

RaceB4Race®

**REGION**

**— and —**

**ENMITY**

**October 19–22, 2021**



Arizona State  
University

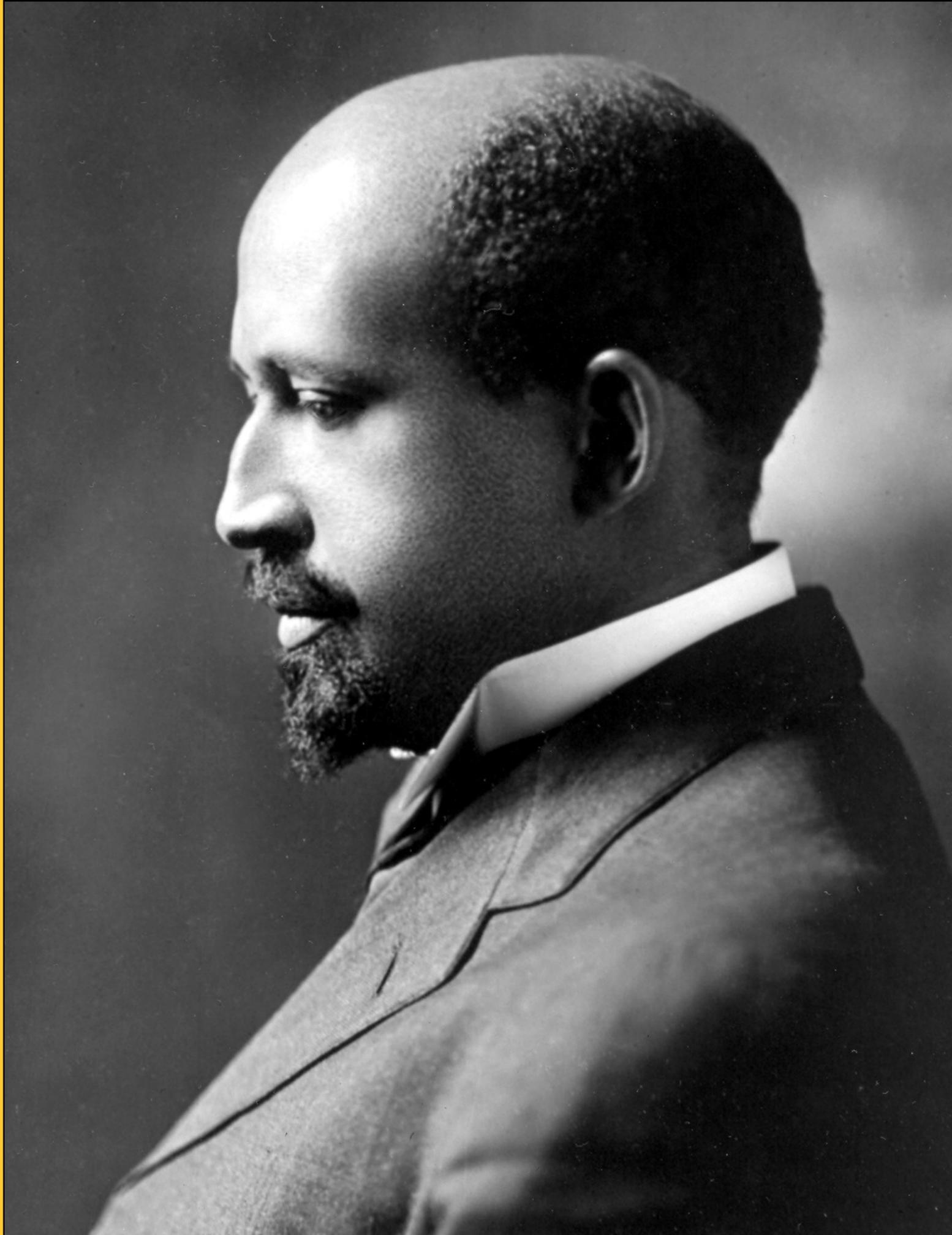


**RUTGERS**

THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW JERSEY

**“Nations reel and stagger on their way; they make hideous mistakes; they commit frightful wrongs; they do great and beautiful things. And shall we not best guide humanity by telling the truth about all this, so far as the truth is ascertainable?”**

**—W.E.B. Du Bois**



# REGION — — and — — ENMITY

## Hosted by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Enmity is a sustaining force for systemic racism, a fervent antipathy toward a category of people. Enmity exists at the nexus of individual and group identity and produces difference by desiring opposition and supremacy, imagining separation by force, and willing conflict. Enmity unfolds in different ways in different places, according to local logics of territory, population, language, or culture, even as these geographical divisions are subject to constant change.

This interdisciplinary symposium, hosted by Rutgers University, focuses on how premodern racial discourses are tied to cartographical markers and ambitions. The notions of enmity and region provide a dual dynamic lens for tracing the racial repertoires that developed in response to increasingly hostile contention between premodern cultural and political forces. The symposium will invite scholars to take up this intersection between region and enmity, and to examine how belief in difference, or the emergence of polarizing structures and violent practices, configured race thinking and racial practices in ways that are both unique to different territories and that transcend them.

This RaceB4Race symposium is sponsored by Rutgers University, the Folger Institute at the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies



## RaceB4Race

RaceB4Race is an ongoing conference series and professional network community by and for scholars of color working on issues of race in premodern literature, history, and culture. RaceB4Race centers the expertise, perspectives, and sociopolitical interests of BIPOC scholars, whose work seeks to expand critical race theory.

Bridging many traditional disciplinary divides, RaceB4Race not only creates innovative scholarly dialogues, but also fosters social change within premodern studies as a whole.

RaceB4Race is brought to life by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in partnership with The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Division of Humanities at Arizona State University. RaceB4Race is underwritten by the Hitz Foundation.

[Learn more about RaceB4Race at acmrs.asu.edu/RaceB4Race.](https://acmrs.asu.edu/RaceB4Race)



# ACMRS

The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies was originally established in 1981 by the Arizona Board of Regents as a state-wide, tri-university research unit that bridged the intellectual communities at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona. Now, ACMRS serves not only our community of scholars and students in Arizona, but also scholars of premodern studies all over the world.

Our mission is to enable and promote the most expansive, creative, and daring scholarship in medieval and renaissance studies. We do this not only by fostering a vibrant intellectual community for the faculty at our three universities, but also by publishing forward-looking, vanguard research through our in-house press. ACMRS promotes work that is historically grounded and theoretically expansive, with the aim of advancing dialogues that reach into the present moment and point us to different, more inclusive, futures.

We develop projects that explore complex topics in an accessible manner so as to reach as wide an audience as possible. In keeping with the ASU charter, we believe that our success in realizing this vision for premodern scholarship should be judged not by whom we exclude, but whom we include, and how they succeed.

## Our board

**Patricia Akhimie**

Rutgers University, Newark

**David Sterling Brown**

Binghamton University

**Seeta Chaganti**

University of California, Davis

**Urvashi Chakravarty**

University of Toronto

**Kim F. Hall**

Barnard College

**Jonathan Hsy**

George Washington University

**Farah Karim-Cooper**

Shakespeare's Globe

**Dorothy Kim**

Brandeis University

**Noémie Ndiaye**

University of Chicago

**Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh**

University of California, Berkeley

**Scott Manning Stevens**

Syracuse University

**Carla María Thomas**

Florida Atlantic University

**Ayanna Thompson**

Arizona State University

**Cord Whitaker**

Wellesley College

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## Save the date

January 28–29, 2022 at Arizona State University

**Poetics: a RaceB4Race Symposium**

This symposium will invite scholars and poets to examine the ways race can, should, and/or does function within poetic paradigms. Along with our distinguished speaker Fred Moten, we ponder “the question of how we can read this poem is redoubled now. *Now*, how can we read this poem?”

## Keynote conversation

# Shahzia Sikander

MacArthur Fellowship-winning visual artist Shahzia Sikander's vibrant body of work in a range of media reveals an extraordinary relationship with the materials, images, and artistic traditions of the premodern world, and with the political, religious, and cultural tensions that connect that world to our own. Sikander builds a visual vocabulary to express the cross-cultural dialogue and hybrid forms of identity and expression that are always there, suppressed but present, across the centuries.



### About the Interlocutor

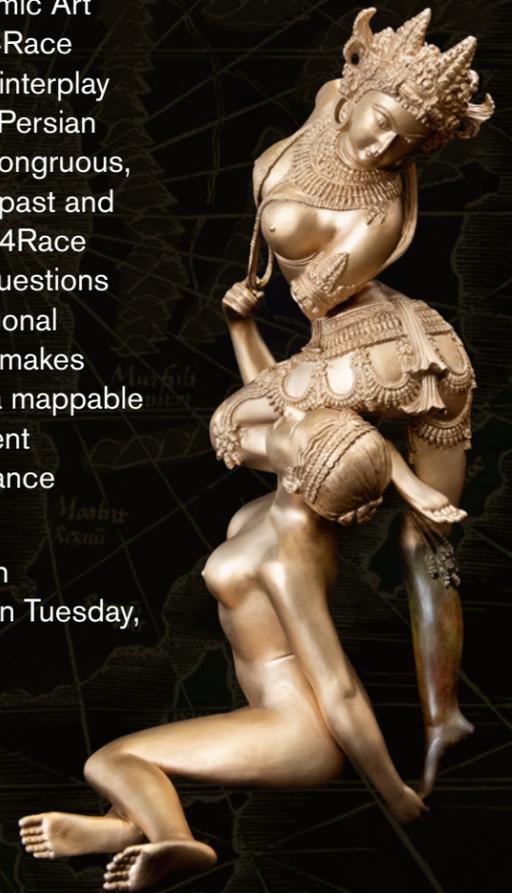
Kishwar Rizvi is a Professor of the History of Art at Yale University, and a Fellow at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Art and Architecture at Harvard University (2021-22). Her recent publications include *The Transnational Mosque: Architecture and Historical Memory in the Contemporary Middle East*, for which she was selected as a Carnegie Foundation Scholar, and editor of *Affect, Emotion, and Subjectivity in Early Modern Muslim Empires: New Studies in Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Art and Culture* (Brill, 2017). Current projects include research on contemporary museums in the Arab Gulf as well as a new book on Iran and global early modernity.



In conversation with Kishwar Rizvi, Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture at Yale University, and the RaceB4Race Executive Board, Shahzia Sikander will discuss the interplay between the "traditional" techniques (such as Indo-Persian miniature painting) and the striking, and at times incongruous, imagery that enable her work to connect inexorably past and present. As the keynote conversation for the RaceB4Race Region and Enmity symposium, this event will ask questions about the "enmity" that intersects the racial and regional alliances of the conference theme. Sikander's work makes clear that enmity is not only armed engagement or a mappable conflict zone, but is also an intimate and codependent relationship that is also always a struggle for dominance and control.

The recorded conversation will be available to watch on the ACMRS YouTube channel at 5:00 pm EDT on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. It will be available to watch for two weeks.

To right: *Promiscuous Intimacies* by Shahzia Sikander, Patinated bronze, 42"×24"×18"



# 19

## Tuesday

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10:00 am – 11:00 am EDT

Coffee talk: Presenting on Race for Public Audiences  
with Ayanna Thompson

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm EDT: Enmity at the Edge of Empire

Opening remarks by Patricia Akhimie and Henry S. Turner

### **Dan-el Padilla Peralta**

A million ways to die in the West

### **Bindu Maleieckal**

Java Man: Religion, Race, and Evolutionary Theory  
in Early Modern European Texts

### **Shao-yun Yang**

*Not our Kin and Kind: The Problem of Mongolophobia  
in Ming China*

### **Q&A moderated by Patricia Akhimie**

5:00 pm EDT: Keynote Conversation

**Shahzia Sikander and interlocutor  
Kishwar Rizvi**

# 20

## Wednesday

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10:00 am – 11:00 am EDT

Coffee talk: Parenting while Researching and Teaching with  
Patricia Akhimie

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm EDT: Song and Silence: Convivencia and the Myth of Mutual Hatred

### **Yonatan Binyam**

The Impious and Carnal Race: Imperial Christianity and the  
Racializing of the Jews

### **Diego Javier Luis**

Deconstructing Systematic Violence in Colonial Manila: From  
Discourse to Action

### **Ileri E. Chávez Bárcenas**

*Turu lu neglo y nigliya vamo correndo adorá: Sounds of race  
in Seventeenth-Century Puebla de los Ángeles*

### **Q&A moderated by Ana Laguna**

# 21

## Thursday

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10:00 am – 11:00 am EDT

Coffee talk: Scholarly Activism with Carol Mejia LaPerle

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm EDT: Exceptions: Justice, Sovereignty, Slavery

**Miguel A. Valerio**

Fear and Loathing in New Spain: Antirblackness in Colonial Mexico

**Cristi Whiskey**

Questionable Bills of Sale?: Legal Opinions & Race-Making in the Trans-Saharan Slave Trade

**Allison Blakely**

Dutch Exceptionalism as Soft Power in the Era of Grotius

**Q&A moderated by Mayte Green-Mercado**

# 22

## Friday

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10:00 am – 11:00 am EDT: Editor roundtable

**Nick Jones, Christina Lee, Karen Raith, Jenny Tan, and Ayanna Thompson**

*This roundtable is open to everyone who wishes to attend.*

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm EDT: Contextual Migration

**Kristina Richardson**

The Roma “Egyptians”: Reconfiguring Biblical iconography in 15th- and 16th- century northern Europe

**Ruen-chuan Ma**

Medieval French Manuscript Travels to East Asia: Coloniality and Premodern Bibliography in National Taiwan University Otori 299

**Kelly Nguyen**

Racing and Erasing Refugees in Caesar’s *Commentarii De Bello Gallico*

**Q&A moderated by Sylvester Cruz**

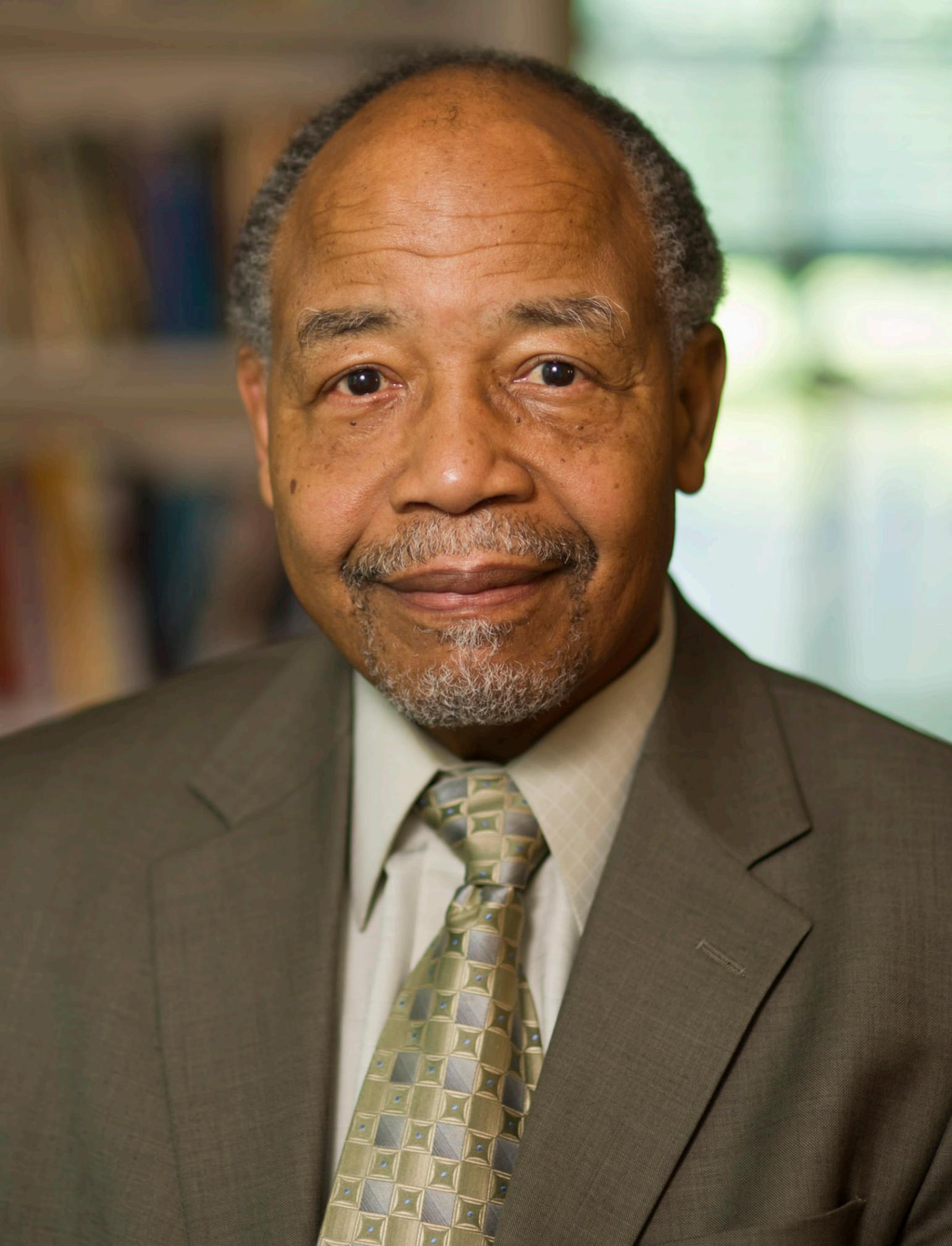
Closing remarks by Mayte Green-Mercado and Ana Laguna

# Yonatan Binyam

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Yonatan Binyam received his Ph.D. in Religion from Florida State University (2017) and is currently a President's Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California Los Angeles. His research can broadly be divided into two fields of inquiry. First, it investigates anti-Semitism and ethnic reasoning within the reception history of Josephus's *Jewish War*, particularly as these rhetorical strategies appear in the Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, and Ethiopic receptions of Josephus's text. Second, Binyam's work brings into conversation recent works in the area of premodern critical race studies with the study of the Roman Empire in late antiquity, paying close attention to developments in imperial Christianity.





# Allison Blakely

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Allison Blakely is a professor emeritus of European and Comparative History at Boston University. His doctorate is from the University of California, Berkeley in Russian History. He is the author of *Blacks in the Dutch World: The Evolution of Racial Imagery in a Modern Society* (Indiana University Press, 1994); and *Russia and the Negro: Blacks in Russian History and Thought* (Howard University Press, 1986); and he has authored numerous other articles and book chapters on European aspects of the Black Diaspora. He is a former President of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and serves on the Editorial Board of its journal *The American Scholar*. His academic awards include a Fulbright Fellowship spent in the Netherlands. He is now serving on the National Council for the Humanities, to which he was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2010.

# Ileri E. Chávez Bárcenas

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Ileri E. Chávez Bárcenas is assistant professor of music at Bowdoin College. She received her doctoral degree in musicology from Princeton University and a master's degree in religion and music from Yale University. Her work analyzes the performance of villancicos within the institutional and social fabric of Puebla de los Ángeles and develops a new methodology for the study of function, meaning, and transmission of the vernacular song tradition in the Spanish empire. She has published studies on the villancico in early seventeenth-century New Spain and on Vivaldi's opera *Moteczuma* and the adaptation of conflicting historiographical interpretation about the the conquest of Mexico in early modern Italy.





# Diego Javier Luis

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Diego Javier Luis is a visiting assistant professor at Davidson College after having finished his Ph.D. at Brown University last year. Currently, he is completing a manuscript entitled, “The First Asians in the Americas: A Transpacific History”, which tracks early modern Asian mobility from and through the Philippines to Latin America. His most recent articles have appeared in *The Americas* and *Ethnohistory*.

# Ruen-chuan Ma

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Ruen-chuan Ma is an assistant professor of English and Literature at Utah Valley University. His research interests focus on late medieval English and French literature, specifically manuscript studies (page design and codicology), reading practices (text and image, multimodality), and the reception of classical texts.





# Bindu Malieckal

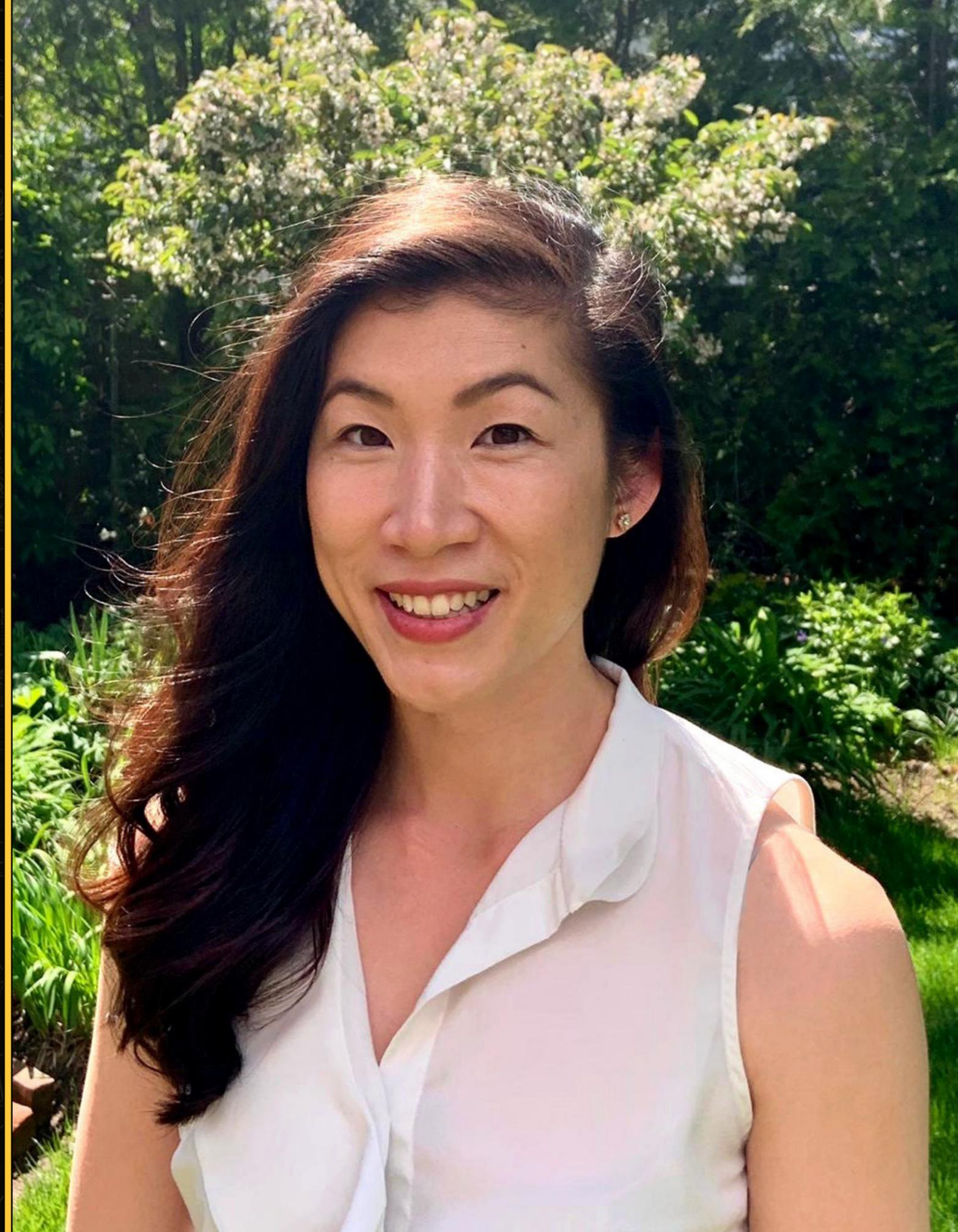
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Bindu Malieckal, Ph.D., is a professor and chairperson of the English Department at Saint Anselm College, New Hampshire, where she has resided for the last twenty years. Dr. Malieckal is originally from Kerala, India. An early modernist and postcolonialist, Dr. Malieckal has spent her scholarly life writing about racialized injustices as depicted in literature, from slavery and genocide to Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. She has also published pieces on women and sexism and the refugee experience. Dr. Malieckal is a research associate at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and is affiliated with the Early Modern Violence Project at the Universidad Pablo de Olivade, Spain.

# Kelly Nguyen

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Kelly Nguyen is an inaugural IDEAL Provostial Fellow in the Department of Classics at Stanford University and a recipient of the 2021 University of California Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship. She graduated with honors and highest distinction from Stanford University in 2012 with a B.A. in Classics and Archaeology and became the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from the Ancient History program in the Department of Classics at Brown University in 2021. Her current book project is the first major study to examine the history of Greco-Roman classical reception within Vietnamese contexts. She has published an article on classical reception in 20th-century Vietnam in the *Classical Receptions Journal* and has an article on Homeric reception in Ocean Vuong's poetry forthcoming, as well as one on ethnic identity in the Roman Empire.





# Dan-el Padilla Peralta

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Dan-el Padilla Peralta is an associate professor of Classics at Princeton University, where he is affiliated with the Programs in Latino Studies and Latin American Studies and the University Center for Human Values. A Dominican by birth and New Yorker by upbringing, he holds degrees from Princeton, Oxford, and Stanford. He is the author of *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League* (Penguin, 2015), and *Divine Institutions: Religions and Community in the Middle Roman Republic* (Princeton University Press, 2020); and he has co-edited *Rome, Empire of Plunder: The Dynamics of Cultural Appropriation* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). His current projects include a co-authored study of 338 BCE and the origins of Roman imperialism (under contract with Harvard University Press), *A People's History of Rome* (under contract with Princeton University Press), a co-edited volume on new approaches to the Middle Roman Republic, and a co-authored book-length essay on race and racism in the disciplinary identity of Classics.

# Kristina Richardson

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Kristina Richardson is an associate professor of history at Queens College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is the author of *Difference and Disability in the Medieval Islamic World* (Edinburgh University Press, 2012) and *Roma in the Medieval Islamic World: Literacy, Culture and Migration* (Bloomsbury, 2021). She also co-edited a 16th-century Aleppine silk-weaver's notebook (2021). Professor Richardson also serves as an editor for *Der Islam*.





# Miguel A. Valerio

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Miguel A. Valerio is an assistant professor of Spanish at Washington University in St. Louis. His work has appeared in several journals, including *Slavery and Abolition* and *Colonial Latin American Review*. He is currently completing a book on Afro-Mexican festive practices, *Sovereign Joy: Afro-Mexican Festive Practices, 1539-1640*, under contract with Cambridge University Press. Besides exploring black joy and communal sovereignty, the book studies how Iberian racial ideology impacted Afro-Mexicans' daily and festive lives.

# Cristi Whiskey

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Cristi Whiskey is a Ph.D. student in the History Department at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellow. Currently, her research areas focus on the race-making in the Western Sahel and the social histories formed between Imazighen and Black west Africans. Additionally, her research explores the Trans-Saharan slave trade into the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean and the impact of the slave trade onto the African Global Diaspora in the 14th-17th centuries.





# Shao-yun Yang

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Shao-yun Yang is an associate professor of East Asian History at Denison University. An intellectual historian specializing in medieval Chinese ideas relating to empire and ethnicity, he is the author of *The Way of the Barbarians: Redrawing Ethnic Boundaries in Tang and Song China* (University of Washington Press, 2019) and several articles, book chapters, and translations, including the born-digital and open-access *A Chinese Gazetteer of Foreign Lands*. Shao-yun's current projects include a sourcebook on race and ethnicity in imperial China. He is a third-generation Singaporean descended from Chinese immigrants and refugees.

# Rutgers Planning Committee Members



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## Patricia Akhimie

Patricia Akhimie is an associate professor of English at Rutgers University-Newark, where she teaches Shakespeare, Renaissance drama, and early modern women's travel writing. She is the author of *Shakespeare and the Cultivation of Difference: Race and Conduct in the Early Modern World* (Routledge, 2018). She is co-editor, with Bernadette Andrea, of *Travel and Travail: Early Modern Women, English Drama, and the Wider World* (University of Nebraska Press, 2019). She is currently at work on a new edition of *Othello* and a monograph about gender, race, and early modern travel. Her research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Ford Foundation, and the John Carter Brown Library.



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## Sylvester Cruz

Sylvester Cruz is the graduate student coordinator of the Race and the Early Modern World working group, and has been a doctoral student at Rutgers-New Brunswick since 2018. He currently holds a Pre-Doctoral Leadership Development Academy fellowship from the Rutgers Center for Organizational Leadership, and his research interests include the history of interpretation from antiquity into the early modern period, the history of dramatic form, and the historical experience of emotion. He is a third culture adult, having been raised as a dual citizen of both the United States and the Republic of South Africa, and earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz.



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## Mayte Green-Mercado

Mayte Green-Mercado (Ph.D., The University of Chicago, 2012) is Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University-Newark, where she teaches courses the history of Islamic civilization, Mediterranean history, medieval and early modern Iberian history, and migration, displacement, and refugees in the Mediterranean. She is the director of the Middle East and Islamic Studies Minor, and co-director of the Mediterranean Displacements Project at Rutgers- Newark. She is the author of *Visions of Deliverance; Moriscos and the Politics of Prophecy in the Early Modern Mediterranean* (Cornell University Press, 2019). In 2018, she edited a special issue titled "Speaking the End Times, Early Modern Politics and Religion from Iberia to Central Asia," in the *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*. She has written articles and book chapters on apocalypticism in Iberia and the Mediterranean in the early modern period, the forced conversion of Muslims in Spain, and on ethnic groups in Renaissance Spain. She is currently working on a monograph on Morisco migration and displacement in the sixteenth-century Mediterranean.



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## Ana Laguna

Ana Laguna (Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2002) is a professor of Golden Age Literature at Rutgers, Camden. Her research on the culture of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spain explores the relationship among literature, politics, and the visual arts, focusing on how literature reflects prominent artistic and socio-political anxieties. She is the author of *Cervantes, the Golden Age, and the Fight for Spanish Cultural Identity in the 20th Century* (Bloomsbury, 2021), *Cervantes and the Pictorial Imagination* (Bucknell University Press, 2009), and co-editor of the volume *Goodbye, Eros: Recasting Forms and Norms of Love in the Age of Cervantes* (Toronto University Press, 2020). Recent publications include “La verdad como problema: Cervantes, las crónicas de Indias y las noticias falsas.” *Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos* (forthcoming), “In the Name of Love: The Harem as a Mediterranean Stage in La gran Sultana” in *Beyond the Playhouse: Cervantes’s Theatrical Revelations* (forthcoming), and “Othello, Lepanto, and the Blackening of Iberia,” *Revista Hispánica Moderna* (forthcoming).



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## Henry S. Turner

Henry S. Turner is a professor of English and Vice President for Academic Initiatives at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He specializes in Renaissance literature and intellectual history, especially drama, philosophy, and the history of science. He is the author of *The English Renaissance Stage: Geometry, Poetics, and the Practical Spatial Arts, 1580-1630* (Oxford University Press, 2006), *Shakespeare’s Double Helix* (Continuum/Bloomsbury, 2008), and *The Corporate Commonwealth: Pluralism and Political Fictions in England, 1516-1651* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). His articles, essays, reviews, and interviews have appeared in *Annals of Science, Configurations, differences, ELH, Isis, JEMCS, Nano, postmedieval, Public Books, Renaissance Drama, Renaissance Quarterly, Shakespeare Quarterly, Shakespeare Studies, South Central Review*, and *The Spenser Review*, as well as in a wide range of edited collections. He is currently co-writing a book with Jane Hwang Degenhardt (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) tentatively entitled *The Shakespearean Horizon: Worlds Upon Worlds in The Renaissance and Today*. His work has been supported by fellowships from the National Endowment of the Humanities, the National Humanities Center, and by a Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies for residence at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.



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