HOWARD UNIVERSITY
JUNIOR FACULTY WRITING AND CREATIVE WORKS SUMMER ACADEMY
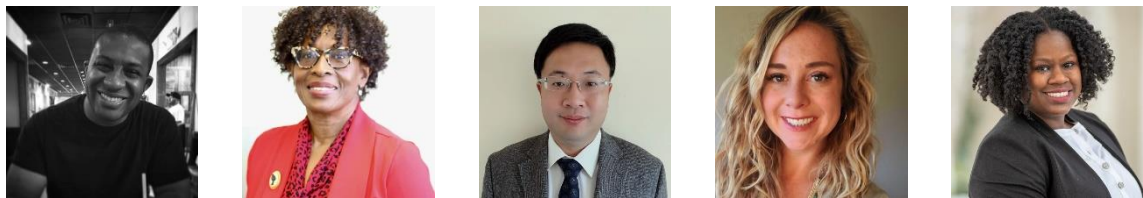
2024 Faculty Profiles

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Faculty Scholars

Scholar Coaches

Nathan Alexander, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Howard University School of Education with a joint appointment in the Center for Applied Data Science and Analytics (CADSA). His research explores the history of computational practices and quantitative literacy development, especially in Black educational settings, as well as the role of history and context in probability theory, statistical data analysis, and mathematics education. This interdisciplinary work sits at the intersection of the humanities, the social sciences, and the computational sciences. Dr. Alexander directs the Quantitative Histories Workshop, a community-centered teaching and learning lab for faculty, students, and community members. He is a visiting scholar at the Institute for Racial Justice (IRJ) at Loyola University, Chicago; and he is a former Research Fellow at the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM) at Brown University. His work has appeared in multiple academic outlets and he is a co-editor of the recently published Mathematical Association of America (MAA) volume *Justice through the lens of calculus: Framing new possibilities for diversity, equity, and inclusion*. Dr. Alexander received his bachelor's degree in mathematics with a double major in sociology from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. in mathematics and education from Columbia University. He is a North Carolina native and he enjoys playing tennis and backpacking through the Central and South Americas.

Research Interests
Digital humanities and the quantitative social sciences
Mathematical and statistical modeling
Open-source software development and databases
Undergraduate and K-12 mathematics and statistics education

Darren Bernal is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Howard University. He earned his Counseling Psychology Ph.D. from the University of Miami and master's degree from the Catholic University of America. A recipient of four teaching awards, Dr. Bernal teaches courses focusing on sociocultural factors that affect psychological, sexual, and social functioning. He has taught at graduate and undergraduate levels in public, private, and international settings. Dr. Bernal grew up in Jamaica before migrating and continues to focus on the global role of psychology. His research focuses on the measurement and function of socioeconomic status in mental health disparities, mindfulness, performance, and psychological well-being. His therapy focus is centered on anxiety, loss, grief, and transition. He is the former chair of the American Psychological Association's Committee on Socioeconomic Status. When he is not teaching, doing therapy, or researching social inequity or mental health disparities, he can often be found working on his favourite "R&R" plan of rowing and reading.

Research Interests
Social inequity
Measurement and function of socioeconomic status in mental health disparities
Mindfulness
Underrepresented groups
Psychological well-being

Marcus Board, Jr., Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Howard University, the Black Politics Chair, and the faculty advisor for the undergraduate student organization, the Political Science Society. Dr. Board's research includes his award-winning book *Invisible Weapons: Infiltrating Resistance and Defeating Movements* (Oxford 2022) and co-authored articles and chapters on the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL). Upcoming research includes a dialogue about political scientist Michael Dawson, an article about the importance of contentious politics in U.S. democracy, a chapter on public opinion, celebrity, and Black politics, another chapter on generational differences in the M4BL, and yet another chapter reflecting on Black politics and Black psychology. Future work includes efforts to start a Howard University Center for Community Organizing and Democracy, projects surrounding ethical AI, prisoner reentry politics including Clean Slate Initiatives in Virginia, a men of color initiative project studying young Black men in HBCUs and small liberal arts PWI's, and 21st century Black political ideologies. In addition to the Junior Faculty Writing and Creative Works Summer Academy, Dr. Board is also committed to supporting the work of Not Me We in Chicago, a human rights organization focused on education, housing, and environmental justice-based inequities, among other things. In hopes to continue building and growing at Howard University, Dr. Board's most consistent work has been two decades working with young people beginning with middle school summer programs and continuing with high school, college, and graduate school support.

Research Interests
Social Justice
Critical Theory
STEM and Tech

Angela P. Cole Dixon, Ph.D. is Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor of Psychology at Howard University. She earned her BS in psychology, with a minor in mathematics, at Howard University and her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology at Stanford University. She was awarded a predoctoral fellowship and dissertation fellowship by the American Psychological Association's (APA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). She was a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research (ISR). In 2008, Dr. Dixon was selected by Stanford University as a Distinguished Alumni Scholar. Her research focuses on information-processing models of decision-making, social cognition and personality, and has resulted in publications in *Health Psychology*; *Law and Human Behavior*; *Brain, Behavior and Immunity*; *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*; *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*; *Caribbean Journal of Psychology*; and *African American Research Perspectives.* She has received external funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). She was Principal Investigator (PI) for a research grant jointly funded by NSF's Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences Program and Social Psychology Program; was PI for the Atlantic Coast Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences Alliance (AC-SBE), funded by NSF's Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences; and received a Faculty and Student Research Team Program Award from the DHS. She has chaired an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Health, Education and Human Services (HHS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship Selection Committee and is a member of the APA Psychology Summer Institute (PSI) Selection Committee.

Research Interests
• Information processing models of decision making
• Social cognition
• Personality

Dr. Sabrina Evans is an Assistant Professor of English who specializes in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century African American literature with a focus on Black women's writing, archives, and organizing. Her research examines the intellectual thought and literary production of Black clubwomen such as Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Anna Julia Cooper, Mary Church Terrell, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett as well as the networks and communities that helped sustain their intellectual and activist work. She also serves as a JT Mellon Satellite Partner for the Center for Black Digital Research at Penn State University. As satellite partner, she acts as project co-coordinator to the Black Women's Organizing Archive, a digital humanities project that seeks to locate the scattered archives of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Black women organizers and create teaching and research resources.

Research Interests
Nineteenth-Century African American Literature
Early Twentieth-Century African American Literature
Black Women's Intellectual Thought
Black Print Culture
Black Digital Humanities
Black Feminism

J. Reese Faust, LL.M., Ph.D., is a Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy. His areas of expertise are the philosophy of law, social and political philosophy, and contemporary Continental European philosophy, especially phenomenology and critical theory. Dr Faust received his Ph.D. from The University of Memphis and was previously awarded his LL.M. in Human Rights from Birkbeck, University of London. A pluralist by disposition and by training, his dissertation drew on Anglo-American jurisprudence, Hegelian social and political philosophy, hermeneutic phenomenology, and critical race theory to argue that truly respecting human dignity, as well as serving the interests of justice, requires giving the lived experiences of historically marginalized peoples at least as much weight in legal decision-making as constitutions and case law receive. This argument culminated in critiquing the U.S. Supreme Court's holding in *Shelby County v. Holder* for prioritizing the abstract dignity between states over the concrete harms to the dignity of minority voters legally disenfranchised by the decision. Dr Faust's research still concerns problems of legal authority and political legitimacy in legal interpretation, the relationship between social identity and political subjectivity, the normative implications of human embodiment and vulnerability, and Afro-Latin-Caribbean philosophies of liberation. He has published articles in *Law and Critique* and *Philosophy & Social Criticism*, with another forthcoming in *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*. Dr Faust is preparing several pieces for publication covering topics in the history of philosophy, general jurisprudence and legal interpretation, human dignity and care ethics, and populism and democratic legitimacy.

Research Interests
Critical Theory
Decolonial Philosophy/Philosophies of Liberation
Phenomenology
Philosophy of Law
Social and Political Philosophy

Zoeann Finzi-Adams, Ph.D., has been deeply committed to women's issues for as long as she can remember. While attending Florida International University for undergrad, she also found her passion for Psychology and social justice. These passions spearheaded her pursuit of her master's degree at Florida International University in Counseling Psychology, and later her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Howard University. Dr. Finzi-Adams is deeply passionate about the lived experienced of Black women including the impact of group-based stressors (e.g., colorism, racism, sexism), disparities (e.g., anxiety, depression, obesity, maternal health outcomes) as well as the unique strengths and resiliency factors. Dr. Finzi-Adams is committed to addressing these issues by way of accessibility to therapy, including through the creation of her private practice focused on women of color as well as through her research initiatives.

Research Interests
Black maternal health
High functioning anxiety and depression among Black women

Carolivia Herron is an African American Jewish author and scholar with her main interests in epic literature, African American studies, Classics, and multimedia storytelling. She earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Pennsylvania. Before coming to Howard, she held professorial positions at Harvard, Mount Holyoke, California State, Arizona State, and William and Mary. Her first novel, *Thereafter Johnnie* was recently chosen for re-issue as a classic, and she has two new children's books in press, *Kindergarten Blues* and *Grilled Cheese*. Earlier children's books include *Nappy Hair* and *Little Georgia and the Apples*. Her additional novels are Asenath and the Origin of Nappy Hair and *PeaceSongDC*. The play, *Pharsalia; or, For Crying Out Loud*, commissioned by Theater J is her most recent work. *Pharsalia* links Lucan's ancient Roman epic of the same name, with Pharsalia Plantation in Virginia, where Carolivia's formerly enslaved ancestors lived. Her Great Great Grandmother, Mary Ann Lumpkin, survived her enslaver and used his money to found Virginia Union University. Herron's scholarship includes the Oxford edition of the *Selected Works of Angelina Weld Grimké* and several essays on African American epic tradition. The opera, *Let Freedom Sing: The Story of Marian Anderson* (Bruce Adolphe composer) with Carolivia's libretto was originally produced by the Washington National Opera and the Washington Performing Arts Society. It was restaged in 2023 by Mobile Opera in Alabama. Carolivia also hosts a weekly radio show, Epic City, on Takoma Radio. In addition, she publishes works by Black Jews of Africa.

Research Interests
Epic literature of all continents
Classics
African American Studies
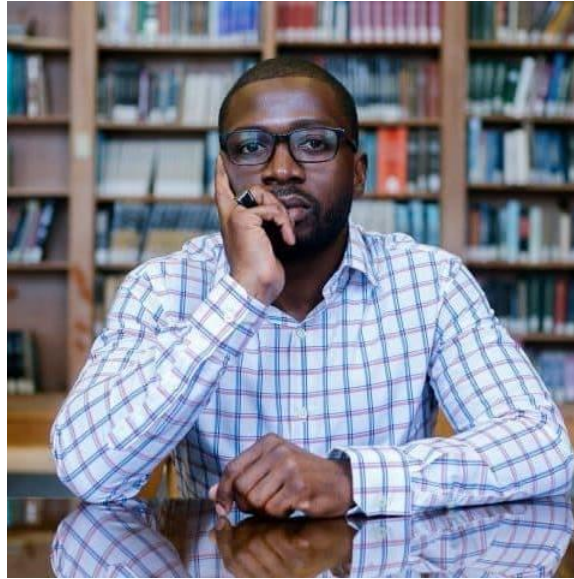
Brandon Hogan is a Florida native who has long been associated with Howard University. He came to Howard as a student in 1999 on a wrestling scholarship and returned to Howard as a professor in the philosophy department in 2013. Prior to returning to Howard, he lived in Boston and Pittsburgh as a student. He currently enjoys playing with his dog, Nina Simone, coaching wrestling, and painting. He is a barred attorney but does not currently practice. He does enjoy reading Supreme Court decisions and mentoring Howard pre-law students.

Research Interests
Philosophy of Law
African American Philosophy

Professor Kehbuma Langmia is a double Fulbright Scholar/ Professor and Chair in the Department of Communication Studies, School of Communications, Howard University. A graduate from the Communication and Media Studies Program at Howard University, Dr. Langmia received his Ph.D. under the supervision of the feminist scholar, Carolyn Byerly. He has extensive knowledge and expertise in Information Communication Technology (ICT), Intercultural, Cross Cultural and International Communication, Black Diaspora Communication Theory, Decolonial Media Studies, Social Media and Afrocentricity. Since earning his Ph.D. in Communications and Media Studies from Howard University, he has published 18 books, 18 book chapters and dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles nationally and internationally. In 2020, he received the prestigious NCA Orlando Taylor distinguished research scholar award as a top scholar in African and African American communication publications. He is a visiting scholar at Daystar University, Kenya and MUBS, Makerere University, Uganda, Buea University, Cameroon and University of Winneba, Ghana. In November 2017, Dr. Langmia was awarded the prestigious Toyin Falola Africa Book Award in Marrakesh, Morocco by the Association of Global South Studies for his book titled "Globalization and cyberculture: An Afrocentric Perspective". In 2019, he was selected as Visiting Professor Program at Fordham University in New York organized by ANAHis forthcoming books include: 1) ***Black Communication Theory, Volume 2*** to be published by Palgrave, McMillan publishers and 2) ***Research Methods for Afrocentric Scholarship*** to be published by Routledge. Website: drlangmia.net. He has been a scholar coach for the Howard University Summer Writing Academy since 2016.

Research Interests
Intercultural Communication
Information Communication Technology
Social Media
Identity

Nea Maloo is an award-winning assistant professor at the architecture department who teaches sustainable design studios, building science, and professional practice. Nea Maloo primes HBCU students for leadership, creating an essential pipeline for diversity and environmental justice. Her inclusive teaching integrates global equity with climate action and transforms architectural education to advance the profession worldwide. Her research includes the intersection of biophilia, environmental justice, decarbonization, biomimicry, health equity, and clean energy sciences. She is a robust role model and has presented at several local and national conventions on architecture, women, equity, digital architecture, and sustainability. Nea Maloo was elevated to the 2023 College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, a distinction only earned by 3% of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) members. She has also served on various panels to share her perspectives on topics related to environmental design. She is an active AIA, NCARB, and NOMA member and is the Building Technology Educators' Society (BTES) ex-president. Nea Maloo is also the founder and principal architect of Showcase Architects, an award-winning practice focused on environmental architecture, community planning, and biophilic design. Her expertise is in providing innovative design solutions to complex technical projects.

Research Interests
Environmental justice in built environments
Clean energy architecture
Biophilic design
Passive design strategies
Carbon neutral design
Decarbonization of built environment
High performance sustainable building

Dominic McKenzie is a tenure-track assistant professor of digital storytelling in the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University. He is also the director of the Howard University Multicultural Media Academy, a high school journalism workshop training future reporters in the art of storytelling on health disparities in minority communities. Before joining Howard, he was director of the Journalism degree program at Oakwood University, an HBCU in Huntsville, Ala., on faculty at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York and Northern Caribbean University. From the island of Jamaica, he is the chief architect of two undergraduate degree programs in Journalism at Oakwood -- the only Journalism degrees offered in North Alabama. Prior to that, he worked at Spectrum News as a reporter, covering stories on health, politics and the Caribbean diaspora. While there, his stories often aired across Spectrum News stations and CNN affiliates across the United States. In Jamaica, he was news anchor, reporter & show host at NCU 91 FM and lifestyle host at NCU Television. McKenzie holds a Master of Arts degree in Journalism and a post-graduate certificate in Entrepreneurial Journalism from the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York. There, he specialized in city government, broadcast and data journalism.

Research interests
Journalism curriculum development and assessment
International student populations at historically Black universities
Choral music and its cross-section with identity formation
Health disparities in minority communities

Dr. Jahn N. O'Neil is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology & Biophysics at Howard University College of Medicine. Her research aims to understand the mechanisms underlying metabolic, neurological, and neurodegenerative diseases associated with brain aging. Dr. O'Neil earned her BSc in Biology at the University of the Virgin Islands and her Ph.D. in Physiology, specializing in neurophysiology. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in auditory physiology at Johns Hopkins University in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, examining the effect of deafness and intervening cochlear implantation on brain plasticity in an animal model. Her research revealed the significant benefit of earlier cochlear implantation in language acquisition. Additionally, as a postdoctoral fellow, Dr. O'Neil completed a graduate certificate in Leadership and Management in the Life Sciences at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, enabling scientists to bridge the gap between science and business. Dr. O'Neil returned to Howard University as an Instructor before being promoted to her current position. She is an inaugural Junior Faculty Scholar at Howard University College of Medicine, Center of Excellence. Her research interests are varied but currently focus on the role of salt-induced hypertension in APOE4-expressing mice and its implications for Alzheimer's disease. She has received both external (NIH-R03, Co-I) and internal (HU, PI) funding and has authored several publications and book chapters.

Research Interests
Alzheimer's disease and related dementia
Alzheimer's disease and its association with sensory modalities Neuroinflammation
APOE genotypes
Hypertension

Michael Ralph, Ph.D., is Chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies and Founding Director of the Center for an Equitable Economy and Sustainable Society (E^{2}S^2) at Howard University. Michael's research integrates political science, economics, history, and medical and economic anthropology through an explicit focus on debt, slavery, insurance, forensics, and incarceration. Michael is the recipient of fellowships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Social Science Research Council, National Science Foundation, Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, Harvard University's Charles Warren Center for Studies in US History and W.E.B. Dubois Fellowship, and the Robert L. Heilbroner Center for Studies in Capitalism at the New School for Social Research. Michael's 2015 book *Forensics of Capital* demonstrates that the social profile of an individual or country is a credit profile as well as a forensic profile. Michael is now completing several books. *Life* explores the relationship between the history of actuarial science, slavery, life insurance, and other techniques for determining how much someone's life is worth. *Before 13th* revises the scholarly consensus about private prison labor, or convict leasing, showing that it did not begin with the 13th amendment but several decades prior. Michael is also completing the graphic book, *Fishing*, which illustrates how people who are incarcerated improvise strings (from bed sheets, clothing, dental floss, and other fabrics) they can tie to objects to share with each other. Michael is also the creator of *Treasury of Weary Souls*, the world's most complete ledger of slave insurance.

Research Interests

Political science, economics, history, and medical and economic anthropology through an explicit focus on debt, slavery, insurance, forensics, and incarceration

Lora Robinson, MMT, MT-BC, is Assistant Professor and Music Therapy Coordinator within the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. Her research interests lie at the intersection of music therapy, psychology, and cultural studies, with a particular focus on the impacts and legacies of Black music therapy pioneers. Professor Robinson's work sheds light on the often overlooked contributions of these trailblazers, highlighting their innovative approaches and enduring influence on contemporary practice. In her role as an educator and researcher, Professor Robinson is deeply committed to fostering interdisciplinary collaborations. She believes that integrating diverse perspectives from various fields enriches the practice of music therapy and leads to more holistic and effective therapeutic interventions. This commitment is reflected in her numerous collaborative projects that bridge the gaps between music therapy, allied health disciplines, mental health, and community engagement. Professor Robinson is also a passionate advocate for bringing creative arts therapies to underserved Black and Brown communities. She has spearheaded several initiatives aimed at increasing access to music therapy services for these populations, emphasizing the importance of culturally responsive care. Her efforts have not only expanded the reach of music therapy but also empowered communities by providing them with valuable tools for emotional expression and healing. Professor Robinson continues to use her research, advocacy, and collaborative spirit to make significant contributions to the field of music therapy, ensuring that the voices and legacies of Black music therapy pioneers are honored and that creative arts therapies are accessible to all.

Research Interests
Developing music therapy undergraduate programs at HBCUs
Mental health awareness and creative arts therapies intervention
Highlighting the impact of Black Music Therapy pioneers
Interdisciplinary collaboration between creative arts therapies and mental health
supporting disciplines

Sandra G. Shannon, Ph.D., is professor emerita of African American literature in the Department of English at Howard University. She is widely acknowledged as a major scholar in the field of African American drama and *the* leading authority on two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson. Dr. Shannon is Founder and President Emerita of the August Wilson Society; Dean of the College of Fellows of the American Theater, and PI for the Black Seed-funded research and publication project, Centering and Celebrating Wilsonian Warriors. She served a seven-year tenure *(*2014 to 2021) as editor of the *College Language Association Journal (CLAJ)*. Dr. Shannon is the author of *The Dramatic Vision of August Wilson*, the first published bio-critical monograph on August Wilson, and *August Wilson's Fences: A Reference Guide,* the first book-length critical examination of *Fences*, which continues to be one of Wilson's most taught and most performed plays in the ten-play American Century Cycle. In addition, Dr. Shannon has published numerous peer reviewed articles and chapters on Wilson, and has served as the sole editor of several essay collections, including *Modern American Drama: Playwriting in the 1980s* and *August Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle: Critical Perspectives on the Plays*. Fittingly, in July 2022, she was awarded the Career Achievement Award in Academic Theatre presented by the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE). Since its inception in 2016, Dr. Shannon has been affiliated with Howard University's Junior Faculty Writing and Creative Works Summer Academy as Scholar Coach and as Visiting Scholar Coach. For more information on her list of publications, visit https://works.bepress.com/sandra-shannon/.

Research Interests
Black Theatre and Dramatic Literature
August Wilson
Black Playwrights
Theatre History and Criticism
Contemporary African American Literature and Criticism

Delphia S. Smith, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of reading/literacy education. She holds an appointment in the Howard University School of Education. She was born and raised in the Bahamas and enjoy traveling home whenever an opportunity arises. Before entering the academy, Dr. Smith served as an elementary educator for over 11 years in the United States and her home country, the Bahamas. A lover of reading and writing, Dr. Smith has coauthored several children's books that focus on areas such as race, diversity, and the importance of hard work and dedication.

Research Interests
Early Reading/Early Literacy
Black and Brown representation in children's literature
Educational equity/reform
Intersection of Black and Brown children and early reading/literacy
Teacher education

Keisha Solomon is an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at Howard University. Dr. Solomon is an applied microeconomist, with research interests in mental health, substance use, policy evaluation, labor economics, and health equity. She received her Ph.D. in economics at Temple University. Her dissertation examined the effect of mental healthcare policies and family-specific characteristics on health and educational outcomes. After her doctoral studies, Dr. Solomon completed postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (BSPH). At BSPH, she worked with an interdisciplinary research team on the rapid-cycle evaluation of innovative policy strategies to address the opioid crisis as part of a major new program called the Bloomberg Opioid Prevention Initiative. As a part of her current research agenda, she works independently and collaboratively on two streams of research. One stream of her research estimates the impact of hospital- and state-level programs/policies that may impact access to opioid use disorder treatment or mental healthcare on health behaviors and socioeconomic factors – including education and crime. The second stream of her research examines the effect of social policies on health behaviors and the human capital accumulation of individuals of vulnerable populations. Dr. Solomon has published several peer-reviewed studies within the fields of health economics and health policy. Dr. Solomon's work has appeared in journals such as the *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Health Economics*, and *JAMA Health Forum*.

Research Interests
Health economics
Policy evaluation
Mental health
Substance use disorders
Labor economics

John Stigall is a Lecturer of Philosophy at Howard University. Before coming to Howard, John completed his Ph.D. in Philosophy at Florida State University in 2018, and taught philosophy as a Lecturer of Philosophy at Morgan State University from 2019 to 2022. He has also worked as an independent consultant to the Law School Admission Council, writing logical reasoning questions for the LSAT. When John arrived at Howard he started a logic group with his colleague Charles Barclay, the Howard University Logic and Reasoning Lab. The group offers logic instruction, LSAT prep, and often features presentations from invited expert speakers. John's publications and current research interests fall at the intersection of metaphysics and philosophy of logic. His coauthored article "Causation, Norms, and Omissions" in *Philosophical Psychology* is an empirical study of the influence that norms can have on people's causal judgments. The more abstract and conceptual "Not Every Truth Could Have a Truthmaker" in *Theoria* concerns paradoxes linked to the metaphysics of truth. His current project is a historical account of Euphemia Lofton Haynes' philosophy of logic and mathematics.

<u>Research Interests</u>
Metaphysics
Logic and Philosophy of Logic
Paradoxes
Ethics
Cognitive Science

Ingrid Sturgis is Department Chair and an associate professor specializing in new media in the Department of Media, Journalism and Film in the Cathy Hughes School of Communication. Firmly rooted in traditional as well as digital journalism, she has worked as a reporter and editor for newspapers such as the *Philadelphia Inquirer,* the *Times-Herald Record* and the *Poughkeepsie Journal* as well as managing editor for two magazine start-ups. She has worked online since 2001 in positions such as editor-in-chief for Essence.com, editor for AOL's Black Voices, and as a web strategist. Professor Sturgis's research addresses the digital divide and how unrepresented groups may use social media to empower communities, which is critical for a healthy democratic society. She is a co-chair of the School of Communications annual Social Media Technology Conference and Workshop. She has extensive knowledge and expertise in social media, digital media literacy, media misinformation, online education, and the digital divide and focuses on digital media and training students to use innovative storytelling techniques to serve diverse news audiences. Professor Sturgis has received a Fulbright-Hays U.S. Speaker and Specialist fellowship, an NSF subgrant for the CPATH Distributed Expertise project, an AEJMC's Institute for Diverse Leadership fellowship, and a Kopenhaver Center fellowship. She has edited and authored several books, including "Are Traditional Media Dead: Can Journalism Survive in the Digital World," "Social Media: Pedagogy and Practice." Professor Sturgis has an M.A. in journalism from N.Y.U. and a B.A. in art from City College of NY. She is currently enrolled as a doctoral student in the Higher Education Leadership and Policy program in the School of Education.

Research Interests
Algorithms and ethics, Black media innovation, digital media literacy, the digital divide, media misinformation, online education and marginalized groups, social media and social change
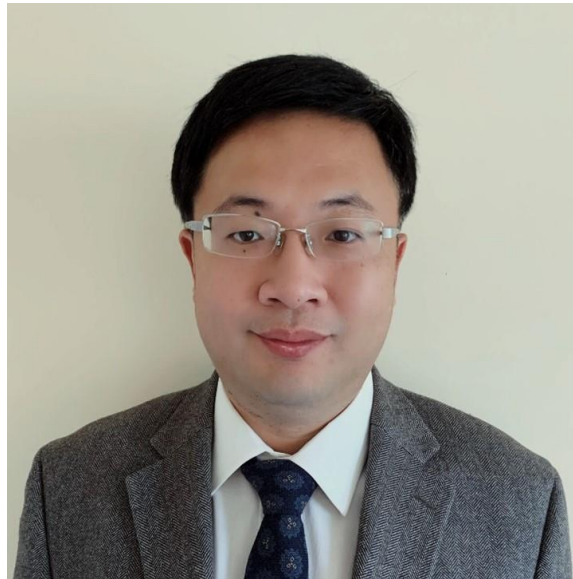
Dr. Shaolei Teng is a Bioinformatician and Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at Howard University. Dr. Teng earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Clemson University and completed postdoctoral work in Bioinformatics and Genomics at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. His research interests include machine learning, next-generation sequencing, and protein structure modeling. He has authored over 30 peer-reviewed articles in prestigious journals, such as *Briefings in Bioinformatics* and *Molecular Psychiatry*. His recent research uses bioinformatics to explore mutations linked to COVID-19, cancers, and mental disorders. Currently, Dr. Teng leads several research projects, serving as the PI for the NSF Excellence in Research and as Co-PI for initiatives including the NSF Harnessing the Data Revolution, NSF Targeted Infusion Project, and the DoD Center of Excellence in AI/ML. He is also a dedicated mentor, guiding students under multiple educational grants. Since January 2023, Dr. Teng has served as the Associate Chair, managing the academic and administrative needs of over 1,300 undergraduate students. Previously, he was the Director of Graduate Studies from 2021 to 2022, overseeing the academic progress of more than 30 graduate students. Dr. Teng also co-directs the HU-CCR Cancer Track, a significant collaborative educational initiative between HU and NIH, providing specialized research training to HU's doctoral students. In recognition of his service, he received the 2013-2024 Outstanding Service (Associate Professor) award in COAS.

Research Interests
Omics
Bioinformatics
Machine Learning
Computational Biophysics
Mental Disorders and Cancers

Dr. Kathryn E. Wiley is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the School of Education at Howard University. She is an expert in school discipline, climate, and safety, with a focus on race and educational opportunity and has conducted qualitative, mixed-method, and historical research. Her work has appeared in *Educational Administration Quarterly*, *Race Ethnicity and Education*, *The Urban Review, EdWeek,* and *Chalkbeat,* among others. An avid public scholar, she is passionate about supporting education leaders, advocates, organizers, and lawmakers in equity-oriented change for racial and social justice in schools and districts. She has worked with federal and state policy coalitions and community organizers to inform evidenced-based policy language and recommendations on school discipline, climate, and safety, often with a focus on creating affirming and sustaining school environments for Black students and educators. Her recent projects address the intersection of exclusionary school discipline and school desegregation, and unethical leadership and whiteness in organizations.

Research Interests
School discipline
School desegregation
School finance
Education leadership
Anti-racist education

Dr. Patrice Wright is a medical sociologist whose research interests are at the nexus of racial health disparities and healthcare experiences. Her qualitative approach to studying healthcare disparities magnifies how healthcare interactions shape healthcare experience and subsequent outcomes. In her current project, Dr. Wright peels back the layers of Black maternal health experiences in the U.S. using interviews with mothers and obstetric healthcare providers and ethnographic observation data on a hospital labor and delivery unit. She argues that while many conceptualize the risks apparent in Black maternal health, the risks to which providers and patients are attuned are different and culminate in patients and providers speaking past each other. Her research agenda unfolds the mechanisms and implications of such health (mis)communication. Dr. Wright's research has been supported by the American Sociological Association's Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant and the Jefferson Scholars Foundation. Hailing from Indiana, Dr. Wright is a proud alumna of Purdue University where she earned a BA in Political Science and Spanish Language and Literature. Before receiving a M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Virginia, Dr. Wright earned a master's in teaching from Marian University Indianapolis and taught high school English for five years. In her free time, Dr. Wright enjoys watching Marvel movies and traveling.

Research Interests
Patient-provider interactions
Intersectionality
Race/racism
Sociology of emotions

2024 Junior Faculty Writing and Creative Works Summer Academy Team

Okianer Christian Dark, J.D.
Associate Provost for Faculty Development

Elka M. Stevens, Ph.D. & Jacoby A. Carter, Ph.D.
2024 Summer Academy Co-Directors

Jacqueline Young, M.S.
Program Manager for Faculty Development

Deborah Elliott
Administrative Assistant II

Chieh-Hsiung "Jack" Chang
Network and Computer Systems Administrator