



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

New Faculty 2019

Engaging and
Challenging Students





Dear Colleague,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to St. John's University. You have been invited to join our faculty in recognition of your outstanding scholarly achievements, commitment to the University's mission, and dedication to your students.

As faculty, you join a vibrant academic community built upon a strong foundation of Catholic and Vincentian values where student success is our main priority. You join collegial and innovative faculty dedicated to creating an engaging and inspiring learning environment, who work with students on research projects, engage in service to the University as well as the community, and so much more.

St. John's University offers many professional development programs, and I encourage you to take advantage of these as well as the numerous educational and social events on campus. It will not only enrich your life, but also the lives and engagement of our students.

As you embark on your career at St. John's University, I wish you great success. We, as faculty, have a great responsibility because what we do every day changes lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon G. Møller'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Simon G. Møller, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



New Faculty
2019

Engaging and
Challenging Students



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



“Nowadays, they predict that students will change careers five or six times in their lifetime. If you have a liberal arts education, you can easily move from one discipline to another because you learn how to learn.”

Jeffrey W. Fagen, Ph.D., *Dean*
St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Zehra Cevher, Ph.D.

Dr. Cevher comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics. She received her M.Phil. and Ph.D.

in Physics from the City University of New York. Her graduate work

has focused on fabrication and characterization of $\text{CuIn}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{Se}_2$ and GaAs/AlGaAs-based photovoltaic devices. Her future research will focus on synthesis and characterization of perovskite and amorphous silicon-based photovoltaic devices.



Yual Chiek, Ph.D.

Dr. Chiek comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department.

He received his Ph.D. from Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada, and completed his dissertation at Yale University, where he was a Visiting Assistant in Research for two and a half years. After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Chiek was a postdoctoral fellow at Fordham University.

His research interests include Early-Modern Philosophy, Metaphysics and Epistemology, History and Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy of Religion. His work focuses on the modal metaphysics of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. Dr. Chiek is the author of *Leibniz on Compossibility of and Possible Worlds*. He is currently working on a monographic on Leibniz's metaphysics.



Julius A. Doyle, Ph.D.

Dr. Doyle comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He received his Ph.D. in

Biocultural Anthropology from the University of Washington.

Before joining St. John's University, he was a postdoctoral fellow at SUNY Binghamton, where he published research pioneering a new method of hair cortisol collection and measurement in specimens coming from Afro-textured hair. Dr. Doyle's research interests include biopsychosocial measurements of

resilience, depression, anxiety, stress, and DuBoisian double-consciousness among African-Americans. His work is particularly concerned with how the sociocultural conditions in the US affect the health outcomes of African-Americans. His dissertation focused on the health effects of resilience among Black men who experience discrimination and adversity, observing these relationships through a physiological lens (hair cortisol), a psychosocial lens (mental and emotional well-being), and a physical health lens (self-reported health and resting blood pressure).



Meghan Dunn, Ph.D.

Dr. Dunn comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rhetoric, Communication, and Theatre. She received

her Ph.D. in Communication Studies (Rhetoric) from the University of Colorado at Boulder and M.A. in Communication Studies (Rhetoric) from the University of Texas at Austin. She specializes in rhetorical theory and investigates how information, knowledge, or truth(s) are conducted through emergent technologies

or 'novel' media, especially by marginalized communities in times of disaster, crisis, and political upheaval.

Before coming to St. John's, Dr. Dunn served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the New York City College of Technology. She also worked for the United Nations as an Innovation Research Analyst in the Office of Information and Communications Technology and as an Information Management Specialist in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support.



Max R. Freeman, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Dr. Freeman comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department

of Communication Sciences and Disorders. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Northwestern University and completed his Clinical Fellowship in Speech-Language Pathology in the Chicago Public Schools system.

Dr. Freeman's research spans across multiple disciplines, including psycholinguistics, linguistics, developmental psychology, and communication sciences and disorders. His research includes the cognitive and linguistic implications of bilingualism across the lifespan, language development in young children, and language intervention in children with and without language delays. His dissertation research examined how bilingual adults are

influenced by their native language while listening to second language sounds and words, demonstrating that the two languages within the bilingual mind interact and are inseparable.

Throughout his research career, Dr. Freeman has collaborated with researchers in communication sciences and disorders, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, linguistics, and second language acquisition. He has several publications in peer-reviewed journals, as well as book chapters, and has presented his work at more than 30 conferences around the world. At St. John's University, Dr. Freeman plans to continue his research on bilingual language processing and examine the effectiveness of Claylanguage™, a clay-based language program designed to enhance communication skills in young children and offer exposure to pottery.



Alana L. Glaser, Ph.D.

Dr. Glaser joins St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She

earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Northwestern University.

Dr. Glaser is an applied/activist medical anthropologist, with research foci in nursing and care sector work, migration, gender, race, aging, labor process, and political economy. Supported by the Wenner-Gren, her ethnographic research chronicles the impact of recent labor law

implementation (i.e., the 2010 New York Domestic Worker Bill of Rights) on the multicultural, immigrant-led organizations responsible for its passage, as well as its unexpected sequelae in the daily lives of individual West Indian Caribbean and West African women working as caregivers in New York City. Her current research examines how diverse care workers marshal their professional capital to challenge the retrenchment of welfare state protections in the United States and through international solidarity organizations.



Lakshmi Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar, Ph.D.

Dr. Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. She

received her B.S. in Mathematics from Cauvery College for Women, India; M.S. in Mathematics from Madras Christian College, India; Master of Philosophy in Pure Mathematics from Madurai Kamaraj University, India; and Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ. The topic of her dissertation

was "Component Order Edge Connectivity and Component Order Edge Reliability."

Her current research interest is on load balancing and optimized resource allocation in a distributed cloud using graph theory, and she is also working on creating and simulating iris deformation. Dr. Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar has worked at the City University of New York as an Assistant Professor for the past four years and has published eight papers and presented at several conferences. Her future research will focus on data analysis.



Javier Fernández Juárez, Ph.D.

Dr. Juárez comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. He received his Ph.D. in

Biology from Complutense University in Madrid, Spain, working at the Spanish National Research Council (CIB-CSIC) on anoxic biodegradation of aromatic compounds. After graduating, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA, where he developed

novel technologies addressing the need for transcriptional regulators in synthetic biology.

Prior to joining St. John's University, he worked as a staff research investigator at the Forsyth Institute in Cambridge, MA, developing new transcription factor-based biosensors for salivary biomarkers. His future research will focus on developing novel health and environmental biosensors, as well as biocontainment mechanisms for engineered microorganisms.



Kazi Obaidullah, Ph.D.

Dr. Obaidullah comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of

Mathematics and Computer Science. He received his Ph.D. in the field of Media and Network Technologies from the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Hokkaido University, Japan. He completed his M.Sc., and B.Sc., (Hons) in the department of Applied Physics and Electronics Engineering at Rajshahi University, Bangladesh.

Before joining St. John's University, he was an Assistant Professor (part-time/full-time) at City University of New York, Pace University, Fordham University, NYIT, St. Joseph's College New York, and New Jersey City University, where he taught both graduate and undergraduate classes.

His Ph.D. dissertation was titled, "A Study on Genetic Algorithm Based MIMO Detection for the Next Generation Wireless Communications." During his Ph.D., he published several research articles and presented his research work at international conferences, seminars, and workshops in different locations in the US and around the world (e.g., Japan, China, Australia, and Thailand).

His current research is on evolutionary intelligence algorithm-based Wireless Body Area Network and security (WBAN&S). WBAN&S is one of the most important technologies for the next generation wireless communications, with very significant applications in health care for the elderly in our global society and other risky environments.



Lisa Outar, Ph.D.

Dr. Outar comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English. Originally from Port Mourant, Guyana,

she holds a B.A. from Princeton University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from The University of Chicago.

She is an independent scholar who publishes in the areas of Indo-Caribbean literature, feminist writing, and the connections between the Caribbean and other sites of the indentureship diaspora. Her work has appeared in the journals *Small Axe*, *Cultural Dynamics*, *South Asian Review*, *Caribbean Journal of Education*, *South Asian History and Culture*, *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, and *South Asian Diaspora*. She has also contributed to *Stabroek News*, the edited book collections, *South Asian*

Transnationalisms (Routledge, 2012), *Beyond Windrush: Rethinking Postwar Anglophone Caribbean Literature* (University Press of Mississippi, 2015), and the forthcoming three-volume Cambridge University Press project entitled *Caribbean Literature in Transition*. She coedited a special 2012 issue of *The Caribbean Review of Gender Studies* that focused on Indo-Caribbean feminisms. She serves as Senior Editor of the *Journal of West Indian Literature* and is currently working on a manuscript about representations of Christianity in Caribbean women's writing. She is coeditor of *Indo-Caribbean Feminist Thought: Genealogies, Theories, Enactments* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). She served as a full-time faculty member at St. John's University in the Department of English from 2006 to 2012.



Melissa K. Peckins, Ph.D.

Dr. Peckins comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology. She received her Ph.D.

in Biobehavioral Health from the Pennsylvania State University.

Before joining St. John's University, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Pennsylvania State University and was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Dr. Peckins

investigates how youths' social and physical environments can become biologically embedded to influence vulnerability for behavior and health problems throughout development. Her interdisciplinary research incorporates behavioral measures, salivary biomarkers, neuroimaging, and advanced analytic approaches. Her future research will investigate the unique impact of different types of childhood adversity on neurobiological functioning, behavior, and health from a multisystem perspective.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



“Education is still, and always will be, the means to address the economic challenges facing our society. Our role as educators is to prepare professionals to have a significant positive impact on the economic vitality, well-being, and educational outcomes of the community.”

David Bell, Ed.D., *Dean*
The School of Education



Katherine C. Aquino, Ph.D.

Dr. Aquino comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership.

She received her Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership, Management, and Policy from Seton Hall University.

Dr. Aquino's research interests include the socio-academic transitioning into and within the higher education environment for students with disabilities, first generation students, and adult learners. She was the coeditor and contributing author of *Disability as Diversity in Higher Education: Policies and Practices*

to *Enhance Student Success*. Her second edited volume, *Improving Postsecondary Choice and Pathways: Student Access and College Match*, will explore the various components within the student-college match phenomenon, including mediators, agents, and programs designed to inform K–12 practitioners of pathways and opportunities to assist students in finding complementary postsecondary institutions. Dr. Aquino's work has appeared in the *Journal of the First-Year Experience & Students in Transition*, the *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*, and the *Review of Higher Education*.



Kyle DeMeo Cook, Ph.D.

Dr. Cook comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Education Specialties.

She completed her Ph.D. in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology and M.Ed. in Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation from Boston College's Lynch School of Education.

Dr. Cook has a decade of experience conducting applied research studies

with education practitioners and policymakers at the local, state, and national levels. Prior to joining St. John's University, she was a Senior Research Associate at the Education Development Center. Dr. Cook's research focuses on policy-relevant early childhood education issues. Specifically, her research addresses access to preschool, school readiness, the transition to kindergarten, and collaborations between the early childhood and K–12 education systems.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

THE PETER J. TOBIN
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



“The Tobin College of Business provides a curriculum that emphasizes experiential learning and areas of study including sustainability, FinTech, risk management, and analytics—all essential for understanding risk and uncertainty in our global economy.”

Norean R. Sharpe, Ph.D., *Dean*
The Peter J. Tobin College of Business



Juan Elias Chebly, Ph.D.

Dr. Chebly comes to St. John's University as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Economics and Finance. He earned his Ph.D. in

Sustainable Development Economics at Simón Bolívar University in Caracas, Venezuela. He received an M.B.A degree in Finance from the Tobin College of Business and has taught finance and economics as an adjunct since 2010.

Dr. Chebly also served as a Senior Researcher at the United Nations Environment and Development Programmes for the last six years

and has published policy reports on the topics of international public finance, financing of climate change policy, digital technologies for sustainable finance, and social inclusion in economic development policymaking. His current research focuses on climate finance for post-conflict development, particularly his home country of Venezuela. Dr. Chebly is also founder and serves as President of the Board of Give Me 5, an organization that trains and empowers community advocates to fulfill the UN Sustainable Development Goals at local levels.



Zenu Sharma, Ph.D.

Dr. Sharma comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics and Finance. She earned her Ph.D.

from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she was admitted with the prestigious Ellis and Karin Chingos '37 Fellowship.

Her main research interests are in the general area of corporate finance and FinTech. She is particularly interested in questions related to executive compensation, incentives in firms, innovation, and corporate governance. She is also

interested in emerging financial technologies. Her research has been published in journals such as the *Journal of Corporate Finance*, *Financial Management*, *Ecological Economics*, *Journal of Financial Stability*, and some others. She has presented her research at various national and international conferences. Her teaching experience includes a breadth of courses such as FinTech; Corporate Finance; Financial Management; Mergers and Acquisitions; Investments; Derivatives; Financial Markets and Institutions; and Money, Banking, and Capital Markets.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences



“It is our mission to train health-care professionals to work in diverse urban environments, to provide culturally competent care, and to help those who need it the most.”

Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D., *Dean*
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



CDR (Ret.) Harlem J. Gunness, Ph.D., MPH

Dr. Gunness is an Associate Professor/ Industry Professional in the Department of Pharmacy Administration and

Public Health, and Director of the Public Health program at St. John's University.

Prior to this position, he was a Senior Officer with the US Public Health Service stationed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, Quarantine Border Health Services Branch. There he conducted disease surveillance and epidemiological investigations on highly infectious communicable disease and managed the operations of the unprecedented 2014–16 Ebola entry screening program at the CDC's New York Quarantine Station at JFK International Airport.

Dr. Gunness interned as a health educator intern at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, at the time the only health-care center targeting the gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual community in New York City and the largest one in the country.

He returned to school to pursue a master's degree in Public Health at Hunter College, City University of New York. Following his MPH, Dr. Gunness worked as an HIV/AIDS Research Project Manager at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, Center for Comprehensive Care. He also served as a Public Health Specialist at JFK Quarantine Station in New York, and as a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Representative at the New York State Department of Health working with hospitals to enhance their preparedness initiatives for a bioterrorism incident.

Dr. Gunness returned to the CDC as a Public Health Advisor at the Newark, NJ, Quarantine Station, doing disease surveillance, partnership collaboration, emergency management, and health screening of immigrants and refugees. A year after, he joined the US Public Health Service and later enrolled as a doctoral student at Rutgers University focusing on Urban Health Systems. Dr. Gunness' interest lies with eradicating health disparities in marginalized, hard-to-reach, urban populations that are often overlooked in the public health system.



Alicia Esposito O'Hara, DPT, PT, NCS

Dr. O'Hara comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor/ Industry Professional in the Department of Clinical Health

Professions. Dr. O'Hara completed her Doctor of Physical Therapy from Boston University and is Board Certified in Neurologic Physical Therapy by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

Prior to coming to St. John's, Dr. O'Hara worked at NYU Langone Health's Rusk Rehabilitation as a Clinical Specialist where she was

responsible for the patient care of individuals with neurological conditions, program development, staff mentoring, and research. She developed Rusk Rehabilitation's first Physical Therapy Residency, where she served as the Neurological Physical Therapy Residency Coordinator. Her professional interests include high intensity locomotor training on the improvement of walking function poststroke and improving the efficiency of knowledge translation in the physical therapy setting in order to optimize health care outcomes.



Taehwan Park, Ph.D.

Dr. Park comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of

Pharmacy Administration and Public Health. He completed his Ph.D. in Social and Administrative Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota in December 2013.

Prior to joining St. John's University, he spent five years as an Assistant

Professor at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Dr. Park's research interests are in economic, clinical, and humanistic outcomes research to produce evidence that can be used as a basis for health-related decision making, including comparative effectiveness research, pharmacoepidemiology, and biostatistics.



Rosa Elena Torres-Panchame, DPT, PT

Dr. Torres-Panchame comes to St. John's University as the Director of Clinical Education, Assistant Professor/Industry

Professional in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program within the Department of Clinical Health Professions. Dr. Torres-Panchame graduated from Long Island University-Brooklyn with a Master of Science degree in Physical Therapy in 2004 and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in 2009. Currently, Dr. Torres-Panchame is in the dissertation phase of her Ph.D. in Physical Therapy at Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Torres-Panchame is a board-certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopedics. She has practiced physical therapy across both inpatient and outpatient settings for individuals with acute and chronic neurological and musculoskeletal injuries. Her treatment approach integrates techniques from various manual therapy frameworks and neuromuscular re-education approaches with a focus on return to function and restoration of quality of life.

In the last 11 years of practice, Dr. Torres-Panchame has worked full time at LIU-Brooklyn in various academic and clinical roles spanning from Clinical Director of an on-campus clinic to Director of Physical Therapy Admissions and faculty member. She is currently the Vice-Chair of the Greater NY District under the New York Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. She is a fellowship candidate of the Medical Educator Fellowship Program under the International Association of Medical Science Educators and has served as a board member and volunteer for a nonprofit organization, providing physical therapy and other health-related services to the homeless community within long-term shelters.

Dr. Torres-Panchame's teaching concentrations vary around orthopedics, teaching and learning in the clinic and classroom, and clinical reasoning. Her research interests are in emotional intelligence, the professional behavior formation of student physical therapists, moral and clinical based reasoning, and diversity within the physical therapy profession.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



“Practical experiences, study abroad, capstones, internships, and the integration of social sciences into professional knowledge ready our students not only for today’s jobs, but for the professions of the future.”

Katia Passerini, Ph.D., PMP, *Dean*
College of Professional Studies



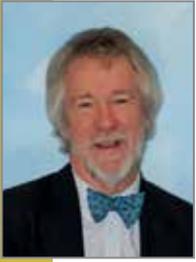
Syed Ahmad Chan Bukhari, Ph.D.

Dr. Bukhari comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor and Director of Healthcare Informatics in the Division of

Computer Science, Mathematics, and Science. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of New Brunswick, Canada, and then went on to complete his postdoctoral fellowship at Yale School of Medicine, where he worked with the Stanford University Center of Expanded Data Annotation and Retrieval to develop data submission pipelines to improve scientific experimental reproducibility. His current research efforts are concentrated on addressing several

core problems in the area of healthcare informatics and data science. He particularly focuses on devising techniques to semantically federate heterogeneous biomedical data and to further develop clinical predictive models for disease prediction. These techniques further alleviate many data access-related challenges faced by health-care providers.

Dr. Bukhari is a distinguished speaker for the Association for Computing Machinery and serves as an editorial board member of multiple scientific journals. His research work is published in many top-tier journals and highlighted by various technology blogs and media.



Geoffrey Dick, Ph.D.

Dr. Dick comes to the College of Professional Studies as a Visiting Associate Professor in the Division of Computer Science, Mathematics,

and Science. He received his Ph.D. from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. He was first appointed Professor of Information Systems at Dowling College in Oakdale, NY, in 2009, and has subsequently taught at Georgia Southern, George Washington University, and Northern Arizona.

Dr. Dick has been a screening editor for the *Journal of Information and Management*. He is an Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology Commissioner, with expertise in information systems and has chaired several visits for the National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Assessment in Saudi Arabia. He is a long-term co-chair of the Education track at the Americas Conference on Information

Systems (AMCIS) and is a doctoral consortium co-chair for AMCIS 2019. His research (which totals close to 100 publications) is mainly in the areas of telecommuting (his Ph.D.) and online education.

He is the recipient of the International Conference on Information Systems prize for best paper in education and was awarded the 2009 Emerald Management Review Citation of Excellence for one of the best papers published worldwide in the top 400 business journals. Dr. Dick has been a visiting fellow at University of California, Davis; the University of Malaya; the Tec de Monterrey in Mexico; and the University of Agder in Norway. He has taught in the prestigious programs of the ESAN University Summer School in Lima, Peru; the CETYS Universidad International Summer Program in Ensenada; and at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México in Mexico City.



Nancy DiTunnariello, Ph.D.

Dr. DiTunnariello comes to the College of Professional Studies as an Assistant Professor in

the Division of Mass Communication after teaching for three years within St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She works with students and faculty on St. John's Staten Island, NY, campus, and will continue to serve St. John's as the Director of the Communication Arts program for the Staten Island campus. She received her B.A. in Advertising/Public Relations from Penn State University;

her M.A. in Communication from Kean University; and her Ph.D. in Communication from North Dakota State University.

Before her time at St. John's, Dr. DiTunnariello worked as an Associate Director of the NDSU Communication Research and Training Center. Her research involves interpersonal communication, specifically family and romantic relationships, and various channels including online and face-to-face communication.



Elisabeth Fondren, Ph.D.

Dr. Fondren comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor of Journalism in the Division of Mass Communication. She received her Ph.D.

in Media and Public Affairs from Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication. She holds an M.A. in International Journalism from City, University of London, and a B.A. in German and English Philology, Literature, and Cultural Studies from Heidelberg University.

Her research focuses on the history of journalism and media institutions, propaganda, media and war, and international communication. She is actively involved in the American Journalism Historians Association and the Association

for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) History Division. Her dissertation, "'Breathless Zeal and Careless Confidence': German Propaganda in World War I," has been selected as an Honorable Mention for the 2019 American Journalism Historians Association Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize.

Dr. Fondren has published her work in peer-reviewed journals including *American Journalism*, *Journal of Public Affairs*, *Media History, Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture*, and *Southeastern Review of Journalism History*. Her professional experiences span from government public relations, print and online journalism, to corporate communications in Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



Christopher Martinez, Ph.D.

Dr. Martinez comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Criminal Justice, Legal Studies, and Homeland Security.

Before joining St. John's, he was an Assistant Professor in the City University of New York, teaching criminal justice courses.

He received his Ph.D. in Homeland Security Leadership and Policy from Northcentral University. His dissertation research focused on the job satisfaction of undercover officers. He also earned a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from Saint Leo University. His research interests include undercover operations, intelligence collection, transnational crime, money laundering, cybercrime, leadership, mentoring, diversity, and retention.

Dr. Martinez retired in 2014 after a 27-year career in federal law

enforcement. He began his career with the United States Customs Service, Office of Enforcement, as a Special Agent. Through progressive levels of responsibility, he rose to the level of Assistant Special Agent in Charge with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Homeland Security Investigations. He was assigned to investigative field offices in California, Florida, Virginia, and New Jersey.

One of the highlights of his career was his selection as the DHS Attaché for Central America within the US embassy in Panama. He provided leadership and had oversight of all strategic and tactical communications with US embassy staff and foreign counterparts. He is also a US Army Reserves Intelligence Warrant Officer. He is excited to share his applied and theoretical knowledge with students at St. John's University.



Suzanna Schmeelk, Ed.D.

Dr. Schmeelk comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the College of Professional Studies, Division of Computer

Science, Mathematics, and Science, with more than 10 years of technical information security industry experience at organizations including the City of New York; Bell Laboratories, Inc.; Yahoo!; eBay; Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Battelle; NewYork-Presbyterian; and the Paradyne Corporation. Additionally, Dr. Schmeelk spent more than 10 years teaching and as a visiting researcher in STEAM (i.e., Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) at numerous organizations (i.e., Rutgers University, Pace University, University of Maryland University College, Cooper Union, Touro University, University of California at Berkeley, Columbia University, New York University, Parsons

School of Design, and The New York Academy of Science).

Dr. Schmeelk has an Ed.D. in Mathematics Education from Rutgers University with a D.P.S. in Computing, specializing in Mobile Security, from Pace University expected in 2020. Dr. Schmeelk has M.S. degrees in Data Visualization, Computer Science, and Technology Management; with an M.S. in Cybersecurity expected in 2019. Her B.S. is in Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics. Finally, Dr. Schmeelk holds two state certificates in Cybersecurity from Stanford University and New York University, along with multiple industry certifications.

Dr. Schmeelk's research interests lie in mathematics education, mobile/health technology security, special topics in cybersecurity, machine learning, cybersecurity risk management, and social justice.



Erald Troja, Ph.D.

Dr. Troja comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Science, and as the Program Director for its

Cybersecurity program. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from The Graduate Center, City University of New York. Prior to joining St. John's, Dr. Troja served as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Iona College, teaching cybersecurity courses.

Dr. Troja's research interests include security and privacy, with a focus on secure and privacy-preserving

computations, location privacy, and applied cryptography, as well as mobile computing with a focus on location-based services, spatial databases, cognitive radio networks and delay tolerant networks. His recent publications have been accepted at top-tier conferences such as ICNC (International Conference on Computing, Networking and Communications), MILCOM (Military Communications Conference), VTC (Vehicular Technology Conference), SIGSPATIAL (International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems), ICC (International Conference on Communications), and in the journal *Elsevier Ad Hoc Networks*.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW



“The success of our graduates is what defines St. John’s Law, and that success comes from the strength of our faculty: outstanding scholars, dedicated teachers, and experienced lawyers.”

Michael A. Simons, J.D., *Dean*
School of Law



Renee Nicole Allen, J.D.

Prof. Allen joins the Law School as an Assistant Professor of Legal Writing. She received her J.D. degree from the University of Florida Levin

College of Law and her B.A. in English Literature from Mercer University. She also has a Master of Science degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Tennessee.

Prior to joining the Law School, she held faculty and administrator

positions in law school academic support and bar preparation. In those roles, she helped law students find success in law school, on the bar exam, and in the practice of law. Her recent publications focus on social justice, legal education, millennials, and educational psychology. Prior to her academic career, she practiced family law, including appellate practice.



Catherine Baylin Duryea, J.D.

Prof. Duryea joins the Law School in 2019 as an Assistant Professor of Law. She comes from Stanford University, where she earned her

J.D. and is completing her Ph.D. in History. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in Middle East Studies from the American University in Cairo and a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Political Science from Stanford.

Prof. Duryea is a legal historian who researches human rights, comparative

constitutional development, and administrative law. She has authored two book chapters on Arab human rights movements, the subject of her dissertation. She will teach administrative law and legal history. Prof. Duryea clerked for the Honorable Edwin Cameron of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Prior to coming to St. John's, she was the Charles W. McCurdy Fellow in Legal History at UVA Law and a Fulbright-Hays scholar in Morocco and Kuwait.



Courtney Selby, J.D., MLIS

Prof. Selby comes to the School of Law as the Associate Dean for Library Services and Associate Professor of Legal Research. Prior

to her appointment at St. John's, she served as the Associate Dean for Information Services, Director of the Law Library, and Professor of Law at Hofstra Law School, earning recognition for her teaching, scholarship, and work in the field of law librarianship. She received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Tulsa, a Master's of Library and Information Studies from the University of Oklahoma, and a J.D. from the University of Tulsa.

She is actively involved in the American Association of Law

Libraries, serving in a number of leadership roles in several of the association's special interest sections, and continues to publish in the areas of legal research and law librarianship. Additionally, she is involved with the Association of American Law Schools Section on Technology, Law, and Legal Education, and has developed student-centered programming to support curricular initiatives at the intersection of law and technology. In addition to her work in the law library and in information technology, Prof. Selby teaches advanced legal research courses for the law school, with an emphasis in developing both strategy-based and practice-ready research skills for a new generation of legal professionals.



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



“There is no way to avoid the sweeping changes coming our way in how we interact with information. Now is the time to lean in and participate in all transformative practices and activities that will advance scholarship, learning, and human collaboration. Libraries are uniquely poised to do this. Libraries can *be* this change.”

Valeda F. Dent, Ph.D., *Dean*
University Libraries



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

8000 Utopia Parkway
Queens, NY 11439

300 Howard Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10301

101 Astor Place
New York, NY 10003

Via Marcantonio Colonna, 21A
Rome, Italy 00192

This brochure reflects all new faculty members at the time of publication. Please visit www.stjohns.edu/about/leadership-and-administration/administrative-offices/office-provost/new-faculty-information for the latest list.