



# Yale University

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

*Convocation*

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Yale University Art Gallery

# Order of Exercises

## CONVOCATION

Sunday, May 18, 2025

### ***Academic Procession***

Lynn Cooley

*Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*

*Vice Provost for Postdoctoral Affairs*

*C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics*

*Professor, Cell Biology and Molecular, Cellular, and  
Developmental Biology*

Michelle Nearon

*Senior Associate Dean and Director of the Office of  
Graduate Student Development and Diversity*

John Alvaro

*Associate Dean for the Biological and Biomedical  
Sciences Program*

Allegra di Bonaventura

*Associate Dean for Academic Support*

Robert Harper-Mangels

*Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Support*

Sarah Insley

*Assistant Dean for Academic Support*

Ksenia Sidorenko

*Assistant Dean for Diversity*

Moirra Fradinger

*Associate Professor of Comparative Literature*

David Moore

*Associate Professor of Physics*

Rourke O'Brien

*Associate Professor of Sociology*

Andrew Wang

*Associate Professor of Internal Medicine  
(Rheumatology)*

### ***Welcome***

Lynn Cooley

### ***Student Prizes***

Presented by Sarah Insley

### ***Prize Teaching Fellows***

Presented by Sarah Insley

### ***Graduate Mentor Awards***

Presented by Lynn Cooley

# Graduate School Student Prizes

## *Academic Awards*

The **Marston Anderson Prize** is awarded on an occasional basis to truly outstanding dissertations in the field of East Asian Languages and Literatures in memory of Professor Anderson, for his contribution to the intellectual and pedagogical mission of the department.

MARY GILSTAD

East Asian Languages and Literatures  
Adviser: Edward Kamens

“Theorizing the Anthology: Waka Contexts and Their Afterlives”

*With keen intelligence and justified skepticism about received ideas, Gilstad tackles a core topic (the first official anthology of Japanese court poetry) and a hitherto marginal one (early modern calligraphy albums) in a synthetic analysis that draws out new meanings in both. The result is a new theory of what anthologies are and what they do.*

The **Francis J. Anscombe Award** is given on an occasional basis for outstanding academic performance in the Department of Statistics and Data Science.

CURTIS MCDONALD

Statistics and Data Science

Adviser: Andrew R. Barron

“Computation and Estimation for Neural Networks via Log-Concave Coupling”

*McDonald's dissertation shows how to sample from neural network posterior distributions. This is a surprising achievement because these posterior distributions are not log-concave. The dissertation develops a novel log-concave*

*coupling idea, where the weight vector is coupled with an auxiliary vector so that the conditional density of the weight vector is log-concave and amenable to sampling procedures.*

The **Frances Blanshard Fellowship Prize** is awarded annually for the outstanding doctoral dissertations submitted to the Department of History of Art.

EMILY COX

History of Art

Adviser: Carol Armstrong

“Perverse Modernism: 1884-1900”

*Cox's dissertation investigates how the “fin de siècle” aesthetic discourse is intrinsically tied to a critique of capitalism as a progress-oriented economic system that threatens to destroy humanity and nature. She draws from four metaphorically operating motifs and masterfully demonstrates the ways in which they are interwoven in the visual structure of her images.*

The **Sylvia Ardyn Boone Prize** is awarded annually in memory of Sylvia Boone, a noted scholar of African art, who was the first tenured African American woman on the Yale faculty. In her memory, Vera Wells, Yale College 1971, has established a prize to honor Sylvia Boone's life and work.

TONY YEBOAH

History

Adviser: Daniel Magaziner

“‘A Large Clearing in the Forest’: West African Ontology of Space in the Making of Kumase, 1680-Present”

*Yeboah has written a dissertation that makes a significant contribution to the study of*

*urban spaces in African history. He deftly combines methods from anthropology, history, art history, and architecture to offer a compelling retelling of the history of Kumasi - the second largest city in Ghana, heart of the former Asante Empire, and home to West Africa's largest market.*

The **Jacob Cooper (BA 1852) Prize** is awarded jointly by the departments of Classics and Philosophy to the resident undergraduate or graduate student who presents the best essay on Greek philosophy.

CHRIS ATKINS

*Religious Studies; Classics*

Advisers: Brad Inwood and Laura Nasrallah

For the essay titled: "Socrates and the Spellbound Soul in Plato's *Phaedo*"

*Through textual analysis of *Phaedo* 77e-84b's discussion of the interaction between the body and soul, Atkins argues that Plato utilizes culturally familiar language - specifically that of ritual binding - to portray Socrates 'as a true enchanter'. In doing so, Atkins suggests, Plato depicts Socrates's "intellectual pursuits [as] a kind of ritual release from [...] the desires of the body."*

The **George Washington Egleston Historical Prize**, established in 1901, is awarded annually to a research student who discovers new facts of importance for American history, gathers information, or reaches conclusions that are useful from a historical, literary, and critical point of view.

EMILY YANKOWITZ

*History*

Advisers: Joanne Freeman and Mark Peterson

"Who Is a Citizen: Negotiating American Citizenship Before the Fourteenth Amendment"

*Yankowitz has written a marvelous dissertation, taking on a highly important subject in the early history of the United States and pursuing it with great rigor and ingenuity. "Who Is a Citizen" is a masterful study of the nature of citizenship before it was defined and stabilized by the Fourteenth Amendment.*

The **English Department Dissertation**

**Prize** is awarded for the best dissertation submitted to the Department of English Language and Literature in the current year.

EVE HOUGHTON

*English Language and Literature*

Advisers: Catherine Nicholson, Marta Figlerowicz, and Jonathan Kramnick

"Awkward Types: Character and Attention in Early Modern English Drama"

*Houghton's dissertation argues that awkwardness in early modern drama signaled actorly skill, subverted narrative and gender norms, and captivated audiences. Blending performance history and gender studies, her dissertation reveals how eccentric characters challenged authority and reshaped ideas of subjectivity and charisma onstage.*

KASSIDI JONES

*English Language and Literature; African American Studies*

Advisers: Cajetan Iheka, Jacqueline Goldsby, and Meredith McGill (Rutgers)  
“Our Share of Summers: Tending the Environment in Nineteenth-Century Black American Poetry”

*Jones’s dissertation shows how nineteenth-century Black poets used form, voice, and performance to critique racial violence and reimagine Black identity. Highlighting poetry as a key medium, she explores how Black writers navigated and reshaped the cultural afterlives of slavery and racial spectacle.*

The **Harry Burr Ferris Prize** was established by Harry Burr Ferris (BA 1887, MD 1890), who was the E. K. Hunt Professor of Anatomy in the Department of Anatomy, the predecessor to the current Department of Cell Biology. The Prize is awarded to a Cell Biology student for a doctoral dissertation demonstrating exceptional research and scholarship.

PHILIP MANNINO  
*Cell Biology*

Advisers: Patrick Lusk and Megan King  
“A Mechanism for the Autophagic Degradation of Nuclear Components”

*As we age, our cells build up damaged and toxic molecules that must be continually degraded by quality control pathways like autophagy. Using leading edge microscopy tools, Mannino provides much needed molecular and mechanistic insight into a previously ill-defined autophagy pathway required to remove factors from the nucleus – the compartment that houses and protects the genome.*

The **Hans Gatzke Prize** is awarded upon the recommendation of the Department of History for the outstanding dissertation or dissertations in a field of European history.

MATTHEW DUDLEY  
*History*

Advisers: Francesca Trivellato and Alan Mikhail

“Into the Anti-Archives: Jewish Law, Ottoman Imperial Administration, and the Early Modern Cairo Geniza”

*Dudley’s empirically rich and novel dissertation is the first systematic study of the early modern Cairo Geniza. Its strength is its incredible breadth and philological attention.*

CHARLES TROUP  
*History*

Adviser: Samuel Moyné

“In Search of the Public:  
Economic Reason and the Crisis  
of Representation in British  
Government”

*Troup’s research on the history of the British state is extraordinary and his analysis of the mainstreaming of cost-benefit analysis enthralling. Meticulously researched and forcefully argued, his dissertation is an impressive accomplishment.*

The **James B. Grossman Dissertation Prize** was established in memory of a doctoral student in the Department of Psychology. It is given to the author of an outstanding PhD dissertation in Psychology, with preference for research embodying some of the characteristics of James Grossman’s scholarship, such

as creativity, use of other disciplines, and clinical work with children.

LUCINDA SISK

Psychology

Adviser: Dylan Gee

“Neurodevelopment Under Stress:  
How Adversity Timing and Neural  
Maturation Contribute to Variability  
in Mental Health”

*Sisk's research aims to identify mechanistic and neurodevelopmental pathways through which early experiences impact children's cognitive development and mental health. The dissertation comprises three studies that apply complementary approaches to delineate how developmental timing and neural circuit maturation contribute to variability in mental health.*

The **Hammer Prize** recognizes an outstanding graduate student in Earth and Planetary Sciences.

CALEB GORDON

Earth and Planetary Sciences

Adviser: Bhart-Anjan Bhullar

The **William J. Horwitz Prize** is awarded for continuous excellence and distinction in a chosen discipline within the field of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations.

KEVIN BUTTS

Near Eastern Languages and  
Civilizations

Adviser: Shawkat Toorawa

“Naḥwīyyūn and ‘Arab in Sibawayh’s  
Kitāb: A Social Rivalry at the Heart of  
Early Arabic Grammar”

*This dissertation treats the earliest extant work of Arabic grammar as a source not just*

*of linguistic thought but also of social history. Butts identifies and describes the two eighth-century factions involved in the beginnings of Arabic grammar: native-speaking Bedouin and grammarians of non-native speaker background, two groups in rivalry for authority as arbiters of correct speech and Qur’anic interpretation.*

EVELYNE KOUBKOVA

Near Eastern Languages and  
Civilizations

Adviser: Eckart Frahm

“How Rituals Shape Authority:  
The Mesopotamian Exorcist’s Self-  
Presentation in Ritual Texts and  
Practice”

*Koubkova provides the first comprehensive study of the so-called ashipu, a religious specialist who played a central role in ancient Mesopotamian magic, medicine, and scholarship. Drawing on numerous texts written in Sumerian and Babylonian, she focuses on the ritual strategies the ashipu used to construe his identity and authority before the gods and his patients.*

RAMONA TEEPE

Near Eastern Languages and  
Civilizations

Adviser: Kevin van Bladel

“The Death and Afterlife of the Coptic  
Language in Mamluk Egypt”

*This dissertation investigates the demise of Coptic (the latest phase of ancient Egyptian) as a native language and its subsequent preservation as a classical and liturgical language. Teepe focuses on a corpus of Arabic grammars of the Coptic language composed in the fourteenth century by Egyptian Copts who spoke Arabic in their*

*daily lives, documenting the linguistic transition ongoing at that time.*

**The Mary Ellen Jones (PhD 1951, Biochemistry) Prize** is awarded to the most distinguished dissertation in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry submitted during the academic year. Dr. Jones was a leading scientist and a pioneer in the advancement of women in academia.

PENGXIN CHAI

*Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry*

Adviser: Kai (Jack) Zhang

“Cryo-EM Reveals the  
Mechanochemical Cycle of Reactive  
Full-length Human Dynein-1”

*Chai's dissertation explores how a molecular motor called 'dynein' moves along cellular tracks to transport vital cargo inside cells—much like a city's transportation system moves goods through roads. Using a powerful imaging tool called cryo-electron microscopy, he captures detailed snapshots of dynein's movement cycle, revealing how it steps forward and generates force to power this transport.*

**The Annie Le Fellowship** is awarded each year to one or more PhD students in the biological and biomedical sciences whose demonstrated commitment to bettering the world around them and outstanding record in research exemplify the life and career of Annie Marie Le, a Yale graduate student between 2007 and 2009.

NGOZI AKINGBESOTE

*Cellular & Molecular Physiology*

Adviser: Rachel Perry

**The Neuroscience Doctoral Thesis Prize** was established in 2020 by Sandra and

Charles Greer and is awarded annually to a graduate student in Neuroscience whose PhD thesis reflects the highest standards of scientific achievement.

MADDY JUNKINS

*Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program*

Adviser: Elena Gracheva

“Neuroendocrine responses to long-term water deprivation during hibernation”

*Junkins explores the physiology of how thirst is suspended during hibernation in squirrels. She found that neural cells that control thirst are actively suppressed when the animals are hibernating. Her work reveals the extent to which the mammalian neuroendocrine thirst pathway can be adapted and paves the way for future studies of survival in the face of extreme environmental challenges.*

**The John Spangler Nicholas (PhD 1921)**

**Prize** was established in 1972 by bequest of Helen Brown Nicholas in memory of her husband. The prize is awarded annually to outstanding doctoral candidates in experimental zoology.

BROOKE BODENSTEINER

*Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

Adviser: Martha Muñoz

“Thermal Physiological Evolution  
Across Scales: The factors shaping  
lizard trait evolution”

*Bodensteiner's dissertation focuses on deciphering the major features of thermal physiological evolution in lizards and in interpreting how those features influence vulnerability and resilience to ongoing global change. Her dissertation is distinguished in its conceptual and empirical scope, as she unites approaches across disciplines*

*and scales of organization to derive general principles that govern the evolution of physiological diversity.*

ELIZABETH GORDON

*Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology*

Adviser: Stavroula Hatzios

“Redox Regulation of Host-Microbe Interactions”

*The work described within Gordon’s dissertation explores the redox-signaling pathways underlying bacterial infection while also describing the use of antioxidants by bacterial and host cells to broaden understanding of redox biology at the host-microbe interface.*

TED LEUNG

*Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology*

Adviser: Joshua Gendron

“Transcriptional Regulation of Photoperiodic Genes in Arabidopsis”

*Leung’s dissertation presents a comprehensive characterization of the photoperiodic transcriptome across three-day lengths and reveals new gene expression patterns. This serves as a basis for the study of new photoperiodic properties of a plethora of biological processes and the engineering of temporal gene expression systems.*

GARRETT SAGER

*Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology*

Adviser: Damon Clark

“Quantifying the Organization of Mitochondria Within a Connectome”

*Sager’s dissertation explains how mitochondria play a key role in neural computation and makes important advances*

*in understanding how mitochondria are organized in the brain.*

The **Marguerite A. Peyre Prize** was established in 1964 and is awarded at the discretion of the chair of the Department of French to a graduate student in that department.

WALID BOUCHAKOUR

French

Advisers: Jill Jarvis and Alice Kaplan

“Beyond Emergency: Aesthetics and Politics of the Contemporary Algerian Novel”

*Bouchakour examines the state of emergency in place in Algeria for nearly two decades, from the beginning of the civil war to the threshold of the Arab Spring. He examines the paradigm of “emergency” in the criticism and reception of contemporary Algerian literature during the “état d’urgence,” the war itself, and the critique of that state following the war.*

ABIGAIL FIELDS

French

Adviser: Maurice Samuels

“The Literary Field: Agriculture and the Ecological Imagination in the Nineteenth-Century French Novel”

*This dissertation represents a significant intervention in nineteenth-century French literary and cultural studies, as well as in ecocriticism, as it relates to the history of agriculture in France. Fields focuses mainly on novels, but also includes popular media and government literature, to show how ideas about labor, the environment, and agriculture developed over the course of the nineteenth century in France.*



The **Leonard J. Savage Writing Prize** is named for Department of Statistics and Data Science Emeritus Professor Leonard J. (Jimmie) Savage. This prize is awarded annually to a student who has submitted the best written work.

YUTARO YAMADA

*Statistics and Data Science*

Adviser: Ilker Yildirim

“Towards Robust Vision and Language Agents”

*Yamada’s dissertation explores the robustness and generalization capabilities of machine learning models when confronted with out-of-distribution data, an essential challenge for deploying reliable AI systems in real-world settings. Through primarily computational studies, he systematically examines failure modes and proposes mitigation strategies across a range of problems, including feature selection, computer vision tasks, vision-language modeling, and spatial reasoning.*

The **Charlie Schmuttenmaer Prize** is awarded to the student who has excelled academically and displayed outstanding departmental citizenship in Chemistry. Examples of service include actively contributing to departmental student groups; assisting in the organization of departmental events; performing outreach to the local community; and coordinating student-sponsored seminar series.

VALENTINA RANGEL ANGARITA

*Chemistry*

Adviser: Stacy Malaker

The **Carolyn Slayman Prize** in Genetics recognizes the remarkable achievements of our best students in the Department of Genetics, based on their body of work, the impact of their findings in the field of Genetics, and their commitment to the Genetics graduate program and graduate education at Yale.

YUBAO CHENG

*Genetics*

Adviser: Siyuan (Steven) Wang

“Probing the Spatial Architecture and Function of Genome and Transcriptome”

*Cheng’s work leverages advanced imaging technologies to investigate how 3D genome and transcriptome organization shapes gene regulation and cell function across diverse biological systems. Discoveries include new principles of chromatin architecture, key regulators of genome folding, and tools for precise spatial mapping of gene activity and cell interactions in intact tissues, enabling study of biological processes in their native environments.*

ATREYO PAL

*Genetics*

Adviser: James Noonan

“Resolving the Three-Dimensional Interactome of Human Accelerated Regions During Human and Chimpanzee Neurodevelopment”

*Pal’s dissertation investigates how Human Accelerated Regions (HARs) – stretches of DNA with rapid human-specific evolution – regulate genes during early brain development in humans and chimpanzees. This work provides the first high-*

*resolution map linking HARs to conserved neurodevelopmental genes, offering insight into how subtle changes in gene regulation may have contributed to uniquely human brain features.*

MONIQUE PEDROZA

*Genetics*

Adviser: Berna Sözen

“A Balancing Act: Decoupling the Coordinators of Early Human Development Using a Stem Cell-Based Platform”

*Pedroza’s work addresses a fundamental question: how human development begins, a challenge due to inherent limits in studying real embryos. They develop a pioneering, stem cell-based 3D model to reconstruct the early human embryo, revealing how molecular and mechanical cues coordinate the emergence and patterning of different cell types, providing a platform to study early human development and disease origins.*

The **Edwin W. Small Prize** was established in memory of Edwin W. Small (BA 1930, MA 1934) and is awarded in recognition and furtherance of outstanding work in the field of American history.

CAITLIN KOSSMANN

*History of Science and Medicine*

Adviser: Deborah Coen

“The Poetics of Gaia: Planetary Life and Problems of Relation, 1941-2019”

*Kossmann’s dissertation is one of the most beautifully written and sharply rendered takes on the formal stakes of analysis for a dissertation in the history of science. Her work is singular, reflecting deep thinking*

*and meticulous research.*

The **George Trimis Prize** was established in May 2003 in memory of a doctoral student in Economics who succumbed to cancer. In recognition of the extraordinary example that Trimis set, the prize is awarded to students whose dissertations demonstrate exceptional and distinguished achievement.

FRANCESCO BERALDI

*Economics*

Advisers: Giuseppe Moscarini and Eduardo Davila

“Essays in Macroeconomics and Finance”

*Beraldi’s thesis explores the implications of long-term relationships between banks and firms, deriving a testable hypothesis in terms of pass-through of default risk on spreads. It uses a unique Mexican data set to quantitatively evaluate his theory. Beraldi’s empirical analysis provides strong support for his theory, exhibiting limited passthrough patterns under long-term banking relationships.*

CARLO CUSUMANO

*Economics*

Adviser: Larry Samuelson

“Essays in Economic Theory”

*Cusumano’s dissertation consists of three chapters on fundamental problems in microeconomics. One of its significant interventions is to investigate an alternative-offering bargaining problem in the presence of a third party who is not a bargainer but affected by the outcome and protests. By incorporating the latter feature, Cusumano sheds new insight into delays in bargaining processes often observed in practice.*

DANIEL GRAVES

*Economics*

Advisers: Nicholas Barberis and Eduardo Davila

“Essays on Investor Beliefs, Attention, and Arbitrage”

*Graves’s thesis uncovers investors’ private beliefs from their portfolio holdings, with special attention to the censoring problem (i.e., the occurrence of zero holdings, due to, say, short sale constraints), which has been largely ignored in the asset demand literature. His insightful use of sophisticated methodologies successfully resolves this important problem, leading to a number of remarkable empirical discoveries.*

FERDINAND PIEROTH

*Economics*

Adviser: Marina Halac

“Essays in Economic Theory”

*Pieroth’s thesis contains four chapters on microeconomic theory, addressing well-motivated economic problems. One of his significant contributions investigates an auction model in which buyers can obtain information about the quality of a good, with a focus on the timing of such information acquisition. Its analysis sheds novel insights on due diligence, that is, granting access to the information after the auction.*

MATTHEW SCHWARTZMAN

*Economics*

Advisers: Michael Peters and Fabrizio Zilibotti

“Worker and Consumer Choice in the Process of Structural Transformation”

*Schwartzman’s dissertation employs sophisticated quantitative and theoretical methods to study the structural transformation of the service sector (and the*

*retail sector in particular), where informal jobs get replaced by formal jobs provided by large-scale stores. He develops a novel model with rich features, then estimates it with Brazilian data, using it to validate the implications of his model quantitatively.*

The **Richard Wolfgang Prize** was established in 1971 in memory of Richard Leopold Wolfgang, MA Hon. 1962, and member of the faculty from 1956 to 1971. It is awarded each year for the best doctoral theses of graduating chemistry students.

CONOR ROONEY

*Chemistry*

Adviser: Hailiang Wang

“Waste to Worth: Diversified Products from CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> Electroreduction”

*Rooney’s dissertation unravels the reaction mechanism of electrochemical CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to methanol over a molecular catalyst and advances the catalysis to the electrochemical synthesis of organonitrogen compounds using CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrite as feedstocks.*

The **Arthur and Mary Wright Prize** is awarded upon the recommendation of the Department of History for the outstanding dissertation or dissertations in the field of history outside the United States or Europe.

POLLY LAUER

*History*

Advisers: Gilbert Joseph and Greg Grandin

“Struggling for Air: The Politics of Resilience in a Maya K’iche’ Radio Station, 1959-2020”

*Lauer is a vibrant young scholar who has developed an important project about indigenous radio stations in Guatemala's recent history, in collaboration with the community stations where she worked in Nahualá. Polly Lauer is an indefatigable researcher, a gifted and focused analyst, and a writer of clear, engrossing prose.*

YASMINA MARTIN

*History*

Adviser: Daniel Magaziner

"A Sometimes Home: South African Exiles in Tanzania, 1960-1990"

*Based on years of archival and oral research in South Africa, Tanzania, the UK, the US and elsewhere, the author develops a truly original and transformative history of the exiled South Africans who passed through East Africa during the second half of the twentieth century. This is social and political history at its best.*

GEORGE REMISOVSKY

*History*

Adviser: Daniel Botsman

"A Question of Custom: Law and Mediation in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century East Asia, ca. 1850-1950"

*Remisovsky has produced one of the most ambitious and clearly conceptualized pieces of comparative history in recent memory in his program. His dissertation sets a new benchmark for work in the field of East Asian legal history and will surely form the basis for an important first book.*

EMILY YANKOWITZ

*History*

Advisers: Joanne Freeman and Mark Peterson

"Who Is a Citizen: Negotiating American Citizenship Before the Fourteenth Amendment"

## *University Awards*

The **Theron Rockwell Field Prize** was established in 1957 by Emilia R. Field in memory of her husband, Theron Rockwell Field, PhD 1889. It is awarded for poetic, literary, or religious works by any students enrolled in the University for a degree. This prize is awarded by the Office of the Secretary of Yale University.

MATTHEW DUDLEY

*History*

Advisers: Francesca Trivellato and Alan Mikhail

"Into the Anti-Archives: Jewish Law, Ottoman Imperial Administration, and the Early Modern Cairo Geniza"

*Dudley's dissertation analyzes hundreds of legal and state documents that were preserved in the geniza chambers of Cairo's oldest synagogues. These anti-archives of discarded texts provide unprecedented opportunities for the study of Jewish law, women's history, sociolinguistics, and imperial administration in Ottoman Egypt.*

The **John Addison Porter Prize**, named in honor of Professor John Addison Porter, BA 1842, is awarded for a work of scholarship in any field where it is possible, through original effort, to gather and relate facts or principles, or both, and to present the results in such a literary form as to make the project of general human interest. This prize is awarded by the Office of the Secretary of Yale University.

MICHAEL GRUNST

*Microbiology*

Adviser: Walther Mothes

“Mechanisms of Antibody-Mediated  
Immunity Against Class 1 Viral  
Fusion Glycoproteins”

*Grunst’s dissertation studies viral Spike proteins, which allow viruses to grab onto and enter host cells through driving fusion of the virus and host cell membranes. Using innovative electron microscopy techniques, he captures this elusive viral entry process in action and identifies new ways that antibodies target a vulnerable, conserved site on the viral Spike protein to block infection. These findings will inform the design of vaccines against diverse coronaviruses that may provide protection against future coronavirus outbreaks.*

EMILY YANKOWITZ

*History*

Advisers: Joanne Freeman and Mark Peterson

“Who Is a Citizen: Negotiating  
American Citizenship Before the  
Fourteenth Amendment”

*Yankowitz’s dissertation presents a historical study of US citizenship before the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, focusing on the lived experiences of a wide range of people. Destabilizing the perception that citizenship has always conferred distinct rights and privileges, it draws on popular understandings, debates, and claims to reveal how citizenship evolved as a series of negotiations between individuals and officials and between states and the federal government.*

## Graduating Winners of Prize Teaching Fellowships

Camille Angelo

*Religious Studies*

Emily Cox

*History of Art*

Jungmin Eun

*Chemistry*

William Frazer

*Earth and Planetary Sciences*

Anne Mishkind

*Political Science*

Yingqi (Ariel) Tang

*Political Science*

Charles Troup

*History*

Sidharth Tyagi

*Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program;  
MD/PhD*

Kimberly Wong

*Psychology*

# Graduate Mentor Awards

This year the Graduate School honors faculty members at Convocation for their exemplary qualities as mentors. Many dissertation advisers were nominated, and the honorees were chosen by a committee of students and faculty.

## *In the Biological Sciences*

ANDREW WANG

*Associate Professor of Internal Medicine  
(Rheumatology)*

“Professor Wang’s enthusiasm for science is infectious, and every meeting with him leaves me feeling reinvigorated, motivated, and more excited about my research than before. Even when I bring him confusing or discouraging data, he approaches it with curiosity and optimism. He always finds an interesting interpretation or suggests a new, better experiment, which has helped me develop resilience and build up my own scientific abilities on how to troubleshoot. His mentorship has profoundly shaped my journey as a scientist, and I am incredibly grateful for the impact he has had on my career and personal growth.”

“One of Andrew’s greatest skills as a mentor is his ability to tailor his style to the unique needs of each student. He understands that mentorship is not a one-size-fits-all process. He is able to adapt according to each student’s individual needs over time. In addition to providing constant support and advice, Andrew is the fiercest advocate for his students. He genuinely cares about their success and well-being, and he will go to bat for them without hesitation. Whether it’s securing opportunities, ensuring fair treatment, or simply offering unwavering support in times of difficulty, Andrew is always going the extra mile and fighting for his students’ best interests.”

## *In the Physical Sciences and Engineering*

DAVID MOORE

*Associate Professor of Physics*

“One of the most remarkable aspects of Dave’s mentoring is his commitment to understanding and supporting each student as an individual. He takes the time to recognize our unique strengths and challenges, tailoring his guidance to help us reach our full potential. He grants us the freedom to explore our own research interests while always being available when we need support. This balance of independence and guidance has been instrumental in shaping my development as a researcher.”

“Dave continuously encourages me to pursue opportunities that I might have otherwise doubted myself capable of. His encouragement extends beyond identifying opportunities to supporting my exploration of new research ideas and actively facilitates making that a reality. Whether at the stage of conception, implementation, or analysis, he offers insightful and practical advice that has shaped my own approach to problem solving. Despite his many responsibilities, Dave is generous with his time. I can always count on him for sharp, constructive feedback on papers, presentations, or career advice. His attention to detail and willingness to engage with my work has helped me grow as a physicist, in terms of my technical skills and feeling like I can meaningfully contribute to the field.”

## *In the Humanities*

MOIRA FRADINGER

*Associate Professor of Comparative Literature*

“What makes Professor Fradinger’s mentorship even more impactful is her unwavering support for each student’s individuality. From the first moment I met her during Yale’s prospective student weekend, she made me feel seen and welcomed in a space that can often feel intimidating. Her warmth and attentiveness created an environment where I felt that my voice mattered. It is not always easy to find such care in academic institutions, but Professor Fradinger’s dedication to inclusivity sets her apart. She goes out of her way to make sure that every student — regardless of background, experience, or level of confidence — feels like they belong in the conversation.”

“Beyond her academic mentorship, what sets Moira apart is the genuine care she has for her students as individuals. She fosters an environment where we feel comfortable discussing our struggles, knowing that she will offer support and encouragement. Her kindness, patience, energy, and empathy make her an exceptional mentor who profoundly impacts the lives of those she teaches.”

## *In the Social Sciences*

ROURKE O’BRIEN

*Associate Professor of Sociology*

“Beyond his academic guidance, what stands out most is Rourke’s innate kindness. He is, quite simply, a genuinely nice person. This may seem like an understated quality, yet it carries transformative power. His congeniality and selflessness set a standard I find myself striving toward, reminding me that being a researcher isn’t just about publishing papers but about nurturing an identity and purpose. His mentorship has shown me that the true measure of a scholar is not only in their intellectual contributions but in the warmth and integrity they bring to their community.”

“What truly sets Professor O’Brien apart is the genuine care and dedication he brings to every student he mentors. He creates a supportive and inclusive environment where students feel valued and empowered. Whether it’s offering feedback on drafts, guiding students through challenging projects, or simply taking the time to listen, he demonstrates a level of commitment that goes above and beyond. He is known for his generosity with time and his ability to foster intellectual growth, making a profound impact on all who work with him.”



#### THE SHIELD OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The design for the Graduate School shield was drawn by Yale art professor Theodore Sizer and approved by the University. Four themes are symbolized in the arms of the School. The background of the “chief” (the place of honor) is Yale blue, with Roman numerals in white representing 1847, the year of the founding of the Department of Philosophy and the Arts, the earliest formal organization for graduate study at Yale and, in fact, in the entire United States. Below, on a white background, is a black Y-shaped device representing the “pallium,” a garment worn by philosophers in ancient Rome, and frequently used as a symbol for Yale. The three red crosses are derived from the arms of Bishop George Berkeley, who established in 1732 an endowment for Yale College graduates “reading for the second degree.” These were the first scholarships exclusively for graduate study at Yale.