

Faculty @Work PRESENTATIONS 2018 – 2019

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018
TERRY-ANN CRAIGIE
Associate Professor of Economics

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018
DOUGLAS M. THOMPSON
*Rosemary Park Professor of Physics,
Astronomy and Geophysics*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018
SHEETAL CHHABRIA
*Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Assistant
Professor of History*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018
KAREN GONZALEZ RICE
Associate Professor of Art History

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019
KEN PRESTININZI
Associate Professor of Theater

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019
MICHAEL SEIFERT
Assistant Professor of Physics

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019
PURBA MUKERJI
Associate Professor of Economics

*Presentations will take place
from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in
Hood Dining Room
with lunch.*

*Cover image: Ken Prestininzi, photo by
Bob Handelman*

*All presentations will take place in Hood Dining Room, Blaustein Humanities Center,
from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Faculty colleagues are invited and lunch is provided.*

FALL 2018

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018
TERRY-ANN CRAIGIE
Economics



Ban the Box, Convictions, and Public Employment

The civil rights organization, All of Us or None, led a campaign for fair-chance hiring or “Ban the Box” (BTB) policies, aimed at improving employment outcomes of those with convictions, primarily in the public sector. Under BTB policies, initial conviction inquiries and criminal background checks are deferred until later in the hiring process, giving individuals the opportunity to highlight their qualifications and contextualize criminal convictions. Despite the well-intentioned objectives of BTB policy reform, scholars argue that employers will engage in racial discrimination against young black men because they disproportionately comprise the correctional population. I will illustrate the nation-wide impact of BTB policies on the public employment of those with conviction records, while addressing the issue of racial discrimination.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018
DOUGLAS M. THOMPSON
**Physics, Astronomy and
Geophysics**



Can We Engineer Wildness in Rivers?

People hold many misconceptions about healthy rivers that can ultimately lead to poor management of these critical ecosystems. The Narraguagus River in Maine is an

important spawning site for endangered Atlantic salmon that might appear pristine at first glance, but suffers from a legacy of timber harvest practices. Learn what is being done to restore aquatic habitat along the river in an effort to save one of the East Coast’s unique species.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018
SHEETAL CHHABRIA
History



The Art of Governing Poverty

My research historicizes poverty and its relation to the power of capital in colonial India. Between 1750 and 1950, “India” went from being a sought after place of wealth to an underdeveloped national space. Poverty shifted from an attribute of people to an attribute of a country representable through abstract numerical indices. The latter permitted experts to order countries on a spectrum of underdeveloped to developed nations. This change had everything to do with the needs of colonial and Indian capital.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018
KAREN GONZALEZ RICE
Art History



Maintaining Discipline: Endurance Art and Monasticism in the 1970s

In the 1970s, American popular visual culture and avant-garde performance art coincided in the figures of monks and nuns. Endurance, commitment,

and habits of discipline defined mass media figures from Mother Teresa to the vigilante Buddhist monk in the television show *Kung Fu* and also motivated the aesthetic strategies of experimental artists including Mierle

Laderman Ukeles. I will explore 1970s performance art practices within the context of everyday Cold War popular culture and offer a re-evaluation of important performance actions that shape contemporary art to the present.

SPRING 2019

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019
KEN PRESTININZI
Theater



The Playfulness of Strangers

Every stage play is a stranger that seeks new encounters. Every new encounter invites transformation. I will discuss today’s playwrights’ efforts to structure time, space and the interplay of strangers to change our perception of who we are and who we might become. We are experiencing the most divergent and form-bending era of theater-making in the United States. As playwrights observe and upturn expected notions of character, narrative, performance, pleasure and power in our lives, estrangement remains the playwright’s most generative and potent tool.

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019
MICHAEL SEIFERT
**Physics, Astronomy and
Geophysics**



Lorentz Symmetry and How to Break It

Lorentz symmetry is the fundamental symmetry between space and time that underlies Einstein’s theory of relativity. Since its inception in 1905, it has been verified in many experiments; but as our experiments

become more sensitive, we may find that Lorentz symmetry is not a precise symmetry of nature. I will discuss how we can look for small violations of Lorentz symmetry, and how we can construct consistent mathematical models of this broken symmetry.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019
PURBA MUKERJI
Economics



Armington Elasticity and Technological Development

We model the role of countries’ technological capability in determining and changing the market power of the domestic varieties of products requiring sophisticated production technology, the “Armington elasticities.” Technology advancement allows the country to produce competitive varieties. Also, technology advancement accompanies higher incomes, leading to steadier demand for these products. Simulations yield the impact of income change on Armington elasticities, at different levels of economic development.