

2021 Virginia Humanities **CONFERENCE**

SPONSORED BY VIRGINIA TECH

MARCH 24-25 AND MARCH 31-APRIL 1, 2021

**DEMOCRACY, TECHNOLOGY,
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:
HUMANITIES IN AN
UNEQUAL WORLD**



**VHC 2021 REGISTRATION
LINK:
[TINYURL.COM/VHC2021](https://tinyurl.com/vhc2021)**

2021 Virginia Humanities Conference Program

Wednesday, March 24 2021

2:00 PM (EDT)

Welcome & Introduction

Sylvester Johnson, Virginia Tech

Keynote Lecture

Renée Cummings, University of Virginia

["Democracy, Data, and Social Justice"](#)

Q&A

3:15 PM BREAK

3:30 PM EDT

Panel 01: Fake News, Political Affiliation, and the Role of Social Media to Preserve Democracy

Moderator: Katalin Parti, Virginia Tech

Poster Presentation

Brandi Fabel, Marymount University

"Human Factors Engineering: Taking a Close Look at Human Computer Interaction (HCI)"

Panel 02: Humanities, Justice and Social Change

Moderator: Clayton Brooks, Mary Baldwin University

Panelists:

Katie Logan, Virginia Commonwealth University

"Humanities in the Context of Settler Colonialism: Resistance, Preservation, and Re-imagining in Occupied Palestine"

Tatiana Loarca, Christopher Newport University

"Violence against Women and Social Inequalities"

David Wang, James Madison University

"Nourish: a system to review nutritious foods, improve awareness of healthy eating, and revitalize our community"

Thursday, March 25 2021, 2:00 PM EDT

Panel 03: "Shaka, when the walls fell (?)" – How Captain Picard, Darmok, and Gilgamesh re-think the threats and limitations of Technology"

Moderator: John M. Thompson, Christopher Newport University

Panelists: Colin Bunn, Colin Good Pasture, Sarah Poole (CNU students)

Panel 04: "Memes and misinformation: I can haz information fluency"

Moderator: Oscar Keyes, Virginia Commonwealth University

Presenters: Oscar Keyes, Virginia Commonwealth University

Jennifer A. Stout, Virginia Commonwealth University

Panel 05: Technology, Health, and Human Security

Moderator: Kip Redick, Christopher Newport University

Panelists:

Judith Rogers Fruiterman, Marymount University

"Health Disparities Considered in the Context of Social Justice"

Shaun Respass, Virginia Tech

"Going Telemental: Contact & Intimacy in Digital Mental Health"

Hannah Glasson, Virginia Tech

"Spatial Biosecurity and the Politics of Intentional Relation: Alternatives to Hegemonic Narratives of Informationalized Life"

3:15 PM BREAK

Thursday, March 25 2021, 3:30 PM EDT

Panel 06: Ethics, Justice, and Cyber Systems

Moderator: Kevin Vaccarella, John Tyler Community College

Panelists:

Osei Hyiamang, Fairfax County Health Department

"How would Cybersecurity Protect Election Integrity in Transitional Democracies?"

Sara Wenger, Virginia Tech

"Fantasies of Domination: Exploring Technoliberalism's Influence on Sexual Technologies"

Matthew Shadle, Marymount University

"Autonomous Weapons Systems and Moral Reasoning on the Battlefield"

Panel 07: Democracy, Gender, and Literacy

Moderator: Renee Garris, Germanna Community College

Panelists:

Yogita Suresh, Ambedkar University Delhi

"The Emergence of 'Femtech' and the Perpetuation of Gender Inequality- A Study on Period-Tracking Applications"

Tonya-Marie Howe, Marymount University

"Tools for Critical Digital Literacy: The Promise of OER"

Matt Brigham, James Madison University

"On the Vital Role of the Humanities in Supporting Democracy and Social Justice in These "Post-Truth"/"Fake News" Times"

Kara Dillard, James Madison University

"Repairing democracy using deliberative civic technology: How design features in Common Ground for Action can address inequalities in political participation."

Wednesday, March 31 2021, 2:00 PM EDT

Panel 08: "Civically Engaged Faculty Tackle Current Topics Using An Interdisciplinary Technological Approach"

Moderator: Adrienne Hooker, James Madison University

Presenters: Adrienne Hooker, James Madison University

Carah Whaley, James Madison University

Cathy Copeland, James Madison University

Panel 09: "Piedmont Tuberculosis Sanatorium: Race, Identity, and Health Policy in Virginia"

Moderator: Tom Ewing, Virginia Tech

Project Team:

Katherine Randall, Virginia Tech

Kiana Wilkerson, Virginia Tech

3:15 PM BREAK

Wednesday, March 31 2021, 3:30 PM EDT

Plenary Roundtable: "Humanities Education, Integration and Engagement"

Moderator: Tom Ewing, Virginia Tech

Panelists:

Victoria Sams, National Endowment for the Humanities

Robert Townsend, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Jessica Taylor, Virginia Tech

Lucien Holness, Virginia Tech

Ashley Bear, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

Merry Byrd, Virginia State University

Thursday, April 1 2021, 1:00 PM EDT

Business Meeting- Delegates only

Virginia Humanities Conference Delegates

Thursday, April 1 2021, 2:00 PM EDT

Panel 10: "Technology and Justice in the South Asian Context"

Moderator: Trevor Jeyaraj JS, Virginia Tech

Presenters: Trevor Jeyaraj JS, Virginia Tech

Wenceslaus Mendes, Independent filmmaker, India

Jebasingh Samuvel, Church of South India, Sri Lanka
Anwarul Hoda, Citizens Together Initiative, India

Panel 11: "Identity and Society in Literature and Theory"

Moderator: Nicoletta Pireddu, Georgetown University

Panelists:

Kierra M. Porter, Howard University

"Droning a drowsy syncopated tune": The Representation of Black Masculinity, Music, and Feeling in Langston Hughes's "The Weary Blues" and Other Selected Poems"

Lori Graham, Radford University

"Repeated injuries and usurpations": Alcott's The Long Fatal Love Chase and the 19th Century Discourse of Female Liberty"

Brian Britt, Virginia Tech

"Walter Benjamin's American Humanities"

Panel 12: "Dr. Goodman is Right on the Job: Gender and the politics of public health during the 1918 Influenza epidemic"

Moderator: Tom Ewing, Virginia Tech

Co-authors:

Ariel Ludwig, (Class of 2020, Virginia Tech)

Jessica Brabble, Virginia Tech

3:15 PM BREAK

Thursday, April 1, 2021, 3:30 PM

Panel 13: "Power, Publishing, and the Digital Revolution"

Moderator: Robert Browder, Virginia Tech

Panelists: Robert Browder, Virginia Tech

Andrea Baldwin, Virginia Tech

Trichia Cadette, Virginia Tech

Peter Potter, Virginia Tech

Joe Forte, Virginia Tech

Nana Afua Brantuo, University of Maryland

Panel 14: Religion, Theater, and Politics

Moderator: Chris Arndt, James Madison University

Panelists:

Sarah Plummer, Virginia Tech

"Difference and Otherness in Puppet Theater"

Dawn Hutchinson, Christopher Newport University

"Religion Reimagined Digitally"

Sean Keck, Radford University

"Documenting Dispossession: The Politics of Photography in Richard Wright"

Panel 15: Big Tech, Ecofascism, and Public Interest

Moderator: Marwood Larson-Harris, Roanoke College

Panelists:

Emmanuel Wansi, Marymount University

"Tech Firms and First Amendments"

Lee Pierson, Thinking Skills Institute

"AI and Human Freedom: Overcoming Algorithmic Bias and Fragility"

Lantz Shifflett, James Madison University

"Fascist 'Snakeoils': A Burkean Rhetorical Criticism of Contemporary Ecofascist Manifestos"

2021 Virginia Humanities Conference URLs:

Conference Schedule: <http://tinyurl.com/vhc2021schedule>

Conference Slack Channel: <http://tinyurl.com/vhc2021slack>

Conference Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/VHC2021>

Conference Keynote: <http://tinyurl.com/vhckeynote>

Presenter and Participant Profiles

2021 Virginia Humanities Conference

Andrea Baldwin

Dr. Andrea Baldwin is the Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and African Studies programs at Virginia Tech. Baldwin is a Black feminist scholar who taught the Black feminisms graduate seminar from which this project sprang. Dr. Baldwin is the Co-creator and host of Standpoints Black feminist podcast.

Nana Afua Brantuo

Nana Afua Brantuo is a Ph.D. Candidate, University of Maryland, College Park; Adjunct Professor, the George Washington University; Black Feminist researcher, writer, and scholar; Co-Editor for Standpoints.

Matthew Brigham

Matthew ("Matt") P. Brigham, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication Studies at James Madison University. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in areas including advocacy and rhetoric and in interdisciplinary programs in political communication, environmental communication, and sports communication. His research uses theories of rhetoric and argument to examine public and academic controversy and to examine how taken-for-granted notions about elements like temporality shape individual and collective worldviews, including in particular those from non-dominant marginalized/resistant cultures and communities. brighamp@jmu.edu

Brian Britt

Brian Britt is a professor of religion and cultural theory in the Department of Religion and Culture at Virginia Tech. His books include *Walter Benjamin and the Bible* (Continuum, 1996), *Biblical Curses and the Displacement of Tradition* (Sheffield Phoenix, 2011), *Postsecular Benjamin: Agency and Tradition* (Northwestern University Press, 2016), and *Religion Around Walter Benjamin* (in process with Penn State University Press).

Robert Browder

Robert Browder is a Publishing specialist with Virginia Tech Publishing. Coordinates publishing projects from planning to publication. He creates flexible publishing solutions for the Virginia Tech community by providing collaborative workflows and consultation on associated publishing technologies.

Trichia Cadette

Trichia Cadette is a Graduate Student in the School of Performing Arts and Women and Gender Studies at Virginia Tech. Cadette's Research focuses on Radical Community Care as an act of arts organizing. Contributing writer and illustrator for Standpoints, and Podcast co-creator and co-host.

Cathy Copeland

Cathy Copeland is an Instructor in the Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication Department at James Madison University and Program Coordinator for AASCU's American Democracy Project. Cathy has taught for more than 10 years at institutions in Indiana, Alabama, and Virginia. At JMU, in addition to teaching courses on writing, she regularly taught JMU Xlabs courses, which focus on innovation and design thinking through a multidisciplinary lens. Cathy's pedagogical interests, merged with a facility for and interest in political rhetoric, led to her work as a JMU Center for Civic Engagement Fellow in 2019. In 2020, Cathy began work at AASCU's American Democracy Project, where she designed the pivot to a fully virtual CLDE20 conference.

Renée Cummings

Renée Cummings is a criminologist, criminal psychologist, therapeutic jurisprudence specialist, AI ethicist and the historic first Data Activist in Residence, at The School of Data Science, University of Virginia. Renée is also a community scholar at Columbia University. Advocating for AI we can trust, accountable, transparent, explainable, responsible and principled as well as more diverse, equitable, and inclusive, Renée is on the frontline of ethical AI, generating real time responses to many of the consequences of AI and the impacts of data on society. Renée specializes in AI risk management, algorithmic justice, AI policy and governance, and using AI to save lives. She is committed to using AI to empower and transform communities by helping governments and organizations navigate the AI landscape and develop future AI leaders. Renée works at the intersection of AI, criminal justice, racial justice, social justice, design justice, epidemiological and urban criminology. She is on the Board of Advisors of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. She's a founding board member of the new Springer journal AI Ethics. She is also on the board of Women in Voice as well as on the board of Inspired Minds, producers of the World Summit AI. Renée lectures extensively on AI and Data Ethics and contributed significantly to the creation of the first Ethical Emerging Technologist certification. Many of her lectures are available on Coursera. Renée is committed to fusing AI with criminal justice for ethical real time solutions to improve law enforcement accountability and transparency, reduce violence, enhance public safety, public health, quality of life, community efficacy and community resilience. A thought-leader, motivational speaker, and mentor, Renée has

mastered the art of creative storytelling and deconstructing complex topics into critical everyday conversations that inform and inspire.

Thomas Dearden

Dr. Dearden is assistant professor of sociology at Virginia Tech. Dr. Dearden specializes in research on technology and crime, and corporate crime. He has conducted research for organizations across the globe, including the Polynesian Cultural Center in Hawaii, Food for Life Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh, India, and Pay Tel in North Carolina. He has published his research in peer-reviewed journals including *The Journal of Financial Crime* and *The Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling* and has presented at a dozen different conferences.

Brandi Fabel

Brandi's industry experience is in systems engineering for NASA and the Department of Defense. She works with NASA through the GRC NGFFP program during summer contracts when called. During the academic years, Brandi continues to work with NASA from Indiana lending her skills to several proposals and academic objectives such as the Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP), The Community College Aerospace Scholars Program (NCAS), and the NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship program (NSTRF), among others when opportunities arise for her or her students. Brandi works with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) in global research and peer reviews. Her latest reviews on cybersecurity education research will be published Fall 2020. Her latest manuscript publication discusses the SDLC within cybersecurity project management and is accepted for publication in the ACM Digital Library and the IEEE Xplore Library with an offer for oral presentation at the 2020 IEEE 2nd International Conference on Circuits and Systems (ICCS 2020) in Chengdu, China, unattended due to COVID. So far, in 2021, Brandi will speak for Virginia Tech at the Virginia Humanities Conference, and ACM's CAPWIC and WIT LOU, both women in computing organizations to help see a rise in qualified females between IT pathways and reliable careers with equal pay. This is a passion of Brandi's and she will continue to work and speak out on its driven-purpose for years to come. Brandi will graduate with a Doctorate in Cybersecurity Science from Marymount University, in December 2021.

Joe Forte

Joe Forte is a Digital Humanities Specialist with Virginia Tech Publishing in the Libraries. Joe provides media production support for faculty and students partnering with VTPub, including within the production of a podcast series deriving from the Standpoints class and book.

Judith Fruiterman

Dr. Judith Fruiterman earned her PhD in Nursing Administration from George Mason University in 2006. Her early career was spent at the bedside in a variety of clinical nursing positions in acute care, Women's Health. Beginning in 1988, Dr. Fruiterman served in several leadership, acute care positions. These include serving as the Executive Director of Women's Services and Chief Nursing Officer and Associate Administrator of Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, a 180 bed facility in Northern Virginia. Dr. Fruiterman was recruited by Holy Cross Health in 2001 where she served in multiple leadership roles including Chief Nursing Officer, Vice President of Operations and eventually President of Holy Cross Hospital, a 500 bed tertiary acute care center in Silver Spring Maryland. While serving in this capacity, Dr. Fruiterman was responsible for opening the first Seniors Emergency Department on the Kevin J Sexton Campus of Holy Cross Health, exclusively serving seniors in need of emergency services. This innovative model of senior services became the framework for others across the country and in Canada. Dr. Fruiterman lectured extensively on creating and sustaining the model working with AHRQ to establish guidelines for program design.

During this time, Dr. Fruiterman was also active in a variety of academic roles. She served as the Perinatal Educator of Georgetown University Hospital where she earned recognition as Nurse of the Year in Women's Health. Dr. Fruiterman also worked in the Georgetown University Hospital Center for Clinical Bioethics as part of her PhD studies. Recruited by Marymount University in 2000, she worked as an adjunct and visiting professor. In 2017, Dr. Fruiterman accepted a new role as Executive Director of Asbury Place Maryville, a senior living community in Maryville Tennessee. In this role, Dr. Fruiterman administered a 160 bed Skilled Nursing Facility, Independent Living properties and an Assisted Living complex. During this time, Dr. Fruiterman implemented a new approach to senior community living, the Household Model. This model eliminates the institutional like environment of traditional senior living entities and instead creates small, homelike communities for elder care. Currently, Dr. Fruiterman serves as Executive Director of Asbury Communities Home Health in Gaithersburg, Maryland and also continues in her role as Associate Professor at Marymount University. Her current research agenda is focused on 'Exploring Political Astuteness and Civic Skills among Registered Nurses'. This project is intended to explore the level of civic engagement among registered nurses in the United States.

Hannah Glasson

Hannah Glasson is currently a second year PhD Student in the Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought at Virginia Tech. Hannah situates her research at the intersection of environmental political thought and the history and philosophy of science. She is also an instructor for the philosophy department at Virginia Tech.

Lori Graham

Lori Graham is a Graduate Teaching Fellow in the English department at Radford University. She will also be graduating with a certificate in Appalachian Studies and is currently completing her thesis titled "Steep Hills: Stories of Food and Farming." Additionally, she provides interpreting and captioning services to students with disabilities at both Radford and Virginia Tech universities. As a local and outdoor adventurer, she enjoys kayaking, mountain biking, and taking in all the beauty that the Blue Ridge Mountains have to offer.

James Hawdon

Dr. Hawdon is a professor of sociology and Director of the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention at Virginia Tech. He researches how communities influence the causes and consequences of violence. Most recently, he has focused on how online communities influence political polarization, online hate, extremism, and cybercrime. He has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Justice, the National Consortium on Violence Prevention, and several other agencies. He has published or edited eight books and over 100 articles and technical reports.

Anwarul Hoda

Anwarul Hoda is a Media Activist, currently working as a filmmaking trainer. He also assists a couple of Digital Media platforms to strengthen the voices of Marginalized communities. He has started his initiative, "Citizens Together," to support campaigns, activists and movements. He has written articles for platforms like Tribune Pakistan, Firstpost, Newsclick, The Citizen, The Companion and a few more.

Adrienne Hooker

Adrienne Hooker is the Assistant Professor in the School of Media Arts and Design. Before joining James Madison University in Harrisonburg Virginia, Adrienne taught in higher education institutions in Indiana, Louisiana, and Missouri. With nearly 20 years of teaching in the creative classroom, Hooker focuses on community partnerships to foster civic engagement and bring real-world experience to her students. Professor Hooker holds an MFA in graphic design from Indiana University Bloomington with a focus on book arts and letterpress. She also earned two bachelor of fine arts degrees from Drake University in Des Moines Iowa with an emphasis in graphic design and printmaking. She brings her expertise to develop project-based curricula in shaping society by fostering civically engaged creative energy.

Osei Hyiamang

My name is Osei Hyiamang, and I was born on September 14, 1977, at Bechem in Ahafo Region in Ghana. I started elementary and middle at Bechem Roman Catholic clusters of

schools. I also went to Bechem Presbyterian high and graduated in 1995. I further pursued my education at the University of Cape Coast at Atebubu Teacher Training College campus from 1997 to 2001. I taught as a Mathematics teacher at Techimantia Methodist High School from 2001 to 2008, all in Ghana. I came to the United States in 2008. I went to the Northern Virginia Community College from 2012 to 2015. I then transferred to George Mason University for both bachelor's and master's from 2016 to 2019 and studied Teacher Education and Conflict Analysis and Resolution. I started my Doctor of Science in Cybersecurity degree at Marymount University in 2020. I hold the following certificates: CompTIA Security+, Certified Information Security Manager (CISM), Cyber Threat Intelligence, Data Science, COVIS-19 Contact Tracing, 2020 Cybersecurity Awareness HIPPA Training, Intro to Incident Command System (ICS) – 100, and Intro to the National Incident Management System 700b. I worked for Coca-Cola Company for four years, and I taught at the Fairfax County Public School from 2016 to 2020. I am the President and Founder of Shiamang Widows Care Foundation, a nonprofit founded in 2012. I hold honor certification in Phi Kappa Phi and currently work at the Fairfax County Health Department.

Trevor Jeyaraj

Trevor is a PhD Candidate in the Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought (ASPECT) Program at Virginia Tech. Trevor was part of the Millennial Leaders Project, Union Theological Seminary, New York City (Summer 2018). He co-lead [The Coalition of International Students and Allies \(CISA\)](#), a student collective at Columbia Theological Seminary, GA. His upcoming engagements include the following. Panelist: *Asian American Religions and Politics 2* for the Asian American Studies 2021 Annual Conference, April 2021 (Virtual). Panelist: “*Centering Caste in the Cast of Academia*,” 49th Annual Conference on South Asia, October 2021 (Virtual). Trevor is currently working on a chapter for a Reference book for Calcutta University's Postgraduate English Literature Course.

Sylvester A. Johnson

Dr. Sylvester A. Johnson is the founding director of the [Virginia Tech Center for Humanities](#), is a nationally recognized humanities scholar specializing in the study of technology, race, religion, and national security. He is also assistant vice provost for the humanities at Virginia Tech and executive director of the university's [Tech for Humanity initiative](#). His award-winning scholarship is advancing new approaches to understanding the human condition and social institutions of power in an age of intelligent machines and other forms of technology innovation.

From 2014 to 2017, Johnson led a 20-member team of humanists and technologists at Northwestern University to develop a successful proof-of-concept for a machine learning

system that could assist in scholarly research of an early English corpus using named-entity recognition and topic-modeling. In 2017, he joined the faculty of Virginia Tech, where he advances research at the intersection of humanity and technology.

Johnson, who holds a faculty appointment in the Department of Religion and Culture, has authored *The Myth of Ham in Nineteenth-Century American Christianity*, a study of race and religious hatred that won the American Academy of Religion's Best First Book award; and *African American Religions, 1500-2000*, an award-winning interpretation of five centuries of democracy, colonialism, and freedom in the Atlantic world. Johnson has also co-edited *The FBI and Religion: Faith and National Security Before and After 9/11*. A founding co-editor of the *Journal of Africana Religions*, he has published more than 70 scholarly articles, essays, and reviews.

Johnson is currently writing a book on human identity in the age of intelligent machines and human-machine symbiosis. He is also producing a digital scholarly edition of an early English history of global religions.

Oscar Keyes

Oscar Keyes (he/him/his) is the Multimedia Teaching & Learning Librarian Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. He is currently a Ph.D. student in Art Education at VCU, where he researches the role of embodied learning in digital-based methods of making. He has taught digital arts in a variety of spaces, including higher education, K12 schools, summer camps, community-based arts organizations, and detention centers. When he's not busy teaching, Keyes still makes movies with his friends, having worked on award-winning short and feature-length films.

Tatiana Loarca

Tatiana Loarca is an undergraduate student at Christopher Newport University. Loarca is majoring in History with two minors in Political Science and Latin America. Loarca currently serves as President of the Phi Alpha Theta chapter at CNU. Many of Loarca's papers from junior year to senior year have dealt or are dealing with gender and Latinos within both the United States and in Latin America. Loarca's goal is to explore the way gender has affected relations within societies in both Latin America and the US which so far has been a mostly understudied field.

Katie Logan

Katie Logan is an Assistant Professor of Focused Inquiry at Virginia Commonwealth University. She holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Texas at

Austin, and her research focuses on contemporary Arabic and Arab Anglophone literature, memory, migration, and women's and gender studies.

Tonya Marie-Howe

Dr. Howe is Professor of Literature & Languages at Marymount University. Specializing in the study of popular performance genres, she presents widely at national conferences in eighteenth-century studies and digital humanities. She is currently co-PI on Literature in Context, an open-source TEI database project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities that seeks to make freely-accessible a curated collection of critically-annotated resources about early literature for teachers and students. Recent publications include "Non-Fatal Inquiry: Love in Excess in the Internet Age" (MLA Approaches to Teaching Eliza Haywood), "All deformed Shapes': Figuring the Posture-Master as Popular Performer in Early Eighteenth-Century England" (Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies), "WWABD? Intersectional Futures in Digital History (ABO: An Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1660-1830), and "'Crawlspace and the Kinski Swerve'" (Klaus Kinski, Beast of Cinema). In 2019, she was awarded the VFIC H. Hiter Harris award in Instructional Technology.

Wenceslaus Mendes

Wency Mendes is a cinematographer, editor and filmmaker by profession; practicing and working with multimedia and mediums. He collaborates and works with archives, technology and video, in theatre and performance as well as, constructing conceptual and installation, community and art projects.

Katalin Parti

Dr. Parti is assistant professor of sociology at Virginia Tech. Dr. Parti's research focuses on interpersonal cybercrime and cybervictimization. She evaluated cyberbullying programs of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center as a Fulbright Fellow. She was awarded the European Safety and Prevention Award for channeling academic research results to schools. She has published in peer-reviewed journals such as the Pediatrics, the International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime, the European Journal of Crime Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, and the Journal of Contemporary European Research.

Lee Pierson

Lee Pierson, who holds a Ph.D. in psychology from Cornell University, has published research on the function of consciousness and on the function of visual imagery in problem-solving. He has conducted "Key-Issue Thinking" and other seminars for students

from grade school to grad school (and beyond), for a variety of educational and corporate clients in the United States and Canada.

Sarah Plummer

Sarah Plummer is a PhD candidate in social and cultural thought in Virginia Tech's ASPECT Program. She is a VTGrATE fellow and an instructor of record for the Department of Religion and Culture.

Kierra Porter

Kierra M. Porter is a first-year English doctoral student and graduate assistant at Howard University. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and her Master of Arts degree from Texas Southern University. At Texas Southern University, she published a thesis on black womanhood, authenticity, and self-care. She hopes to continue research on African American women in literature.

Peter Potter

Peter Potter is the Director, Virginia Tech Publishing. Peter came to Virginia Tech in 2016 after 30+ years in scholarly publishing at the university presses of Wesleyan, Penn State, and Cornell. In 2017 he launched Virginia Tech Publishing as a digital-first, open access press in the University Libraries.

Shaun Respass

Shaun Respass is a PhD Candidate in the Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought (ASPECT) Program at Virginia Tech. He also teaches for the Department of Philosophy. His research primarily examines the intersections of care ethics, bioethics, and mental health research with aspirations for both improving our understanding of despair and reimagining alternatives for those seeking mental and emotional relief. His work blends moral and political philosophy with feminist cultural theory, disability and dependency studies, biopolitics, medical anthropology, political economy, and behavioral psychology.

Jebasingh Samuvel

Revd. W Jebasingh Samuvel is a priest at the Jaffna Diocese Church of South India in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He advocates tirelessly against caste violence — particularly through his paintings, short film and documentary film as well as in his religious sermons.

Matthew Shadle

Matthew A. Shadle is the Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. He has published *Interrupting Capitalism: Catholic Social Thought and the Economy* (Oxford, 2018) and *The Origins of War: A Catholic Perspective* (Georgetown, 2011).

Jennifer Stout

Jenny Stout is a Teaching and Learning Librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she has been for over 8 years now. She has an undergraduate degree in Anthropology from the University of Mary Washington and a MSLS from UNC-Chapel Hill. She specializes in information literacy instruction and teaches library and research skills to freshmen and sophomore students. She is also interested in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives, critical pedagogy, and assessment. In her spare time, Jenny is a cinephile who loves watching, reviewing, and talking about movies. Her favorite film genre is horror and her favorite book genre is psychological thriller. Her favorite meme (right now) is Kombucha Girl.

Yogita Suresh

Yogita is currently in her final semester of Masters in Sociology from Ambedkar University, New Delhi. Her research interests lie in Gender and Technology.

David Wang

David Wang is an interactive designer focused on undergraduate education with a research agenda that draws attention to design in society. He teaches in the School of Media Arts & Design (SMAD) at James Madison University with an emphasis on user experience design and addressing wicked problems within technology. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design from Drake University and a Master of Fine Arts in Communication Design from Louisiana Tech University. Recent research interests include grant sponsored work to develop solutions that help eliminate food insecurity.

Emmanuel Wansi

Emmanuel Wansi is currently pursuing a Cybersecurity Doctorate at Marymount University located in Arlington, Virginia. Research interests include examining security and privacy risks of cloud computing deployment models. Prior 2021 volunteer experiences included judging science fair presentations for Stuart Hobson middle school students and reviewing written submissions for a Celebration of Women in Computing (CAPWIC) conference. Professional associations include Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA).

Sara Wenger

Sara Wenger is a third year PhD candidate in Political and Social Thought at Virginia Tech. Her research interests include sexual technologies, feminist technoscience, and Black speculative fiction.

Carah Whaley

Dr. Carah Whaley is the Associate Director of JMU Civic and Political Science Professor. Carah works in partnership with students, faculty, staff and community partners to embed civic learning and democratic engagement across campus through curricular and co-curricular programming. Carah is constantly learning and evolving innovative pedagogy melding scholarship and experiential learning to teach courses on civic engagement, campaigns and elections, and state and local politics. Carah currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Civic Engagement Section of the American Political Science Association, on the advisory board of Students Learn Students Vote and is a faculty advisor to JMU's Student Government Association. She is the author of chapters on Political Parties, Campaigns, Elections and Voting, and *The Media in American Government: Roots and Reform* (Pearson).