



# Yale University

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

*Convocation*

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Yale University Art Gallery

# Order of Exercises

## CONVOCATION

Sunday, May 19, 2024

### ***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*

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 Graduate Education*

Ksenia Sidorenko

*Assistant Dean for Diversity*

Matthew Tanico

*Assistant Dean for Academic Support and Outreach*

Suzanne Young

*Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Professional  
Development*

Sreeganga Chandra

*Associate Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience*

Marynel Vázquez

*Assistant Professor of Computer Science*

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

YUTONG NIE  
*Statistics and Data Science*  
Adviser: Yihong Wu

“Fundamental Limits in Large-Scale Multiple Testing and Its Application”

*Nie’s dissertation is a solid contribution to the theory and practice of multiple testing. Resolving an open problem in this field, the major result is a complete characterization of the fundamental limit of multiple testing, in terms of the optimal tradeoff between the false discovery rate (FDR) and the false non-discovery rate (FNR).*

The **Frederick W. Beinecke Prize** is awarded upon the recommendation of the Department of History for an outstanding doctoral dissertation in the field of Western American history.

TAYLOR ROSE  
*History*  
Adviser: Paul Sabin

“Battle Born: Mining, Militarization, and Native Lands in the Nevada Desert, 1860-1990”

*“Battle Born” is a creative and insightful approach to studying the growth of the national security state and the transformation of the American West. Rose’s project will reframe how we understand Nevada, one of the fastest growing states in the country in recent decades, and the role of militarization in the internal development of US territory.*

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

CHRISTINE OLSON  
*History of Art*

Adviser: Timothy Barringer

“Ornament and the Other: Owen Jones and the Design of Victorian Modernity”

*Olson’s dissertation is a powerfully original account of the relationship between historical study, the designed object, and the emerging imperial commodity culture of the mid-nineteenth century. This close study of Owen Jones’s work reveals both the exuberant, even promiscuous, creativity associated with industrial production in the mid-Victorian era, and the imbrication of imperialism and Victorian high capitalism.*

LILLIAN SELLATI  
*History of Art*

Adviser: Milette Gaifman

“When Is Herkales Not Himself?  
Mediating Cultural Plurality in Greater Central Asia, 330 BCE – 365 CE”

*Sellati’s dissertation opens up new ways of conceptualizing interactions between various ethnicities, cultures, and religions in antiquity, especially in regions with mixed populations, as they manifest in material culture. The very notion of “Heraklean figures” is a result of the astute observation that a figure some may identify as Herakles may not be recognized as the hero by others.*

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.

ALEXANDRA THOMAS

*African American Studies; History of Art*

Adviser: Pamela Lee

“Afrekete’s Touch: Black Queer Feminist Errantry and Global African Art”

*“Afrekete’s Touch” is a powerful, intellectually capacious, generous, and generative dissertation. Thomas offers important ways of reshaping and interrogating the history of art through her prismatic theorization of black queer feminist errantry – a transnational, transhistorical, and trans-medial mode of “wandering” that puts critical and necessary pressure on art and history itself*

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 or gathers information or reaches conclusions which are useful from a historical, literary, and critical point of view.

DEBORAH STREAHLE

*History of Science and Medicine*

Adviser: Naomi Rogers

“Care Underground: Activists and the Transformation of American Dying in the 1960s”

*This exciting and ambitious dissertation explores a neglected topic in the history of American activism and the civil rights movement: the diverse group of advocates and critics over the long 1960s who sought to transform the practices*

*of end-of-life and after-death care and center these practices around values of equality, community, and freedom. Strehle’s dissertation is impressive, convincing, and evocative.*

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

SEAMUS DWYER

*English Language and Literature*

Advisers: Jessica Brantley, Ardis Butterfield, and Emily Thornbury

“Scripts and Literature in the Manuscripts of England and France, 1370-1425”

*Dwyer’s dissertation unites new archival work, critical reflection on the technical language of medieval script, and skilled close study of manuscripts to prove that handwriting acted as a mode of literary representation. In attending to the labor of medieval scribes, Dwyer shows us new ways of seeing, and thus appreciating, medieval literary art.*

SHU-HAN LUO

*English Language and Literature*

Advisers: Emily Thornbury, Ardis Butterfield, and Lucas Bender

“Didactic Poetry as Formal Experiment in Early Medieval England”

*Staging a conversation between Old English and the roughly contemporary Chinese poetry of the Tang era, Luo illuminates previously unseen aspects of these texts. Her bold, comparative project shows that only by understanding Old English didactic verse as fully invested in its poetic form can we begin to comprehend what it truly sought to teach.*

COLTON VALENTINE

*English Language and Literature*

Advisers: Marta Figlerowicz, Stefanie Markovits, Katie Trumpener, and Ruth Bernard Yeazell

“Between Languages: Queer Multilingualism in the British Belle Époque”

*What did multilingualism mean for queer, fin-de-siècle British writers? Their translation projects expressed their sense of singularity while forging new cross-cultural alliances. Valentine’s dissertation eruditely reconstructs these literary careers, even as it finds new ways of describing experimental life-practices and these authors’ utopian hopes of finding an alternative grounding in other languages and literatures.*

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.

CAROLINE BROWN

*Cell Biology*

Adviser: Kallol Gupta

“Capturing Membrane Snapshots: A Quantitative Guide for Spatially-Resolved Extraction of Membrane Proteins on Native Membranes”

*Brown’s research has laid the foundation of a novel nanoscale, spatially-resolved membrane biology platform. Her work provides a high-throughput avenue to ‘cookie-cut’ the native nanoscale membrane domain around a target membrane protein and render a nanometer-scale, spatially-resolved molecular view of the local molecular neighborhood of membrane proteins and how that regulates its function in both human health and diseases.*

TARYN OLIVAS

*Cell Biology*

Adviser: Thomas Melia

“Early and Late-Stage Mechanisms of Autophagosome Formation”

*Autophagosomes form within the cell to eliminate toxic molecules such as parasites or dying organelles, but just how the cell forms these structures has been unknown. In her thesis work, Olivas developed a novel “superresolution biochemistry” approach, allowing her to establish vesicles derived from the Golgi as the origin material of autophagosomes.*

NENG WAN

*Cell Biology*

Adviser: Karin Reinisch

“Role of Lipid Transfer Proteins in Lipid Droplet Dynamics”

*Lipid droplets are key for energy storage and membrane lipid homeostasis, but the molecular basis underlying their biology is poorly understood. Wan’s work is ground-breaking in establishing a fundamental role for protein-mediated lipid transport in the regulation of lipid droplet accumulation.*

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.

MALLORY HOPE

*History*

Adviser: Lauren Benton

“Underwriting Risk: Trade, War, Insurance, and Legal Institutions in Eighteenth-Century France and Its Empire”

*Moving well beyond traditional approaches to insurance that center on changing techniques for calculating risk, Hope links the history of marine insurance to an array of other processes, including the circulation of information about war and the*

*function of merchant networks connecting ports within and beyond France. This study displays elegant methodology and a prodigious research base.*

PRANAV JAIN

*History*

Adviser: Bruce Gordon

“The Transformation of the Church of England, 1689-1713”

*This is a groundbreaking dissertation that makes a decisive intervention in the crowded field of early modern British religious history. Jain’s approach to religion is sensitive and nuanced. This is an outstanding dissertation by a very talented historian.*

**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.

KEVIN CHUNG

*Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry*

Adviser: Anna Marie Pyle

“Structural Insights into Group II Intron Splicing and Retrotransposition”

*Splicing edits genetic sequences for accurate protein production. Chung’s research explores how an ancient RNA-protein complex in bacteria, able to self-cut from its parent RNA, developed into the modern splicing machinery and mobile genetic elements that continue to shape our genomes.*

DAISY DUAN

*Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry*

Adviser: Anthony Koleske

“Regulation of Microtubule Nucleation and Repair by An Abl Family Kinase”

*Protein kinases are enzymes that chemically modify other proteins, leading to changes in their functions. The Abl2 protein kinase was known to regulate actin, a protein that forms filaments termed the cytoskeleton, to mediate changes in cell shape and movement. Duan’s dissertation shows how Abl2 regulates another cytoskeletal structure termed microtubules to grow new microtubules and to repair old ones.*

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.

DAISY DUAN

*Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry*

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.

YUEXUAN LI

*Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program*

Adviser: Marcelo Dietrich

“Zona Incerta Somatostatin Neurons as an Integration Node for the First Social Bond”

*Li’s dissertation focuses on neurons in a region of the mammalian brain called the Zona Incerta. Her research uses molecular genetic tools to record and manipulate the activity of these neurons in infant mice, showing that these neurons are sensitive to the proximity of the mother, play a role in modulating the distress response, and can enhance learning of positive associations.*

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.

SHANE ELLIOTT

*Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology*

Adviser: David Breslow

“A CRISPR Activation Screen Reveals a Cilia Disassembly Pathway Mutated in Focal Cortical Dysplasia”

*Elliott's research encapsulates an exciting new breakthrough in cilia biology by implementing a creative screening protocol to identify new regulators of a ciliary disassembly pathway, and in so doing illuminates new biology that is of potentially translational significance. At the heart of the dissertation, Elliott uses a CRISPR screen to identify novel genes that effect disassembly of primary cilia.*

IAN GILMAN

*Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

Adviser: Erika Edwards

“On the Evolution of Crassulacean Acid Metabolism: Diversity, Anatomy, and Genetic Components”

*Gilman's dissertation focuses on the evolution of CAM photosynthesis in plants from a very diverse and holistic set of perspectives. He provides multiple new insights critical to understanding the diversity of photosynthesis, including key anatomical requirements and new levels of biochemical integration.*

TIANSHUO LIU

*Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology*

Adviser: Anna Marie Pyle

“Discovery, Characterization and Targeting of Fungal Self-Splicing Introns”

*Liu's research highlights the potential of targeting self-splicing introns in the mitochondrial genomes of human pathogenic fungi as a novel antifungal strategy. Liu includes bioinformatic discovery,*

*RNA biochemistry, small-molecule discovery, structural biology, developing a high-throughput screening platform for group I intron inhibitors using a molecular beacon assay that should be broadly useful to the RNA community.*

XUEYING SHANG

*Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology*

Adviser: John Carlson

“Exitron Splicing of Odor Receptors in *Drosophila*”

*Shang has accomplished an exciting but risky project, studying the role of RNA regulation in olfactory receptors in *Drosophila*. Her dissertation examines the role of splicing and polyadenylation in controlling the expression levels of these receptors and analyzes the effects all the way to the behavioral outcomes. This discovery explains how one can achieve protein diversity without a commensurate gene diversity.*

DANIEL STADTMAUER

*Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

Adviser: Gunter Wagner

“The Evolution of Cell and Tissue Identity at the Maternal Fetal Interface”

*Stadtmauer's dissertation documents the increase in cell type diversity present at the Maternal-Fetal interface of four mammalian species, including a marsupial and an early branching eutherian species, the Tenrec *caudatus* (Afrotheria). He also describes the evolution of inferred patterns of cell-cell communication underlying the physiological function of these cells generating and testing scenarios for their evolution.*

The **Philip M. Orville Prize** was established in 1981 in memory of Philip M. Orville. The prize is awarded to graduate students in Earth and Planetary Sciences in recognition of outstanding research and scholarship in the earth sciences.

YANTAO LUO

*Earth and Planetary Sciences*

Adviser: Maureen Long

“Crust and Mantle Structure beneath the Eastern Margin of North America and Tectonic Implications”

*Luo’s dissertation is an investigation of the crust and mantle structure beneath the eastern margin of North America using various seismic methods, which yield different constraints on subsurface features at a wide range of depths, shedding light on the tectonic evolution of this margin.*

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.

TIANHAO WANG

*Statistics and Data Science*

Adviser: Zhou Fan

“Algorithm Dynamics in Modern Statistical Learning: Asymptotics, Universality, and Implicit Regularization”

*Wang’s dissertation breaks new ground in our understanding of the dynamics of statistical learning algorithms, a crucial component of characterizing the generalization performance of machine learning models in modern overparametrized settings.*

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.

DANIELLE MIYAGISHIMA

*Genetics; MD/PhD*

Adviser: Murat Gunel

“Deconvolution of the Meningioma Microenvironment”

*Miyagishima’s dissertation provides a cellular and molecular examination of meningiomas, tumors that grow from the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. Her work uncovers spatial compartmentalization within meningiomas, identifies predominant signaling pathways active in meningiomas, and reveals complex hormonal regulation within the tumor microenvironment. This comprehensive understanding of the tumor ecosystem suggests a systems-based therapeutic approach.*

REBECCA STARBLE

*Genetics*

Adviser: Andrew Xiao

“Elucidating Epigenetic Mechanisms of Oncogene Amplification That Promote Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Resistance in Lung Adenocarcinoma”

*Starble’s dissertation reports the discovery of an unexpected mechanism regulating therapeutic resistance in lung adenocarcinoma. Her work identifies a new chromatin factor regulating amplification of oncogenes, which promote cancer progression, and shows that depletion of the chromatin factor prevents therapeutic resistance. This work suggests new approaches for preventing therapeutic resistance in lung cancer.*



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.

GABRIEL ARON RAMIREZ

*History*

Adviser: Stephen Pitti

“The Death of the American Dream, en Español: The Problem of Latine Homeownership in the Late Twentieth Century”

*Ramirez’s dissertation provides a clear narrative arc, making a convincing case that changes in the financing and building of housing in the late twentieth century had a dramatic effect on the type and value of homes available to Latinos/as, a growing demographic in these years. He advances the compelling argument that housing was, therefore, a critically important dimension of Latinx politics in this period.*

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.

TAN GAN

*Economics*

Adviser: Dirk Bergemann

“Essays on Digital Markets”

*Gan’s thesis develops theoretical models to analyze various topics associated with digital markets, including dynamic pricing mechanism (e.g., discounted trials) of digital platforms such as streaming services; data markets in the presence of data intermediaries such as large Internet platforms, with a focus on policy implications including privacy regulations; and advertisement pricing of platforms.*

RODRIGO GUERRERO CASTAÑEDA

*Economics*

Adviser: Mark Rosenzweig

“Parental Death and Schooling: Gendered Spheres of Production and Parental Preferences”

*Guerrero Castañeda investigates the impact of parental death on children’s education in India. His thesis uses a clever empirical methodology as well as rigorous use of a structural model featuring collective households to investigate this problem, obtaining fresh insights that go far beyond what the existing literature offers.*

SIDHARTH KANKANALA

*Economics*

Adviser: Xiaohong Chen

“Essays in Nonparametric Econometrics: Endogeneity and Latent Heterogeneity”

*Kankanala develops quasi-Bayes methods for a general class of latent variable models that are directly relevant to important issues in applied economics. He proposes very flexible yet practical methods that are easy to implement. His impressive theoretical analysis is both highly sophisticated and elegant.*

RYUNGA OH

*Economics*

Adviser: Giuseppe Moscarini

“Essays on Spatial Sorting and Labor Markets”

*Oh considers spatial disparity and inequality in labor market outcomes, most notably in terms of wages. She develops a rigorous and pioneering model of two-sided sorting in terms of location, with heterogenous workers and heterogenous firms. She uses German administrative micro data to empirically confirm the model predictions and then explores policy implications of her model quantitatively.*

BERNARDO SILVA DE CARVALHO RIBEIRO  
*Economics*

Advisers: Fabrizio Zilibotti, Michael Peters,  
and Samuel Kortum

“Essays on Economic Growth”

*Ribeiro’s thesis explores economic growth models, focusing on the role of technological changes. He develops a new growth model with an expanding set of technologies growing over time. Despite the theoretical challenges posed by this feature of the model, Ribeiro solves it analytically through elegant and sophisticated techniques, characterizing and evaluating its properties and implications.*

WEI XIANG

*Economics*

Advisers: Fabrizio Zilibotti and Costas  
Arkolakis

“Essays on Economic Growth, International  
Trade, and the Environment”

*Xiang considers a highly relevant and timely topic of environmental policies. In particular, he explores, both empirically and theoretically, the impact of local environmental regulations on innovations in clean technologies when firms are operating on a global scale. He develops a novel growth model with clean and dirty technologies and multi-country production locations to quantitatively assess various environmental policies.*

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.

NATHANIEL GREENWOOD

*Chemistry*

Adviser: Jonathan Ellman

“Rhodium(III)-Catalyzed Heterocycle

Synthesis and New Approaches to High  
Oxidation State Sulfur Pharmacophores by  
Sulfur-Functionalization of Sulfenamides”

*Greenwood’s dissertation contributed to the discovery that selective C-S bond formation on sulfenamides is possible. He first reported enantioselective catalytic reactions of this type, methods for metal-catalyzed sulfenamide S-alkylation and arylation. Many researchers are now developing new methods for synthesizing high oxidation state sulfur pharmacophores by sulfenamide C-S bond formation, a strategy made possible by Greenwood’s initial discovery and research.*

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.

HAMZAH BAIG

*History*

Adviser: Arne Westad and Rosie Bsheer  
(Harvard)

“A Wind from the South: The  
Algerian Revolution, Settler Colonial  
Internationalism, and the Third World  
Radical Imagination”

*Baig’s dissertation is outstanding, drawing on multilingual archival research and interviews, including a number obtained under very difficult circumstances. Altogether, this project is a major step forward in the interpretation of the Algerian revolution and its international consequences.*

ANDRÉS BUSTAMANTE

*History*

Advisers: Gilbert Joseph and Marcela  
Echeverri

“Excavating Mexico: Archaeology and the  
Subsoil Politics of State Formation, 1821-  
1944”

*Every so often a doctoral candidate comes along who brings it all together. Andrés Bustamante is such a precocious young scholar. The implications of this work will be relevant beyond Mexican and even Latin American history.*

JOHN D'AMICO

*History*

Adviser: Daniel Botsman

“Commerce, Capital, and Power in Early Modern Japan”

*D'Amico's dissertation is an extraordinary piece of work, which draws on meticulous archival research to overturn old scholarly orthodoxies and offer a genuinely fresh perspective on the forces that shaped the formation of an entire social and economic order. D'Amico's contributions to the field of early modern Japanese history are hugely significant.*

JAN-RU HUANG

*History*

Adviser: Peter Perdue

“The Wondrous Tales of Zhang Deyi: A Chinese Diplomat's Life Between Worlds, 1847-1919”

*Huang vividly evokes the environment of Sino-Western relations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by following the diaries of an extraordinarily insightful observer, the Han bannerman Zhang Deyi. It is the best written dissertation her adviser has encountered in 40 years of teaching.*

ZEKUN ZHANG

*History*

Adviser: Valerie Hansen

“State and Slavery in the Tang Empire”

*Zhang has demonstrated how much information survives about the topic that scholars have previously overlooked. Breathtakingly original, this study of slavery in the Tang empire and on the Korean peninsula offers a comprehensive analysis of a topic little studied by scholars writing in English, Chinese, Japanese, or Korean.*

## *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.

GABRIEL ARON RAMIREZ

*History*

Adviser: Stephen Pitti

“The Death of the American Dream, en Español: The Problem of Latine Homeownership in the Late Twentieth Century”

*Ramirez's dissertation provides a clear narrative arc, making a convincing case that changes in the financing and building of housing in the late twentieth century had a dramatic effect on the type and value of homes available to Latinos/as, a growing demographic in these years. He advances the compelling argument that housing was, therefore, a critically important dimension of Latinx politics in this period.*

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.

AANCHAL SARAF

*American Studies*

Adviser: Lisa Lowe

“Atomic Afterlives, Pacific Archives: Unsettling the Geographies and Science of Nuclear Colonialism in the Marshall Islands and Hawai'i”

*This dissertation employs an interdisciplinary approach, integrating analysis of official archives from nuclear colonial institutions, Pacific Islander cultural production, and ethnographic research. It evaluates “nuclear colonialism,” which examines how empires designate certain geographies as collateral for nuclear experimentation. It argues the development of nuclear science and the accretive forms of displacement resulting from nuclear detonations are iterations of nuclear colonialism.*

*Graduating Winners of Prize  
Teaching Fellowships*

DA’VON BOYD

*Political Science; African American Studies*

CARISSA CHAN

*Microbiology*

PEDRO MIGUEL CASAVILCA SILVA

*Economics*

HUGO HAVRANEK

*Philosophy*

JUSTIN HAWKINS

*Religious Studies*

NGHIEM HUYNH

*Economics*

WENJING LUO

*Biomedical Engineering*

MOYA MAPPS

*Philosophy*

CERA SMITH

*English Language and Literature; African  
American Studies*

WEI XIANG

*Economics*

# 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*

SREEGANGA CHANDRA

*Associate Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience*

“Dr. Chandra has thoughtfully and intentionally developed a mentorship style which encourages students to reflect on what they are most passionate about, and she does everything in her power to help us get there. Dr. Chandra continues to support my own growth as a scientist and as a person, and I am a better scientist and more confident in myself due to her continued guidance.”

“After joining Dr. Chandra’s lab, I found the lab members treated one another with notable respect and kindness, and a collaborative spirit pervaded every interaction. Following the graduation and advancement of many lab members over the past few years, this spirit has remained and deepened, and it is now apparent to me that it is guided by Dr. Chandra’s firm and generous example. Further, Dr. Chandra consciously fosters a highly inclusive and diverse laboratory; the result being access to a global network of colleagues and mentors that hail from her lab.”

## *In the Humanities*

JENNIFER ALLEN

*Associate Professor of History*

“Professor Allen is an exemplar of rigor. Her expectations of me – while demanding – have forced me to think more sharply and carefully. But she is also one of my biggest advocates at Yale. Her interest in her students goes beyond their intellectual growth and extends to the personal and professional. She has proven herself to be an invaluable resource regarding application support, summer plans, job prospects, course selection, conference and colloquium presentation, and more.”

“I first met Jenni when I was deciding to enter Yale’s PhD program. I have known her as a teacher, mentor, and dissertation committee member. In all these roles, I have constantly been impressed by her rigor, her dedication, and her kindness. Jenni expects much from her students but always ensures she equips them with the tools and feedback necessary to reach their potential. To this end and despite a busy calendar, she always makes time for those students. She is, in this sense, the paragon of academic good citizenship, ready and willing to think through knotty issues.”

## *In the Physical Sciences and Engineering*

MARYNEL VÁZQUEZ

*Assistant Professor of Computer Sciences*

“Marynel has taught me skills that make me more confident in a future in academia. She has an innate ability to balance when it is beneficial for my learning to struggle through figuring something out versus when she can save me hours of wasted time by showing me how to do it. Her encouragement as I learn technical skills has led me to try new techniques that I wouldn’t have thought of attempting before working with her. Marynel has also supported me in mentoring undergraduate students, helping to brainstorm how I can best set them up for success. The way she cares about and supports me as a whole person, not just as a researcher, makes her an exemplary advisor. Marynel exemplifies exactly the type of mentor I hope to be: one that makes students and advisees confident in their abilities and excited to fulfill their potential.”

## *In the Social Sciences*

GRACE KAO

*IBM Professor of Sociology and Professor of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration*

“As I am preparing for the next stage in my academic career, Grace has been a wonderful resource and source of guidance and support navigating the complex process of applying to academic jobs and postdoctoral fellowships. She is incredibly generous with her time and support not only for me, but for all of her graduate students and I am so grateful that I have been able to work with such an accomplished, dedicated, and supportive advisor.”

“Professor Kao’s mentorship has been nothing short of transformative, reshaping my graduate school experience in profound ways. [...] Under her mentorship, I have not only flourished academically but have also found a profound sense of fulfillment and confidence in my academic pursuits.”



#### 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.