

Conference Hosts & Special Guests



Nicole N. Aljoe, PhD

Conference Co-Chair | Professor of English & Africana Studies; Faculty affiliate, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program; Faculty affiliate, NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks; Dean's Leadership Fellow for Public Engagement, Diversity, and Research, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Northeastern University



David Madigan, PhD

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Northeastern University



Angela Chang

Associate Teaching Professor of Marketing, D'Amore-McKim School of Business



Irene Mata, PhD

Barbara Morris Caspersen Associate Professor of Humanities and Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Wellesley College



Patricia Davis, PhD

Conference Co-Chair | Associate Professor of Communication Studies, College of Arts, Media and Design, Northeastern University



Mary Jo Ondrechen, PhD

Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, College of Science, Northeastern University

“ We must continue to rebel through our research and our praxis of thinking and doing ethnic studies, creating our own pockets of freedom in our classrooms, our communities of sustenance and belonging. We must continue to sing against the aggressors and oppressors as did my great-grandmother Julia, to unite in protest, and to rebel in community. La lucha sigue. ”

Lorgia García Peña, *Community as Rebellion: A Syllabus for Surviving Academia as a Woman of Color*

Keynote Speaker



Lorgia García Peña

Chair & Professor, Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora, Tufts University; Author of *Community as Rebellion: A Syllabus for Surviving Academia as a Woman of Color*

Dr. Lorgia García Peña is a writer, activist, and scholar who specializes in Latinx Studies with a focus on Black Latinidades. Her work is concerned with the ways in which antiblackness and xenophobia intersect the Global North producing categories of exclusion that lead to violence and erasure. Through her writing and teaching, Dr. García Peña insists on highlighting the knowledge, cultural, social, and political contributions of people who have been silenced from traditional archives. She is the author of three books: the award-winning *The Borders of Dominicanidad: Race, Nation and Archives of Contradiction* (Duke, 2016), which was translated and published in Spanish by Editorial Bonó in 2020; *Translating Blackness: Latinx Colonialities in Global Perspective* (Duke, 2022); and *Community as Rebellion* (Haymarket, 2022). Additionally, her work has been covered in several publications including the New York Times, the Washington Post, The New Yorker, The Boston Review, and Harper's Bazaar. She has appeared on CNN, BBC, MSNBC, Univision, and Telemundo, and is a regular contributor to NACLA and Aster(ix) Journals.

An engaged scholar committed to liberating education and bridging the gaps that separate the communities she comes from (Black, immigrant, working) and the university, Dr. García Peña is also a co-founder of Freedom University Georgia, a school that provides college instruction to undocumented students, and the co-director of Archives of Justice, a transnational digital archive project that centers the life of people who identify as Black, queer, and migrant. She has been widely recognized for her public-facing work: in 2022 she received the Angela Y. Davis Prize for Public Scholarship, in 2021 the Marguerite Casey Foundation named her a Freedom Scholar, and in 2017 the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) presented her a Disobedience Award for the co-founding of Freedom University. Additionally, her scholarship has been supported by the Ford Foundation, The Johns Hopkins University African Diaspora Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, and the Future of Minority Studies Fellowship.

García Peña received a PhD in American Culture from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and an M.A. in Latin American and Latino Literature from Rutgers University. Currently, she serves as the Mellon Professor and Chair of the Department in Studies of Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora at Tufts University.

Chairs' Panel

MODERATOR



Nicole Guidotti-Hernández

**Executive Director, Mills Institute,
Northeastern University**

Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández is a recognized author, educator, researcher, and speaker on transnational feminisms, critical race studies, and Latinx studies. She joined Northeastern University as the inaugural executive director of the Mills Institute in December 2022.

PANELISTS



Elora Halim Chowdhury, PhD

**Professor of Women's, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies, College of Liberal
Arts; Director, Human Rights Minor;
Affiliate Faculty, Asian Studies
Dept; Asian American Studies
Program; Cinema Studies Program;
Dept of Conflict Resolution, Human
Security and Global Governance;
Affiliated Researcher, Consortium on
Gender, Security, and Human Rights,
University of Massachusetts Boston**

Elora Halim Chowdhury is Professor, a former Chair in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Director of the Human Rights Program at UMass Boston. Her teaching and research interests include transnational feminisms, gender violence and human rights advocacy, narrative and film with an emphasis on South Asia. She is the author of *Ethical Encounters: Transnational Feminism, Human Rights, and War Cinema in Bangladesh* (2022). Her first book, *Transnationalism Reversed: Women Organizing Against Gendered Violence in Bangladesh* (2011), was awarded the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Gloria Anzaldúa book prize in 2012. She served as the Vice President of the National Women's Studies Association (2016-2018), and edits a book series, titled *Dissident Feminisms*, for the University of Illinois Press.



María Elena Villar, PhD

Professor and Chair, Northeastern University; Professor, Communication, Florida International University

María Elena Villar is a Professor of Communication Studies and Department Chair at Northeastern University's College of Arts, Media and Design. Her research focuses on community engagement with underrepresented and hyper-vulnerable populations in the intersection of strategic communication and health/science communication. Villar's work is based on applied projects that incorporate mixed methods and participatory approaches. She has co-created serious games for the prevention and awareness of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Colombia, and adapted that work for Latinx youth in South Florida. Villar has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and has been Principal Investigator on NIH-funded pilot grants. She holds a Master's in Public Health and a PhD in communication from the University of Miami.



Marilyn L. Minus, PhD

Professor and Chair, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Northeastern University

Marilyn Minus is a Professor and Chair for the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Northeastern University. Prior to joining the faculty at Northeastern she was a Research Scientist at Georgia Institute of Technology in the School of Polymer, Textile, and Fiber Engineering.


Dr. Minus' research interests concern the structure-property relationships in nano-composites. Dr. Minus' research is also focused in the area of fabrication and characterization of advanced high-performance polymer nano-composites. Polymers of interest include mainly those of linear architectures and biopolymers. Her work also looks at the interfacial interaction of these polymers with carbon nano-materials to understand morphological behavior in high-performance composites.



Serena Parekh, PhD

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, Northeastern University

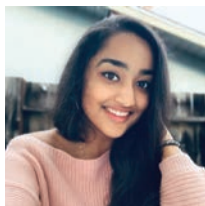
Serena Parekh is a Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion. She co-edits the journal, *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*. She is the author of three books, including her most recent book, *No Refuge: Ethics and the Global Refugee Crisis* (Oxford 2020), which won the North American Society for Social Philosophy Book Award, the *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title Award, and was a finalist for the PROSE award for Philosophy from the Association of American Publishers. Professor Parekh has been interviewed as an expert on refugees in a wide variety of media including the *New York Times*, BBC World Service, *The Atlantic*, *Foreign Policy*, *Al Jazeera*, *Newsweek*, ABC News, *Bloomberg*, *Slate*, and CTV News in Canada, among others.



“ *What would the ideal university look like? It would look like a group of scholars of all races and ethnicities centering the work, histories, and artistic production of marginalized, minoritized, and colonized Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, immigrant, disabled, and queer people rather than viewing them as objects of study.* ”

Lorgia García Peña, *Community as Rebellion:
A Syllabus for Surviving Academia as a Woman of Color*

Breakout Session Leaders



Yamini Adusumelli

Medical Student, Boston University
School of Medicine



Christina L. Dobbs

Assistant Professor, Program Director,
English Education, Wheelock College
of Education & Human Development,
Boston University



Sadaf Ali

Associate Professor, School of
Communication, Media and Theatre Arts
Eastern Michigan University



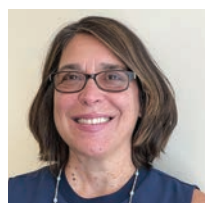
Elianny Edwards

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Lynch School of Education and Human
Development, Boston College



Cassandra Barragan

Associate Professor, Aging Studies
Program Director, Social Work,
Eastern Michigan University



Dana Fusco

Dean, Graduate School of Education,
Lesley University



Inette Bolden

Early Childhood Specialist,
Montgomery County Child Care Support
Services, Rockville, Maryland



Latesha Fussell

Director of Diversity & Inclusion
for the College of Architecture, Art,
& Planning, Cornell University



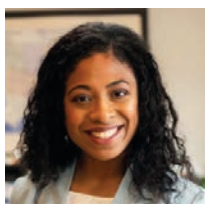
Shanae Chapman

Founder, CEO, & Managing Director,
Nerdy Diva



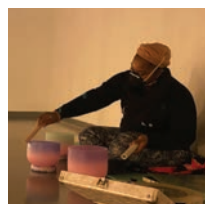
Michelle Miller Groves

Executive Director, Center for
Computing and Interdisciplinary
Technology, Benjamin Franklin
Cummings Institute of Technology



Adrianna E. Crossing

Assistant Professor, Bouvé College of
Health Sciences, Northeastern University



Clareese Hill

Postdoctoral Research Associate,
College of Arts, Media and Design,
Northeastern University



Ziza Delgado Noguera

Assistant Professor & Chair, Ethnic
Studies, Chicana/Latinx Studies,
Social Justice Movements,
Women of Color Feminisms,
Fullerton College



Nidhi Lal

Clinical Associate Professor,
Department of Family Medicine,
Boston University Chobanian and
Avedisian School of Medicine



Chris Montecillo Leider
Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts, University of Massachusetts Boston



Tracy Robinson-Wood
Professor, Applied Psychology, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University



Chieh Li
Associate Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University



Anvitha Sathya
Medical Student, Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine



Dyann C. Logwood
Assistant Professor, Women's and Gender Studies, Eastern Michigan University



Felicia Waldron
Doctoral Student, School Psychology, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University



Prasida Unni
Doctor of Medicine Student, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine



Janie Victoria Ward
Professor Emerita, Critical Race, Gender, and Cultural Studies, and Education, Simmons University



Shannon Musgrove
Advisor, Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives, Cornell University



Trina Lynn Yearwood
Founder, Teachers Ready to Educate, Advocate and Transform; Interim Associate Dean, School of Education, Queens College



“ *I was not born rebellious; I was nurtured into rebellion. My caregivers, my grandma and aunties, not only allowed it; they fostered it. . . . It was their community that made my rebellion possible.* ”

Lorgia García Peña, *Community as Rebellion: A Syllabus for Surviving Academia as a Woman of Color*