psychology, and Social Activism for immigrants in immigration detention centers. Her research focuses on the social determinants of mental health of international communities with a particular interest in immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Her secondary research topic is on intersectionality and wellbeing. Arlette graduated from Lehigh University with a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and a

M.Ed. in International Counseling. She speaks three languages and has lived in Cameroon, Belgium, Canada, and the US.



**Chrysavgi Papagianni | Abu Dhabi, UAE**  
Assistant Professor, English  
**Zayed University**

**Dr. Chrysavgi Papagianni** is an assistant professor at the Department of English at Zayed University. She holds a Ph.D. in film and literature from the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB), USA. Chrysavgi has been teaching for more than two decades, including film, literature, writing and communication classes at UB, at Athens University, Greece, and at Zayed University. Her research focuses primarily on women's literature and cinema with a specific interest on issues of memory, history, and identity. Her latest research focuses on Emirati women filmmakers and has been

published in journals such as the Quarterly Review of Film and Video as well as in edited volumes by Brill. Chrysavgi also serves as a reviewer for various journals in her field and as a regular book reviewer for the European Journal of American Studies.



**James Redman | Abu Dhabi, UAE**

Assistant Professor, College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
**Zayed University**

**Dr. James Redman** is a cultural anthropologist in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Zayed University. His research focuses on Arab cultures and societies with a particular concentration on the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. So far, this research has taken him up and down the Gulf from Kuwait to Oman, and his studies have taken him even further afield to Jordan and Morocco. Not surprisingly, James incorporates many of these firsthand experiences into his classes, whether these are courses on general anthropology or the broader Middle East area. Also, a few semesters ago James worked with some of his colleagues to successfully launch their college's off-

campus film series, and since then the screenings have continued to draw an eclectic audience of students, faculty, cinema enthusiasts, and the wider UAE community.



**Nellie Ruby | Georgia, USA**

Professor of Art  
**Agnes Scott College**

**Dr. Nellie (Nell) Ruby** is a professor of art and chair of the Department of Art and History at Agnes Scott College. Nell teaches students to draw and to think in images and objects at the foundation through senior level using digital and hands on techniques. She is an active artist in printmaking, performance, and multi-media installations. Her most recent focus has been in the realm of digital thinking and the power of the creative process to think through, envision, and produce artifacts that

challenge and build culture.



**Qiao Chen Solomon | Georgia, USA**

Associate Professor of Music  
**Agnes Scott College**

**Dr. Qiao Chen Solomon** is an associate professor of music and director of orchestral and strings studies of the Music Department at Agnes Scott College. Hailing from China, Qiao began playing violin at the age of eight and later pursued the studies of viola, voice, piano, and conducting. She performs as soloist, conductor, chamber musician, and orchestra player throughout the United States, Asia, and Europe. Qiao has won several prizes in many competitions, including the National Music Talent Competition in Guangzhou and the MTNA Competition in the United States. She has

been invited to perform and teach masterclasses at many music festivals and universities. Qiao has performed at Carnegie Hall with the ARCO chamber orchestra. Qiao holds a Doctoral Degree in Musical Arts from the University of Georgia, a master's degree in Music Performance from the University of Limerick in Ireland, and bachelor's degree in Music Performance and Music Education from Beijing Normal University in China.

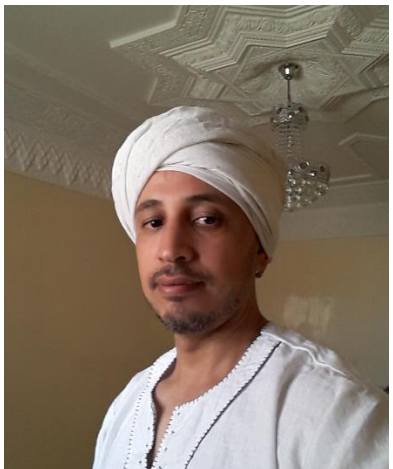
**Naima Soukher | Fkih Ben Salah, Morocco**

Assistant Professor

**Sultan Moulay Slimane University**

**Dr. Naima Soukher** is an assistant professor of statistical mathematics at the Higher School of Technology Fkih Ben Salah (Ecole Supérieure de Technologie Fkih Ben) at Sultan Moulay Slimane University. Naima's Ph.D. is based on the Monte Carlo method in the framework of the simulation of stochastic models in finance. She has a ten years (2009-2019) experience as a mathematics teacher at a public high school in Casablanca. She has published five articles. Her research focuses on probability, stochastics, and statistics. Her research interests concentrate on data science and

machine learning for the calculation of risk in financial markets.

**Houssine Soussi | Dakhla, Morocco**

Associate Professor, Language and Communication

**National School of Business and Management in Dakhla, University of Ibn Zohr**

**Dr. Houssine Soussi** is an associate professor of language and communication at the National School of Business and Management in Dakhla, University of Ibn Zohr. Houssine obtained a master's degree in media studies from Qadi Ayyad University of Marrakech and a Ph.D. in applied linguistics from Moulay Ismail University of Meknes where he analyzed the impact of students' online language use in social networking sites on the development of intercultural communicative competence. Houssine's research interests are focused on intercultural learning in online environments, as well as in the sociolinguistics situation of Morocco, more specifically the study of the Amazigh language and culture. He is also interested in

media-art and the intersection of art, science, and technology. He is the moderator and correspondent of YASMIN, a network of artists, scientists, engineers, theoreticians, and institutions promoting communication and collaboration in art, science, and technology around the Mediterranean Rim.

**Heather Sweetser | New Mexico, USA**

Lecturer of Arabic

**University of New Mexico**

**Heather Sweetser** is a lecturer of Arabic at the University of New Mexico (UNM), where she was named Lecturer of the Year for 2019-2020. Heather received her B.A. in Arabic, International Studies, and Islamic Studies at Ohio State University in 2008 and her M.A. in Arabic at Ohio State University in 2012. Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Heather joined the Army in 1998 and learned Arabic, becoming an Arabic interpreter. Experiences with languages in the U.S. government inspired her to become a language instructor focusing on intercultural competence

as a core part of language fluency. Currently, Heather teaches beginning through advanced Arabic at UNM, as well as courses on The Arabian Nights and Movies of the Middle East. She is also the Lead Instructor for the federally-funded summer STARTALK program in Albuquerque, New Mexico, teaching Arabic to middle and high school students. Heather has led multiple presentations and workshops on language teaching and learning, including a three-day workshop about teaching languages online for Albuquerque Academy. As one of the co-creators of the [wecanlearnarabic.com](http://wecanlearnarabic.com) website, Heather's approaches to integrating culture with language leads students towards quick, meaningful gains in Arabic.



**Michelle Swinehart | Oregon, USA**

Instructor, General Education Program  
**Portland State University**

**Michelle Swinehart** is an instructor of the interdisciplinary general education program and School of Art at Portland State University (PSU). She is an artist who utilizes documentary techniques in her practice. Michelle has exhibited work at apexart and Smack Mellon in New York City, Betonsalon in Paris, France, The Portland Art Museum, Portland State University, National Public Radio, and Oregon Public Radio. She received a BA in studio art from Whitman College, a MAT from Lewis and Clark College, and holds an MFA in Art and Social Practice from PSU. She lives on Full Plate Farm in Ridgefield, Washington with her husband, three kids, two chickens, and three ducks.



**Emma Trentman | New Mexico, USA**

Associate Professor, Arabic  
**University of New Mexico**

**Emma Trentman** is Associate Professor of Arabic at the University of New Mexico. She is an Applied Linguist whose research focuses on language and intercultural learning during study abroad, virtual exchange, and in the language classroom. She is particularly interested in multilingual approaches to language learning. Her research has appeared in various journals and edited collections including The Modern Language Journal, Foreign Language Annals, The L2 Journal, Study Abroad Research, and System. She teaches all levels of Arabic at the University of New Mexico and has been program director of the UNM Arabic STARTALK Student Program since 2016. She is an editor of the Critical Multilingualism Studies Journal as well as the edited collection Language Learning in Study Abroad: The Multilingual Turn (Multilingual Matters, 2021).



**Kimberly Warren | Maryland, USA**

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology  
**Morgan State University**

**Dr. Kimberly Warren** has been an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at Morgan State University for over ten years. She received her Ph.D. in 2006 from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in Behavioral Medicine/Human Services Psychology. Kimberly's research interests are in the areas of obesity and health disparities. She also runs neuroimaging studies and community-based participatory research. She has led a study abroad program to Guatemala every winter semester as part of her Health Psychology class (also cross listed with "Serve to Learn"). During this program, students live with a host family, have one-on-one Spanish lessons, and serve the community by giving free health screenings.



**Lei Yang | New Mexico, USA**

Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
**University of New Mexico**

**Dr. Lei Yang** joined the University of New Mexico as an assistant professor after her experience of Post-Doctoral Research Associate in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Notre Dame. Before that, Dr. Yang was a research scholar at the University of California, Irvine from 2017 to Feb. 2019, and a research scholar at the University of Pittsburgh from 2019 to 2019. Dr. Yang's research focuses on automated machine learning, embedded systems, and high-performance computing architectures. Dr. Yang has created methods in the hardware/software co-exploration for neural architectures. Approaches developed by her group have been deployed to the resource-constrained edge AI systems and applied to medical

applications to improve the quality of healthcare and largely reduce cost.



**William (Harry) York | Oregon, USA**

Senior Instructor, Honors College  
**Portland State University**

**Harry York** is a senior instructor in the Honors College at Portland State University. He is an historian of science, medicine, and technology. Harry's research focuses on environmental history and animal history in pre-modern contexts. However, he teaches a range of courses in the history of medicine and environmental history, as well as courses on urban public health and planning.