

## ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ FPP Conference presenter biographies ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■

**Tamar Carroll** is a scholar of the history of women, gender, and sexuality, with a focus on social movements in the post-1945 U.S. Trained as an historian, I employ interdisciplinary feminist research methods and engage in public history collaborations with scholars, cultural institutions, and community groups. At RIT, I teach courses in History; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Museum Studies; and Digital Humanities. My scholarship, which includes peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and books as well as the creation of oral history and digital archives, and my public history practice, which includes exhibitions and programming, inspire and inform each other. I am also an accomplished administrator, having served as both a department chair and program director who successfully launched two new undergraduate degrees.

**M. L. "Peg" De Furia** has long been affiliated with Syracuse University, having completed dual BS degrees in Pre-Med and Psychology, an MS in Recreation Education, a CAS in Physical Education, and a PhD in Teaching and Curriculum. An Orange Plus Hall of Fame member and Varsity Letter Winner, Dr. De Furia coached the men's volleyball club from its inception in 1975 to 2001 and still serves as their advisor and the E.C.V.A.-NORTH Commissioner for all 31 men's upstate collegiate clubs. She coordinates the volleyball venue for NY State Senior & Masters Games and is the assignor for the CNY Volleyball Officials' Corporation. In addition to her "Jack-of-All-Trades" responsibilities in the Graduate School, Peg is an adjunct instructor in the Department of Exercise Science. Her brother, Chuck, still lives in their hometown, Chicago, and her sister, Mary, lives in Syracuse and teaches at OCC.

**Katie Ducett** is Assistant Professor of Foundations and Social Advocacy at SUNY Cortland. She is a 2023 graduate of the Special Education PhD program at Syracuse University.

**Dr. Marie Garland** has been helping new faculty rethink their approach to getting the mentoring they need for over a decade. In her role as Assistant Provost in Faculty Affairs, she also supports academic leaders and those experiencing career transitions through coaching and by creating empowered learning communities.

**Emily Hart** is the Life Sciences Librarian and Research Impact Lead at Syracuse University Libraries. She provides research support, instruction, collections, evidence synthesis, and outreach services to several departments in the life sciences; and leads a team of librarians who specialize in supporting Syracuse University's goal of advancing research and achieving greater research visibility for the University. Emily co-managed the University Research Information Management (RIM) system and has sustained involvement with campus-wide strategic planning initiatives related to research and related systems. Beyond SU, Emily presents regularly at national conferences on topics related to bibliometrics and scholarly communications. Emily has 20 years of experience as an academic librarian.

**Nate Hughes** (he/his) is a doctoral candidate at Syracuse University studying inclusive education. He holds a Master's degree in the education of students with disabilities and has previous career experience with mentoring neurodivergent high school students at an independent living center. Nate identifies as autistic and as having an anxiety disorder, having been diagnosed with both at a young age. His research interests include autistic agency, methods for preventing out-of-district placements and neurodivergent experiences in higher education.

**India Luxton** is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Center for Policy Research and Department of Geography and the Environment at Syracuse University. She received her PhD in Sociology from Colorado State University in 2024. Her work is supported by a USDA AFRI NIFA postdoctoral fellowship.

**Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley** is a PhD candidate in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications here at Syracuse University. Using mixed methods, she studies the barriers to accessing and producing news and information.

**Steph McReynolds** is the Librarian for Business, Management, and Entrepreneurship at Syracuse University Libraries. In this role, she helps students, faculty, and staff at the Whitman School of Management and the Blackstone LaunchPad in Bird Library, as well as anyone interested in business and entrepreneurship across campus, find the data and information they need for their business ideas, projects, and papers. Steph is also a member of the Research Impact Team, which helps scholars throughout Syracuse University increase the visibility of their research and scholarship and provides resources and guidance on telling the story of their scholarly impact.

**Fasika Melese** is a PhD student and Teaching/Research Assistant in the Instructional Design, Development and Evaluation program in the SU School of Education. Her research focuses on technology integration in classroom settings, specifically the use of audiovisual technologies. She has vast experience teaching technology in formal and informal educational settings. Fasika is passionate about making learning fun. She enjoys photography, swimming, and reading in her free time.

**Dr. Anna O'Brien**, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Le Moyne College, has mentored undergraduate research as a faculty member since 2007. She was a teaching/research postdoctoral fellow at Colgate University and is an alum of the FPP at SU, where she earned her PhD in Chemistry.

**Dan Olson-Bang** is Director of Professional and Career Development in the Graduate School, which provides individual appointments, workshops, and career exploration opportunities for graduate students and postdocs across campus. Prior to Syracuse University, where he began in fall 2014, he earned his doctorate in English Literature from Fordham University in New York City.

**Fortune Ononiwu** is a chemistry faculty member at Bennington College and the Bard Prison Initiative, where he teaches courses in organic chemistry, biochemistry, and the chemistry of everyday life. He received a PhD in Chemistry from Syracuse University in 2023. His research interests span synthetic

organic chemistry, particularly the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds with potential applications in chelation and natural product chemistry. He is passionate about undergraduate education and mentoring, often curating learning environments that encourage non-grade centric, curiosity driven student exploration of the beautiful complexities that arise from the movement of electrons. Fortune is also engaged in science communication and curriculum development, with a focus on demystifying chemophobia and fostering public understanding of chemistry.

**Dr. Claire Perrott** (she/her) received her PhD in Latin American History from the University of Arizona in 2020. In her dissertation, Claire studied the eruption of Parícutin, a volcano that appeared in a cornfield in Mexico in 1943. She used visual sources to examine the relationship between culture and landscape in Mexico and the Americas. After teaching history for 8 years, Claire transitioned to a role in higher ed administration. As the Professional Development Postdoctoral Fellow in the Office of Research, Claire develops resources and connects postdocs to campus resources, with a particular emphasis on professional development opportunities. Claire provides comprehensive support to postdoctoral scholars, ensuring their success during their tenure at SU and as they prepare for the next stage of their careers.

**Sara Petit-McClure** is a PhD candidate in Inclusive Special Education and Disability Studies and a former elementary teacher, teacher coach, and school administrator. Her work focuses on pre-service teacher education for meeting the needs of diverse learners, combining disability with other social categories of diversity in the ways that diverse learners are defined. Sara identifies as neurodivergent, although has never received a specific diagnosis.

**Sao Puth** holds a PhD in Molecular Medicine from Chonnam National University Medical School in South Korea. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Biology from the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 2013, and completed his Master's in Molecular Medicine in 2016, focusing on ATP production in *Vibrio vulnificus* following infection. In 2019, he completed his doctoral research on developing mucosal vaccines targeting *Fusobacterium nucleatum* and *Porphyromonas gingivalis*. He continued as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Combinatorial Tumor Immunotherapy Medical Research Center, where he worked on a therapeutic vaccine for cervical cancer. At the Immunotherapy Innovation Center, his research shifted to developing a therapeutic vaccine for Alzheimer's disease using engineered Tau protein. Currently, Dr. Sao is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering at Syracuse University's Wu Lab, where he focuses on engineering nanomedicine for targeted drug delivery. His work spans infectious disease, cancer, neurodegeneration, and biomaterials-based immunotherapy.

**Candace Receno** is Assistant Professor and Graduate Chair of Exercise Science and Athletic Training at Ithaca College. After receiving the PhD in Exercise Science from Syracuse University in 2017, she held a postdoctoral fellowship at Le Moyne College.

**Rick Seltzer** is a senior writer at *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. He writes The Daily Briefing newsletter for the *Chronicle* and, with senior editor Sarah Brown, delivers the webinar series, “Trump and Higher Ed: Understanding the Latest.” He previously worked as an editor at *Higher Ed Dive* and a reporter and projects editor at *Inside Higher Ed*. Rick graduated from Syracuse University in 2008 with degrees in journalism and political science.

**Dr. JoCarol (JoJo) Shields** (she/her) received her PhD in Health and Human Performance from Oklahoma State University in 2023. Her dissertation focused on how an exercise intervention counteracts the age-related degradation of nerve conduction. Following graduation, Dr. Shields served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Stetson University. Prior to these roles, she held various adjunct instructor positions at Eastern Florida State College. In 2024, Dr. Shields transitioned to a role as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Exercise Science and a researcher in the Neural Health Research Lab at SU. She currently oversees research projects investigating how neural function drives physical performance in older adults.

**Heather Stauffer** is editor-in-chief at Syracuse University Press. She acquires for the Irish Studies, Indigenous Studies, Jewish Studies, and TV/Pop Culture lists, among others. She was at the University of Nebraska Press for over a decade before joining Syracuse in the spring of 2024.

**Jeremy Steinbacher** is Director of Research Operations in the Office of Research at Syracuse University. He formerly served as Director of Operations and Research Associate Professor with the BioInspired Institute. Jeremy came to Syracuse after years as a faculty member at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, and a stint in government as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the US Department of Defense.

**Kirin R. Taylor** is a Teaching Associate and 3<sup>rd</sup>-year PhD student at Maxwell’s Department of Political Science. She was formerly an adjunct professor at St. John’s University in Queens, NYC. She came into academia from a grassroots services and social justice background, including several years in the administration of a peace education non-profit (Little Friends for Peace) with whom she has taught personal and interpersonal peace skills to thousands of children, teenagers, and other educators. In addition to teaching political courses, she teaches yoga and has worked with the Barnes Center counseling center to offer trauma-informed movement. Taylor is passionate about infusing political education with social consciousness, as well as enhanced focus on student and instructor wellbeing, particularly given the difficult feelings many social, political, and economic topics may produce.

**Wren Vetens** is interested in studying the fundamental physical forces which govern the universe and its evolution. She is interested in studying physics with a broad range of applications, from CP violation to dark matter, to hadronic bound states and the strong force. After getting her PhD in Physics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2024 studying exotic physics and flavor physics with the CMS collaboration, they came to SU to begin their current position as a Postdoctoral Researcher with the LHCb collaboration.

**Winn W. Wasson** is the Social Science Librarian at Syracuse University Libraries, where he serves as the primary liaison between the Libraries and most of the departments and programs at the Maxwell School.

**Jeff Werner** (he/him) is a Professor in the Chemistry Department at SUNY Cortland. He teaches Analytical Chemistry and General Chemistry, and he investigates research questions in the fields of environmental chemistry and microbial ecology, where he prioritizes undergraduate research experiences as a key impact of his research. Of particular relevance to this conference, Jeff has served on over a dozen tenure-track faculty search committees, including in the fields of Chemistry, Biology, and Childhood Education.

**Glenn Wright** is Executive Director of Professional and Career Development at SU. His main responsibilities include professional development programming for graduate students, providing oversight to the Graduate School's TA Program and English Language Proficiency Services, directing the Graduate School Press publication series, and administering the FPP campus-wide. Glenn has a PhD in English from the University of Michigan and has worked in educational assessment, academic publishing, and intermittently as a freelance editor and writer. He is the editor of *The Mentoring Continuum: From Graduate School through Tenure* (Graduate School Press, 2015) and co-editor of *Leaving the Grove: A Quit Lit Reader* (Graduate School Press, 2022).

**Dr. Bin Wu** (she/her) is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Physics at Syracuse University. Her research focuses on optical experiments, exploring methods to improve the sensitivity of gravitational wave detectors. She received her PhD in Physics from Nagoya University (Japan) in 2023.

**Dr. Yan Wu** is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Biology at Syracuse University. She earned her PhD in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from Hiroshima University in Japan, where she investigated the role of the ubiquitin ligase RNF183 in inflammatory bowel disease. Her current research explores how mitotic events drive the development of the Left-Right Organizer (LRO) during zebrafish embryogenesis. The LRO is an important transient structure that helps establish the left-right patterning of the vertebrate body plan. Dr. Wu has over ten years of hands-on experience in molecular and cellular biology. Her work has been presented at international conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. She is passionate about understanding inflammatory bowel disease and the dynamic cellular processes that occur during development, and she is actively pursuing career opportunities in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.