FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 29 | 2024

# 2024 Signature Fair Work

*Meet Your Future*

SIGNATURE WORK *Mentor*

昆山杜克大学
DUKE KUNSHAN
UNIVERSITY

标志性成果办公室
Office of Signature Work

# AB Ballroom (A)

# AB Ballroom (B)

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No 01: Ben Van Overmeire

No 02: Benjamin Bacon

No 03: Ferdinand Kappes

No 04: Gergely Horvath

No 05: Hyun Jeong Ha

No 06: Kolleen Guy

No 07: Luyao Zhang

No 08: Ming Li

No 09: Puyang Li

No 10: Renee Richer

No 11: Stephanie Anderson

No 12: Wumeng He

No 13: Yu Wang

No 14: Joseph Giacomelli

No 15: Mengqi Wang

No 16: Paul Stanley

### Renee Richer
*Associate Professor of Biology*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"Are you excited about understanding Life? Are you excited about design and the environment? Are you excited about sustainability? If you answered YES to any of these questions then I would like to help guide you through your Signature Work journey.  Let's have a conversation and see if we are a good fit."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Environmental Toxicology (Neurotoxins), Urban Ecology, Environmental Science, Botany, and Life at Extremes

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Environmental Toxicology (Neurotoxins), Urban Ecology, and Environmental Science

### Stephanie Anderson
*Assistant Professor of Literature and Creative Writing*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"I'd love to talk to you about your interdisciplinary or creative-critical hybrid work! Let's think out loud together."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Literature, Creative Writing, and Arts and Media

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Literature, Creative Writing, Arts and Media, History, and US Studies

### Ben Van Overmeire
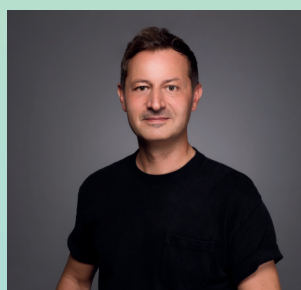*Assistant Professor of Religious Studies*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"I'm interested in qualitative humanities (or humanities-oriented) projects primarily connected to "texts" (defined broadly). Your major doesn't need to be humanities-based, but I can be of most help for projects that interpret and make sense of cultural and religious phenomena and objects."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Buddhism, Data Science Connected to Buddhism, World History, and (Comparative) Literature

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Buddhism, Literature, Religious Studies, and Potentially Philosophy

### Ferdinand Kappes
*Associate Professor of Biology*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"Hello! We are working on a unique human oncoprotein called DEK. This factor is involved in many aspects of cellular life, and our overarching goal is to decipher its discrete functions. "*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Molecular biology, Tumor Biology, and Biochemistry

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Molecular biology, Tumor Biology, and Biochemistry

## Ming Li
### *Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"Strong programming skills and strong interest in AI.*
*Suggested Courses: Machine learning, deep learning, computer vision, speech recognition,*
*and natural language processing."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Speech processing and biomedical signal processing

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Language model-based target speaker extraction in complex scenarios
language model-based multi-speaker recognition in complex scenarios
Discrete token-based speaker recognition
Audio deepfake detection
Whisper speech enhancement
Electro-laryngeal speech enhancement
Acoustic event detection for machines
Laryngoscopic Image processing

## Benjamin Bacon
### *Associate Professor of Media and Arts*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"I am looking forward to meeting everyone at the event."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Digital Media, Arts and Media, and Data Science

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Digital Media and Arts and Media

## Gergely Horvath
### *Associate Professor of Economics*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**

*"The Signature Work is where you can really shine:)"*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
I supervised SWs on topics related to labor economics, social network analysis and behavioral economics, such as how to incentivize workers to work hard via behavioral design, discrimination in the labor market, the impact of AI on the labor market. Some other topics included text analysis of online blogs, consumer behavior, financial networks, the current state of the Chinese market for psychological counseling.

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Any topics related to labor economics, social network analysis and behavioral economics. I would encourage students to try to do experiments for SW, but other empirical projects are fine too. I typically ask students to come up with their own SW topics.

### Hyun Jeong Ha
*Assistant Professor of Sociology*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"I'm interested in student projects that use qualitative research methods to understand social dynamics, including politics, religion, and gender. Those who work on the Middle East are particularly welcome, but my regional areas of supervision are open to more than just the region."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Race and racism, gender and sexuality, nationalism, education, migration, and qualitative research methods with regional focuses on China, Korea, and the US.

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Political Sociology and Religion, Gender and Sexuality, Race and Racism, Qualitative Research Methods, and the Middle East

### Wumeng He
*Assistant Professor of Environmental Economics*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"I look forward to learning about your passion and interest and supporting a SW that is fun and rewarding."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Environmental Economics and Sustainability

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Environmental Economics and Sustainability (or other interesting ideas)

### Luyao Zhang
*Assistant Professor of Economics*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"We stand at the dawn of a new era, where groundbreaking technologies propel humanity toward superintelligence and boundless potential. Innovation is a shared journey, and as future leaders, your ideas will shape the world. Together, with the talent to challenge Nobel and Turing laureates, we are poised to redefine the frontiers of human progress."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
I have supervised interdisciplinary research projects at the intersection of computational science and economics, leveraging groundbreaking technologies such as big data, blockchain, machine learning, generative AI, and other computational innovations to address cutting-edge challenges related to economic growth, ethics, fairness, and societal well-being. These projects span multiple disciplines, including mathematics, data science, computer science, political economy, global health, and media arts.

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
My areas of interest for SW center on interdisciplinary research that bridges classic academic insights from computational and economic science with the practical, cutting-edge applications of emerging technologies, particularly focusing on the future of AI for humanity. I am committed to cultivating future leaders who can think critically, conduct autonomous research, and innovate at the intersection of theory and practice. By integrating theoretical knowledge, practical application, and engineering principles, I aim to guide students in developing profound insights and making meaningful, real-world impacts as the leaders of tomorrow.

### Yu Wang
*Assistant Professor of Sociology*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**

*"I am thrilled to work with you as you embark on your SW journey. This is a unique opportunity for you to dive deep into a topic you're passionate about, and I'm here to guide you through the process."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**

Global Health, Sociology, Computational Design, and Public Policy

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**

Sociology, marriage, family, demography, population problems, or any SW plans to use quantitative methods. But I also have supported students who used qualitative methods in their research.

### Kolleen Guy
*Associate Professor of History*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**

*"I am open to mentoring interdisciplinary projects as well as projects that are a bit "outside of the box." I have over 25 years of experience guiding student research projects, so I am open to helping students get started on a project even if they, ultimately, end up working with a different mentor."*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**

Institutions and Governance = One food-related public policy project, one animal protection public policy project, and one business proposal
Cultures and Movements = Oral History
Environmental Studies (Public Policy Track) = Environmental History

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**

Food studies, business, history, human rights, refugees, emotions and sensory experience, memory

### Puyang Li
*Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Science*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**

*"As an interdisciplinary researcher specializing in land systems, sustainability science, spatial modeling, and smallholder agriculture, I focus on the socioecological links between environmental impacts and community development. My research spans Southeast Asia, East Africa, and Sino-African relations, particularly studying the effects of land transactions on food security, livelihoods, and ecosystems. If your SW aligns with these areas, I can offer guidance through diverse research methods, including participatory approaches, modeling, and empirical analysis. Let's work together to address key global challenges and advance your academic goals."*

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**

Geospatial analysis, Environmental Policy, Agricultural Systems, Smallholder Livelihoods, Land System Science, GIS and Remote Sensing, Sino-African Relations, Sustainability Science

## Joseph Giacomelli

*Assistant Professor of Environmental History*

**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"My main background and expertise is in environmental history. I would be happy to mentor students working on topics related to history, US Studies, Global Cultural Studies, environmental science (from a more humanistic perspective), and history of science. "*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Environmental Science

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
History, US Studies, Global Cultural Studies, Environmental Studies, and History of Science

## Paul Stanley

*Senior Lecturer in Physics*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Quantum Mechanics and Musical Acoustics

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Mathematical Physics and Musical Acoustics

## Mengqi Wang

*Assistant Professor of Anthropology*
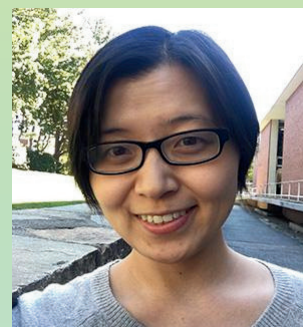
**A Message to My Future Mentees**
*"Welcome!"*

**Previous Areas I Have Supervised for SW:**
Anthropology and Economics

**My Areas of Interest for SW:**
Qualitative studies of the city and housing