

WAGNER COLLEGE

New Faculty 2021-2022

Professor Mehrnoosh Asadi, Visiting Assistant Professor Department of Culture and Economy

Professor Asadi earned her Ph.D. and MA in economics and her M.S in Environmental Policy and Management (Specialization in Environmental Economics) from Florida International University.

She is an applied microeconomist, and her current research focuses on topics in environmental and health economics, with emphasis on the impact of natural disasters on public health; public environmental risk perception and its consequences on housing values in the real estate market; and public preferences for improvement in the resilience of critical infrastructures in response to hurricanes.

In Professor Mehrnoosh's research, she applies preference elicitation and modeling techniques for the valuation of non-market environmental goods and services, and analysis of public preferences for natural resources management. She uses both revealed and stated preference approaches for research. In this regard, she designed survey to collect data, as well as collected secondary data (e.g., real estate market transactions and recreational fishing market data) to understand public preferences for diverse natural resources and environmental management issues.

Professor Jordyn F. Alvidrez, Visiting Assistant Professor Department of Visual Arts

Professor Jordyn Alvidrez is from Sacramento, California. She graduated with her BA in English Literature from the University of California, Berkeley where she discovered her love for literary and visual narratives. Her interest is in dystopian works that identify the story of the "other".

Professor Alvidrez received her MFA in Graphic Design from the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI. She works with various mediums such as layout design, book binding, digital embroidery, and typography. With her private studio practice Otra Vez, she continues to investigate and research collections of pictorial and typographic symbols, ranks, and hierarchal systems.

Jordyn Alvidrez currently lives in New York City.

Dr. Emily Barth, Visiting Assistant Professor
English Department

Dr. Barth earned both a PhD and an MA at Washington University in St Louis. She holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Pratt Institute, and earned her BA in English literature and creative writing from Bard College. She has completed fellowships with the Folger Shakespeare Library and with the Humanities Digital Workshop at Washington University in St. Louis.

With expertise in both Digital Humanities and Early Modern literature, her research often focuses more specifically on gendered sites of conflict, the expression of marginalized voices, and the treatment of trauma in poetry and drama. She has published work on Distant Reading for Close Analysis in *Early Print*, a collaborative project that seeks to transform the early English print record into an annotated and searchable text archive. She also has publications forthcoming in *Spenser Studies* and in *Electric Literature*.

Dr. Penny Brandt, Assistant Professor
Department of Performing Arts

Dr. Brandt previously taught courses in Arts Administration and Musicology in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas-at Austin and served as Managing Director for the Austin-based arts nonprofit Golden Hornet. Dr. Brandt has presented her research on activism and equity in music programming and curation at the AHRC Research Network “Representing ‘Classical Music’ in the Twenty-First Century” Symposium, at the national meeting of the Society for Music Theory, the Women XXI conference in Portugal, as a guest blogger for the Women’s Philharmonic Advocacy, and in other academic settings. In 2021-2022, Dr. Brandt’s research will be published in Bloomsbury’s Cultural History of Music in the Modern Age, and in Oxford’s Voices for Change in the Classical Music Profession.

Dr. Brandt served as the Artistic Director of the Women Composers Festival of Hartford from 2013–2018 and taught courses in music history and gender studies at the University of Connecticut while earning a Ph.D. in Music Theory & History with an outside concentration in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Dr. Brandt received her Ph.D. and MA from the University of Connecticut, her BA summa cum laude from the University of New Haven, CT and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Harvard University Extension School.

Susanne Farrell, PA-C, Clinical Coordinator
Physician Assistant Program

Susanne Farrell PA-C has worked as a Surgical Physician Assistant at NYU Langone in Brooklyn since her graduation from Bayley Seton Hospital PA program in 1988.

In 2006, PA Farrell earned her MA in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Susanne is both a Certified Preceptor and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). PA Farrell was a member of the Wagner College PA Program advisory committee for the past several years prior to her joining the PA Program faculty. During her career at NYU she worked in all clinical areas of surgery and was manager of the PAs in the Department of Surgery where she had a lead role in PA education. She is a dedicated Physician Assistant with over 25 years of experience eager to bring her clinical care and leadership experience to PA student education. Susanne is a lifelong Staten Islander and in her free time has volunteered abroad and in the local Staten Island community.

Dr. Iman Fegghi, Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology

Dr. Fegghi is a cognitive psychologist who has done innovative laboratory-based behavioral experiments, which offer insight into a person's subjective mental state for assessing the subjective difficulty of tasks. He has recently completed his PhD in cognitive psychology from the University of California, Riverside.

Iman has published several articles on such topics as how people make decisions about the effort required for physical and cognitive tasks, contextual effects on physical performance, and how people perceive their available mental resources for tasks.

In addition to his training in cognitive psychology, Iman has a background in physical education with a BS and MS in physical education from Shahid Beheshti University in Iran. His interest in physical activity has informed both his research and teaching in psychology. Dr. Fegghi has taught classes in research methods, perception, cognitive neuroscience, and sports psychology at UC Riverside. At Wagner College, he will be teaching courses in cognitive psychology, statistics, and sports psychology in addition to a fall semester special topics class on the psychology of action

Dr. Clifford Frasier, Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Government and Politics

Dr. Frasier recently received his Ph.D. from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University. His research focuses on third sector political activity and, particularly, on how nonprofits collaborate in policy advocacy at the state and local levels. As a scholar using both quantitative and qualitative methods, Dr. Frasier has assembled original national datasets on nonprofit advocacy associations and has trained research teams to investigate social innovation in distressed neighborhoods of New York City. His articles are published in *Public Administration Review* and *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*.

At NYU, Dr. Frasier taught courses in interest group politics, American politics, and public policy.

Dr. Frasier's academic projects are influenced by experience as a coalition organizer and manager for networks of faith-based organizations, for the LGBT movement, for get out the vote campaigns, for healthcare reform, and for public employees. Partners in research – such as the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and the American Society of Association Executives Foundation – have collaborated with Dr. Frasier in collecting data for scholarly publications. He also holds an M.P.A. from the National Urban Fellowship/Marx School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College CUNY, a Master of Divinity from Harvard University, and a B.A. in Russian language and literature from the University of Washington Seattle.

Dr. Aarti Ivanic, Associate Professor and Dean
Nicolais School of Business

Dr. Ivanic received her BS and MS at Purdue University and her Ph.D. in Marketing at the University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business. She was the Academic Director of MBA programs at the University of San Diego School of Business, where she oversaw curriculum, academic program review and accreditation. She also provided support for the student recruiting and program admissions team. Aarti has been a tenured associate professor of marketing at USD since 2017 and was an assistant professor from 2010 to 2017. She earned her Ph.D. in marketing from the University of California's Marshall School of Business and her master's and baccalaureate degrees from Purdue University.

At the University of San Diego, Dr. Ivanic chaired the University Senate (2018-20) and was faculty director of the Ashoka Changemaker Faculty Fellows Program (2017-19). Aarti participated in two strategic planning groups for the USD School of Business (2016-17), championing the inclusion of business analytics as a key strategic priority and identifying faculty performance metrics. Dr. Ivanic has also been a partner in multiple university initiatives in the area of community engagement.

Dr. Katherine Moccia, Assistant Professor
Department of Biological Sciences

Katherine Moccia received her BA in Biology from Bard College and her Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Tennessee. She has worked in a variety of research laboratories over the last ten years, delving into topics from the human microbiome to marine virology.

After graduating from the University of Tennessee Dr. Moccia moved to New York City and experienced life in the private sector consulting with and working for start-ups, small companies, and core facilities.

Katherine's research focuses on beneficial plant-microbe interactions, specifically focusing on microbes that can colonize seeds. Combining both traditional microbiological techniques and newer sequencing approaches, Katherine plans to elucidate how microbes that can colonize seeds can impact the plant microbial community and overall plant health. Crucial to her research is the ability to engage undergraduate students in on-going research projects. At Wagner she plans to continue to pursue these research goals and engage undergraduate and graduate students in plant-microbe science both in and outside the classroom.