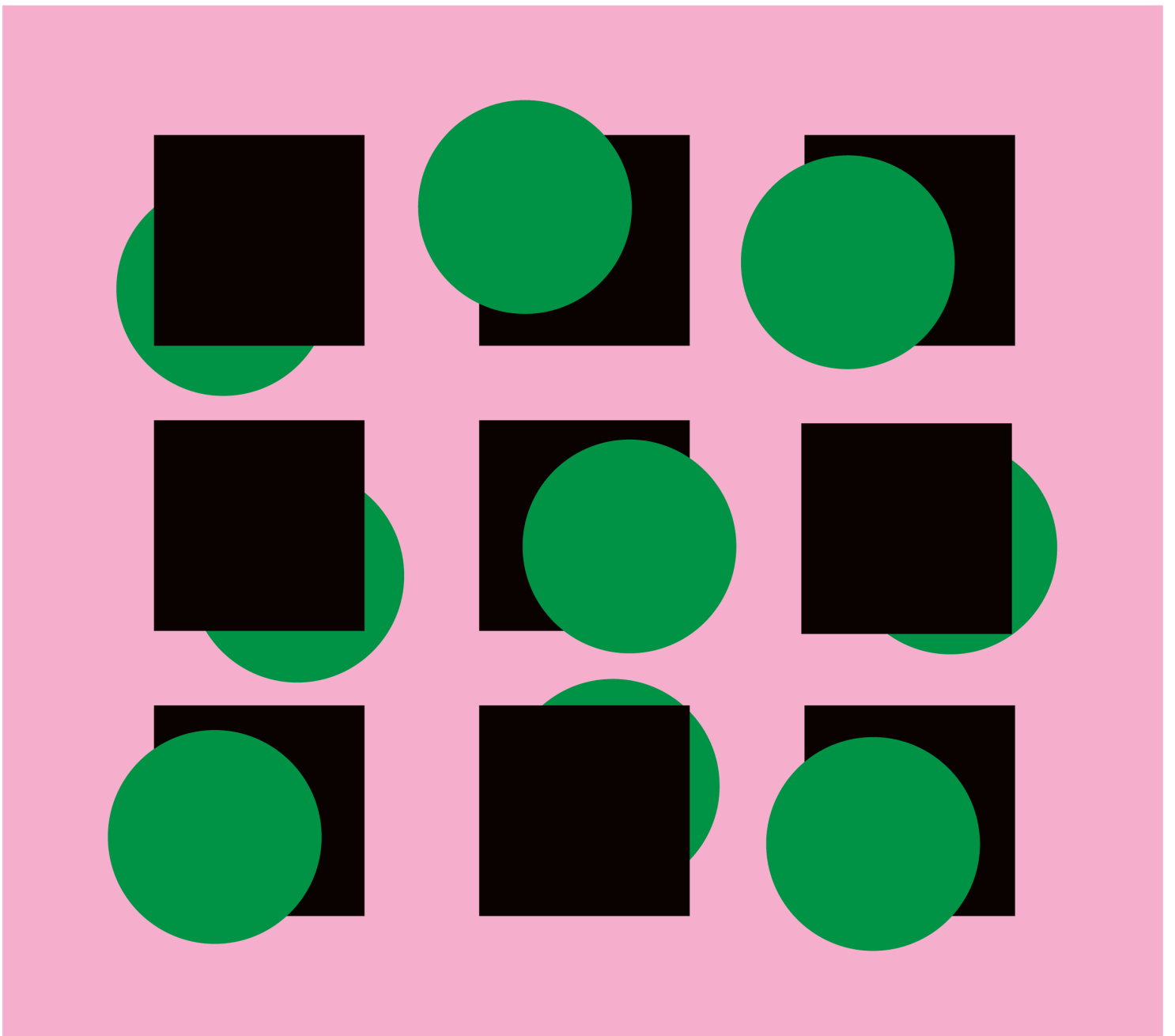




BUFFALO
HUMANITIES
FESTIVAL

SEPT 23-25/2022

LIFE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE





Once the stuff of science fiction, artificial intelligence now impacts the most fundamental operations of our everyday lives. AI shapes the advertising we see, the videos we watch, the search engine data we rely on. It is embedded in health care procedures and transportation safety and is key to technologies that may one day help resuscitate our climate or take us to Mars. At the same time, AI is instrumental in forming siloed social media conversations that confuse fact and fiction, creating distrust, dissension and violence.

The 2022 Buffalo Humanities Festival will investigate the many complex, often paradoxical, ways artificial intelligence now intervenes in our lives with the help of artists, scholars and community activists who will showcase the integration of algorithms, machine learning, and other forms of artificial intelligence in both common and other-worldly applications. Please join us for an interdisciplinary examination of not only AI itself—but how our lives are built around, with, and in spite of its influence.

ABOUT THE BUFFALO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL

The Buffalo Humanities Festival is organized by the UB Humanities Institute in partnership with Canisius College, Daemen University, Niagara University, and SUNY Buffalo State with the support of Humanities New York.

Launched in 2014 as an annual festival of ideas, the Buffalo Humanities Festival’s mission is to foster dialogue, the sharing of ideas, and the enjoyment of the humanities among the public, scholars, and artists. We believe that the understanding of history, culture, literature, arts media, and the diverse traditions of the humanities are an essential part of life and that this greater understanding inspires civic engagement. Each year, the festival draws on our city’s many rich academic traditions, grassroots community activism, and resources to engage the most pressing questions of our time.

2022 STEERING COMMITTEE

- **Anthony Chase**, Assistant Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Buffalo State
- **Brian Cronk**, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Buffalo State
- **Jennifer Desiderio**, English Department, Canisius College
- **Michael Durfee**, Niagara University
- **Julie Gibert**, History Department, Canisius College
- **Lindsay Brandon Hunter**, Interim Executive Director, UB Humanities Institute
- **Christina Milletti**, Interim Director, UB Humanities Institute
- **Sara Ogger**, Executive Director, Humanities New York
- **Dan Shanahan**, Assistant Professor and Director, Entrepreneurial Studies, Daemen University

Special thanks to everyone at **Torn Space Theater** and **Silo City** for their support of the festival.

Graphic Design: **Montague Projects**



LIFE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SEPTEMBER 23-25/2022

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23 Torn Space Theater, 612 Fillmore Ave.

6:00PM | AN EVENING WITH AFRORITHMS FROM THE FUTURE

- **Ahmed Best**, co-founder, AfroRithm Futures Group and Adjunct Professor, USC School of Dramatic Arts
- **Lonny J Avi Brooks**, co-founder, AfroRithm Futures Group and Professor of Strategic Communication, California State University East Bay
- **“Listeneer” [remote] Stacey Robinson**, Associate Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

with special guest players: • **Taylor Coleman** (PhD Cand., Africana and American Studies, UB)
• **Chanon Judson** (Visiting Assoc. Prof., Theatre & Dance, UB) • **Donte McFadden** (Dir., Distinguished Visiting Scholars Program, UB) • **Samina Raja** (Prof., Urban and Regional Planning and Dir., Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab, UB) ... and more!

Doors open at 5:00 PM, cash bar available in the Mickiewicz Library & Dramatic Space bar (at Torn Space Theater)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

Silo City Design Studio + Willow Trellis, 630 Ohio St.

11:00AM | WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS | DESIGN STUDIO

- **Christina Milletti**, Interim Director, UB Humanities Institute

11:15AM | SESSION 1 | WILLOW TRELIS

AFRORITHMS FROM THE FUTURE: AFTER THE GAME

- **Ahmed Best**, Co-Founder, AfroRithm Futures Group and Adjunct Professor, USC School of Dramatic Arts
- **Lonny J Avi Brooks**, Co-Founder, AfroRithm Futures Group and Professor of Strategic Communication, California State University East Bay
- moderated by **Dalia Antonia Caraballo Muller**, Associate Professor, UB, with featured guest players from the night before.

KEEP THE FESTIVAL FREE

DONATE NOW



LIFE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SATURDAY / SEPT. 24

Silo City Design Studio + Willow Trellis
630 Ohio St., Buffalo, NY 14203

12:30PM | BREAK

12:45PM | SESSION 2

WILLOW TRELLIS

AI: FROM AUTOMATION TO ANIMATION

- **Karthik Dantu**, Associate Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, UB
- **Mark Gallimore** with **Tyler Kron Piatek**, Center for Online Learning & Innovation, Canisius College
- **Mike Jones**, Director of Animation, Daemen University

DESIGN STUDIO

ARTIFICIAL LIMITS? MOVING BEYOND POPULAR AI NARRATIVES

- **Marc Böhlen**, Professor, Media Study, UB
- **Andrew Lison**, Assistant Professor, Media Study, UB
- **Steve Petersen**, Associate Professor, Philosophy, Niagara University

2:00PM | BREAK

2:15PM | SESSION 3

WILLOW TRELLIS

VOICE AND AI

- **Ho Eui Holly Bewlay**, Associate Professor, Music, SUNY Buffalo State
- **Chris Heffner**, Assistant Professor, Communicative Disorders and Sciences, UB
- **Jeff Higginbotham**, Professor, Communicative Disorders and Sciences and Director, Communication and Assistive Device Laboratory, UB

DESIGN STUDIO

AI, DATA, AND JUSTICE

- **Clairissa Breen**, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice, SUNY Buffalo State
- **Atri Rudra**, Professor, Computer Science & Engineering, UB
- **Melanie Sage**, Senior Researcher, Meta

3:30PM | DAY 1 CLOSING PERFORMANCE | WILLOW TRELLIS

- **Jonathan Golove**, Associate Professor, Music and Director, Morris Center for 21st Century Music, UB presents **“Neo-Future is Now: New Works for Theremin Cello”**



LIFE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SUNDAY / SEPT. 25

Silo City Design Studio + Willow Trellis
630 Ohio St., Buffalo, NY 14203

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25

Silo City Design Studio + Willow Trellis, 630 Ohio St., Buffalo, NY 14203

11:00AM | WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS | DESIGN STUDIO

- **Christina Milletti**, Interim Director, UB Humanities Institute

11:15AM | SESSION 1 | WILLOW TRELLIS

GOOD SYSTEMS PROJECT | HUMAN VALUES AND AI

- **Samuel Baker**, Associate Professor, UTexas at Austin and Co-Founder Good Systems Group
- **Sharon Strover**, Professor, UTexas at Austin and Co-Director, Technology & Information Policy Institute
- Moderated by **Kenny Joseph**, Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Engineering, UB

12:30PM | BREAK

12:45PM | SESSION 2

WILLOW TRELLIS

THE ALGORITHMIC PRESENT-FUTURE: CAUTIONARY TALES

- **Bruce Pitman**, Professor, Materials Design and Innovation, UB
- **Jasmina Tacheva**, Assistant Professor, Syracuse University and PhD student, Comparative Literature, UB
- **Ewa Plonowska Ziarek**, Julian Park Professor, Comparative Literature, UB
- Moderated by **David Castillo**, Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures and Co-Director, UB Center for Information Integrity

DESIGN STUDIO

LIFE ON MARS

- **Evan Moritz**, PhD student, Center for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies, University of Toronto
- **Kevin Williams**, Associate Professor, Earth Sciences and Director, Ferguson Planetarium, SUNY Buffalo State

2:00PM | BREAK



LIFE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SUNDAY / SEPT. 25

Silo City Design Studio + Willow Trellis
630 Ohio St., Buffalo, NY 14203

2:15PM | SESSION 3

WILLOW TRELLIS

NO FACTS, NO PEOPLE: GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS

- **Lindsay Brandon Hunter**, Associate Professor, Theatre & Dance and Interim Executive Director, Humanities Institute, UB
- **Mark Shepard**, Associate Professor, Architecture and Media Study, UB

DESIGN STUDIO

SRS (SILK ROAD SONGBOOK)

- **Millie Chen**, Professor, Art, UB
- **Arzu Ozkal**, Associate Professor, School of Art & Design, San Diego State University [participating as an exhibiting artist, not present]

3:30PM | DAY 2 CLOSING PERFORMANCE | WILLOW TRELLIS

- **Evan Moritz**, Center for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies, University of Toronto performs his original piece, “**Deep Time Network**”

DURING BREAKS | DESIGN STUDIO

- **Paul Vanouse**, Professor, University at Buffalo and Director, Coalesce Center for Biological Art [Exhibiting Artist], *Labor* (5 mins. 44 sec., video documentation, 2019).

“The Labor project reflects upon industrial society’s shift from human and machine labor to increasingly pervasive forms of microbial manufacturing. Today, microbes produce a wide range of products, including enzymes, foods, beverages, feed-stocks, fuels and pharmaceuticals. They literally live to work. These new industrial activities point to a deepening of the exploitation of life and living processes: the design, engineering, management and commodification of life itself. In Labor, the microorganisms ironically produce the scent of sweat, not as a vulgar bi-product of production, like in factories of the 19th and 20th centuries, but as a nostalgic end-product.”

(<http://paulvanouse.com/labor.html>)



Paul Vanouse's *Labor*, Multi-sensory installation (detail), Burchfield Penney Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY. 2019. Photo:Tullis Johnson.



LIFE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

2022 PARTICIPANTS

(Alphabetical Order)

SAMUEL BAKER, Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin

Samuel Baker teaches English at the University of Texas at Austin, where he co-founded the Good Systems Texas Grand Challenge, which he chaired in 2021-22. His research interests include British Romantic poetry; historical fiction, science fiction, and the gothic novel; media studies, informatics, the environmental humanities, and the cultural analysis of the built environment now becoming known as infrastructure studies. With Good Systems, Dr. Baker is a leader of the “Living and Working with Robots” team, and a co-PI of the “Bad AI and Beyond” project, which examines how media representations shape public perceptions of artificial intelligence and how writers and filmmakers are depicting AI and its impact on society. He also served as the Executive Team Liaison to the Public Interest Technology research focus area, and has organized cross-disciplinary speculative fiction conversations, as well as a study groups of graduate students funded to work on COVID-19 related research projects.

AHMED BEST, Co-Founder, AfroRithm Futures Group

Adjunct Professor at USC School Of Dramatic Arts, Adjunct Professor at Stanford’s Hasso Plattner Institute of design, Senior Fellow at USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism. Co-Founder of The Afrorithm Futures Group. Producer and host of *Star Wars Jedi Temple Challenge* (Telly Award Winner). Executive producer, writer and director of *The Nebula* (web series). Executive producer, writer and di-

rector of *This Can’t Be My Life* (web series). Writer of *Sherlock and Holmes* (Universal Studios Animation). Writer of *Captain E.O.* (Disney Animation). Writer Executive Producer of the *DL Chronicles* (GLAAD Media Award winner.) Creator and Director of *Dinner at Lola* (web series). Star of the *Star Wars* prequels as Jar Jar Binks, the first CGI lead character in a motion picture. Star of the Broadway musical *Stomp*. A graduate of the American Film Institute, Ovation, LACC, Stage Raw and an ANNIE award winner.

HO EUI HOLLY BEWLAY, Associate Professor, SUNY Buffalo State

Korean American soprano, Holly Bewlay has performed numerous solo engagements with opera companies, orchestras, universities, chamber ensembles, and arts organizations including the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Connecticut Choral Artists, Mercury Opera, Opera Rochester, Eastman Opera Theatre, Oberlin in Italy, Tulsa Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Buffalo Opera Unlimited, The Cheektowaga Symphony, The Amherst Symphony, Greece Symphony, Camerata di Sant’Antonio, and many others. She serves as an associate professor in Voice at SUNY Buffalo State. At the college, she coordinates the voice program, teaches applied voice, and vocal pedagogy.

MARC BÖHLEN, Professor, University at Buffalo
Artist-Engineer Marc Böhlen aka RealTech-Support offers the kind of support technology still really needs. Böhlen is Professor of Emerging Practices in Computational Media in the Department of Art at the University at Buffalo. He is currently studying how Artificial Intelligence systems impact the representation of landscapes at planetary scale.



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2022 PARTICIPANTS

CLAIRISSA BREEN, Associate Professor, SUNY Buffalo State

Dr. Clairissa D Breen earned her PhD in criminal justice from Temple University, Philadelphia in 2012, with a dissertation that used simulation modeling to test theories of hate group formation. Her research focused on catastrophic criminology. She is an associate professor at Buffalo State, where she earned her Masters degree in 2003. She teaches classes in terrorism, crime analysis, organized crime, and criminology. She is co-coordinator of the conflict analysis and resolution graduate program at Buffalo State.

LONNY J BROOKS, Co-Founder, AfroRithm Futures Group and Professor, Cal State East Bay
Lonny Avi Brooks, Professor in Communication, Cal State University, East Bay, is co-executive producer of The Afrofuturist Podcast; co-author, *Afrofuturism 2.0: the Rise of Astro-Blackness*, lead editor, "When is Wakanda?" (Journal of Futures Studies); co-organizer, Black Speculative Arts Movement; Co-Founder of the AfroRithm Futures Group, imagining democratized futures as co-designer of the game AfroRhythms from The Future. He co-directs the Community Futures School, Museum of Children's Arts; is a Research Affiliate at the Institute for The Future and a Long Now Foundation Research Fellow. He is a Visiting Professor at Hasso Plattner Institute for Design, Stanford University, and author of "From Algorithms to AfroRhythms in Afrofuturism" in the anthology *Black Experience in Design: Identity, Expression & Reflection*.

DAVID CASTILLO, Professor, University at Buffalo and co-director, UB Center for Information Integrity
David R. Castillo is Professor of Spanish and

co-director of the Center for Information Integrity at the University at Buffalo, where he served as Chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures from 2009 to 2015 and Humanities Institute Director from 2016 to 2022. He is a 2018 recipient of the UB Exceptional Scholar Award for Sustained Achievement. Castillo is the author of *Un-Deceptions: Cervantine Strategies for the Disinformation Age*, *Baroque Horrors: Roots of the Fantastic in the Age of Curiosities* and *Awry Views: Anamorphosis, Cervantes, and the Early Picaresque*, and co-author of *What Would Cervantes Do? Navigating Post-truth with Spanish Baroque Literature*, *Medialogies: Reading Reality in the Age of Inflationary Media*, and *Zombie Talk: Culture, History, Politics*. He has coedited several essay collections, including *Continental Theory Buffalo: Transatlantic Crossroads of a Critical Insurrection*, *Reason and Its Others: Italy, Spain, and the New World*, *Spectacle and Topophilia: Reading Early and Postmodern Hispanic Cultures* and *Writing in the End Times: Apocalyptic Imagination in the Hispanic World*. His current projects include the essay collections *Truth-Seeking in Our Age of (Mis)Information Overload* and *Anti-Disinformation Pedagogy: Understanding the Power of Manipulative Media and What We Can Do About It*.

MILLIE CHEN, Professor, University at Buffalo
Millie Chen's visual, audio and performative works are intended to interrupt habits of viewing. Materials and methodologies are contingent on the needs of the moment, but at the core of her projects are social inquiry and the use of sensory modes of perception in the generation of knowledge. Chen's artwork has been shown across North and



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(**Millie Chen**, cont'd.) South America, East Asia and Europe. Her work is in numerous public collections, and she has produced a number of permanent public art commissions. She recently received media arts grants from both the Canada Council for the Arts and Ontario Arts Council, and a University at Buffalo Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship; these awards are all for the current project, SRS (Silk Road Songbook). Her writing has appeared in publications in the U.K., Canada, the U.S. and China.

KARTHIK DANTU, Associate Professor, University at Buffalo

Karthik Dantu is an Associate Professor in Computer Science and Engineering at University at Buffalo. He is the Director of the newly formed Center for Embodied Autonomy and Robotics (CEAR), a university-wide center focused on research in robotics. He also directs the Distributed Robotics and Networked Embedded Systems (DRONES) Lab at UB. His research is in perception and coordination of multi-robot systems and mobile systems. Recently, he has been interested in spatial perception for robots including long-term localization and mapping, edge-offloading of SLAM and software systems challenges in such systems. His research is supported by the NSF, AFRL, AFOSR, DARPA and others. For his work, he is the recipient of the NSF CAREER award in 2019, best paper award in MRS 2021, and senior researcher award at UB CSE in 2021.

JADE FABELLO, Operations Manager, AfroRithm Futures Group

Jade Fabello is an Austin-based freelance writer and the operations manager for the AfroRithm Futures Group. He has written for

Texas Monthly, Austin Monthly, Thrillist, The Brown Journal of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Study Hall XYZ, Batshit Times, and more. A former political public speaker for U.S. senate candidates, Jade has shifted his focus outside the system and now primarily writes personal essays about culture, race, art, grief, and love.

MARK GALLIMORE, Center for Online Learning & Innovation, Canisius College

Dr. Mark Gallimore is the Director of the Center for Online Learning & Innovation at Canisius College. He is a historian by training and inclination, with degrees from West Virginia University and Lehigh University. At Canisius, Dr. Gallimore seeks to adapt information technology for academic and specifically liberal arts purposes.

JONATHAN GOLOVE, Associate Professor, University at Buffalo and Director, Morris Center for 21st Century Music

Cellist/composer Jonathan Golove is a native of Los Angeles, California and a resident of Buffalo, New York, where he serves as Associate Professor in the University at Buffalo's Department of Music. His career is marked by its versatility, sense of adventure, and commitment to the performance of both new and traditional works, as well as of improvised music. Mr. Golove gave the first performance of Varese's *Ecuatorial* using Floyd Engel's recreated theremin cello in 2002, and he is one of only a handful of performers on the historic instrument. He has concertized widely as theremin cellist, including at the Holland Festival (Amsterdam), Festival d'Automne (Paris), Southbank Centre (London), and Lincoln Center Festival (New York). His electronic chamber



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2022 PARTICIPANTS

(**Jonathan Golove**, cont'd.) opera *Mental Radio* recently received its German premiere at the Centre Court Festival in Cologne. Golove has recently been named the Director of UB's Robert and Carol Morris Center for 21st Century Music.

CHRIS HEFFNER, Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo

Chris Heffner has been an assistant professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences at the University at Buffalo since 2020. Before this position, he received his PhD in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2017 and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Connecticut from 2017 to 2020. He examines learning and plasticity in speech perception and the brain systems that allow people to learn in speech, with a particular focus on Parkinson's Disease and on gathering data at community sites like museums and libraries.

JEFF HIGGINBOTHAM, Professor, University at Buffalo and Director, Communication and Assistive Device Laboratory

A Professor in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences, Jeff Higginbotham's work centers on individuals with complex communication and physical needs who use assistive communication technologies to speak. His current research, funded by NIDILRR and the Engelke Family Foundation focuses on 1) specifying interaction-based communication problems of individuals with complex communication needs, 2) developing an accessible, open-source, research and development platform for designing augmentative communication devices, and 3) researching solutions to help

these individuals carry out real-time conversations.

LINDSAY BRANDON HUNTER, Associate Professor, University at Buffalo and Interim Executive Director, UB Humanities Institute

Dr. Lindsay Brandon Hunter is Associate Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies in the Department of Theatre & Dance and Affiliated Faculty in the Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University at Buffalo, where she also serves as Interim Executive Director of UB's Humanities Institute. Lindsay's research sits at the juncture of theatre, media and performance studies; her book, *Playing Real: Media, Mimesis, and Mischief* (Northwestern University Press, 2021; Finalist, 2022 ATHE Outstanding Book Prize) and examines the performances of authenticity and realness in contexts as varied as reality television, alternate reality gaming, and live broadcast theatre. Her essay "We Are Not Making A Movie: Constituting Theatre in Live Broadcast" won the American Theatre in Higher Education prize for Outstanding Article in 2019, and her writing has appeared in *Theatre Topics*, *Theatre Journal*, *Theatre Survey*, *Contemporary Theatre Review*, the *International Journal of Performing Art and Digital Media*, and the online journal *Amodern*. At UB she is a past Honors College Faculty Fellow and Humanities Institute Faculty Fellow; she also co-organizes, with Drs. Ariel Nereson and Christian Flaugh, the HI Performance Research Workshop.

MIKE JONES, Director of Animation, Daemen University

Mike Jones is the current Director of Animation at Daemen University. Prior to Daemen,



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2022 PARTICIPANTS

(**Mike Jones**, cont'd) Jones animated for 30 years in Los Angeles. Some of his 28 feature film credits include *The Lion King*, *Hercules*, *Mulan*, *Tarzan*, *Emperor's New Groove*, *Treasure Planet*, and *Meet the Robinsons* for Walt Disney Feature Animation. Jones also animated at DreamWorks on *Monsters vs. Aliens*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Kung Fu Panda 2*, *Shrek Forever After*, *Megamind* and *Rise of the Guardians*. After storyboarding at Cartoon Network, he worked on *Mary Poppins Returns* and *Disenchantment* for Netflix.

KENNY JOSEPH, Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo

Kenny Joseph is an assistant professor of computer science and engineering, and identifies academically as a computational social scientist. His research focuses on combining methods and theories from sociology, social psychology, and computer science to better understand sociotechnical systems. His work has focused recently on the measurement of racial ideology and its role in the American child welfare system. His work has been featured in a variety of academic outlets and covered in news outlets such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

ANDREW LISON, Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo

Andrew Lison is Assistant Professor of Media Study at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. His work has been published in a number of journals, most recently *Computational Culture and Configurations*. He is co-author of *Archives* (University of Minnesota/meson press, 2019) and co-editor of *The Global Sixties in Sound and Vision: Media, Counterculture, Revolt* (Palgrave, 2014). He is at

work on two monographs: one considering the relationship between computation and labor in light of the end of Moore's Law and another examining the rise of digital multimedia against the backdrop of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

DONTE MCFADDEN, Director, Distinguished Visiting Scholars Program, University at Buffalo
Donte McFadden (he/him/his) is the Director of the Visiting Scholars Program in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University at Buffalo. He recruits dynamic diverse scholars from across the country to pursue projects that centralize public scholarship, community engagement, and social justice. Previously he was a programmer for the Black Lens Program for Milwaukee Film, showcasing films directed by Black filmmakers, and the Director of the McNair Scholars Program in the Educational Opportunity Program at Marquette University. Dr. McFadden also taught courses for the Honors Program, the Core Curriculum, and the Diedrich College of Communication at Marquette. He obtained his PhD in English with an emphasis in Film Studies from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in August of 2013. He has written "Hope—The Trash Can That Shatters A Window" as part of a collection of essays entitled *HOPE IS THE THING*, published in Fall 2021.

EVAN MORITZ, PhD Student, University of Toronto

Evan Moritz is a PhD student at the University of Toronto's Center for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies. He is interested in the outer limits of science-fiction and fact with performance and research exploring relationships between colonization of



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2022 PARTICIPANTS

(**Evan Moritz**, cont'd.) planetary bodies, the future of settler colonialism, the loss of liveness in the communication gaps between planets, global catastrophe on Earth and off, utopias, dystopias, and the impact of science fiction on contemporary practices. His ongoing performance project, *Deep Time Network*, blurs the lines between sci-fi storytelling, research, music, and podcasting to explore these themes. He received his MA from University at Buffalo, SUNY and his BA from James Madison University.

DALIA ANTONIA CARABALLO MULLER,

Associate Professor, University at Buffalo

Dalia Antonia Caraballo Muller is Associate Professor of Latin American and Caribbean History and a researcher/educator whose twin passions are the study of Afro-Latin America and the study of liberatory pedagogies. The through line that connects her work is the concept of “impossibility.” She researches African-identified intellectuals in Cuba who thought at the limits of the possible as they staked claims to rights, dignity and equality. In the classroom, Dr. Caraballo Muller invites her students to stretch their minds and think at the limits of the possible in order to dream up new futures for our ailing world and planet as our ancestors once did.

ARZU OZKAL, Associate Professor, San Diego State University

[Exhibiting Artist] Arzu Ozkal is an Associate Professor in the School of Art & Design at San Diego State University. Ozkal is a founding member of Home Affairs, an interdisciplinary art collective focusing on creative projects about a range of issues impacting women’s lives. Since 2011, they have

been working together with women from Turkey, Europe, and USA to design platforms of social exchange. Ozkal’s work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in Athens, Istanbul, Barcelona, Ghent, Amsterdam, Berlin, Los Angeles, New York, and beyond. Her writing has appeared in publications such as *Photoworks Magazine UK*, *Afterimage: The Journal of Media Arts and Cultural Criticism* and the forthcoming book, *Collaboration in Design Education* by Bloomsbury Academic.

STEVE PETERSEN, Associate Professor, Niagara University

Steve Petersen is an associate professor of philosophy at Niagara University who has been publishing and presenting on the ethics of advanced AI for fifteen years. Since about 2015 his main focus has been on philosophical and technical aspects of “the alignment problem” for superintelligence. He has been supported in this research by grants from the Survival and Flourishing Fund and the Center for Effective Altruism’s Long-Term Future Fund. His other main area of research involves formalizing scientific discovery using tools from algorithmic information theory. He is also a local part-time actor and improviser—though not so much since the birth of his delightful children.

TYLER KRON PIATEK, Instructional Technology, Canisius College

Mr. Tyler Kron-Piatek graduated from Canisius College with a BS in Digital Media Arts in 2017 and later graduated from the University at Buffalo with Masters in Library Information Sciences in 2019. A long-time member of the Canisius College community, he has



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2022 PARTICIPANTS

(**Tyler Kron-Piatek**, cont'd) had many roles throughout the years. His most recent role is the Instructional Designer at the Center for Online Learning and Innovation at Canisius where he helps faculty and students with web-enhanced teaching and learning.

BRUCE PITMAN, Professor, University at Buffalo
Bruce Pitman earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from Duke University. After post-doctoral appointments at NYU and Minnesota, he joined the Math Department at University at Buffalo in 1989. He rose through the ranks and was promoted to Full Professor in 1998. Bruce's research centers on modeling and computing physical systems, ranging from granular materials to renal hemodynamics to volcanic explosions. His work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Air Force, and the National Institutes of Health. During his long tenure at UB Bruce served as Vice-Provost for Educational Technology, Associate Dean for Research and Sponsored Programs, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He joined the newly formed Department of Materials Design and Innovation in 2016.

STACEY ROBINSON, Associate Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Stacey A. Robinson, Associate Professor of Graphic Design at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was a 2019-2020 Nasir Jones Hip-Hop Fellow at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African & African American Research and completed his MFA at the University at Buffalo in 2015. His work discusses decolonized Black futures. Illustrated books include: *I Am Alfonso Jones* written by Tony Medina (2017, Lee & Low Books), and *Across the Tracks: Remember-*

ing Greenwood, Black Wall Street, and the Tulsa Race Massacre, written Alverne Ball (2021, Abrams Books). Exhibitions include: *Ascension of Black Stillness* (CEPA Gallery) and *The Black Angel of History* (Carnegie Hall) 2022.

ATRI RUDRA, Professor, University at Buffalo
Atri Rudra is a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at University at Buffalo, SUNY. Atri received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 2007. His current research interests include structured linear algebra, issues at the intersection of society and computing and database algorithms. He is a recipient of an NSF CAREER Award (2009), an HP Labs Innovation Research Award (2010), an ESA Best Paper Award (2010), a UB Exceptional Scholars-Young Investigator Award (2011), PODS Best Paper Awards (2012 and 2016), an IBM Faculty Award (2013), SIGMOD research highlights (2016), UB Exceptional Scholars-Sustained Achievement Award (2022), ACM PODS Alberto O. Mendelzon Test-of-Time Award (2022) and an ICML Outstanding Paper Runner Up Award (2022). He is a co-editor of the *Mozilla Teaching Responsible Computing Playbook* and has received a UB Teaching Innovation award (2021) and a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (2022).

MELANIE SAGE, Senior Researcher, Meta
Melanie Sage, PhD, MSW, is a tech equity researcher. After 11 years as a social work professor studying intersections of child welfare and technology, including applications of AI, she recently transitioned to a role at Meta where she researches ways to build equitable outcomes for the billions of global users.



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2022 PARTICIPANTS

MARK SHEPARD, Associate Professor, University at Buffalo

Mark Shepard [www.andinc.org] is an artist, architect and researcher whose work addresses contemporary entanglements of people and data, code and space, knowledge and power. His book, *There Are No Facts: Attentive Algorithms, Extractive Data Practices and the Quantification of Everyday Life*, is forthcoming from MIT Press (November 2022). He is an editor of the *Situated Technologies Pamphlets Series* (The Architectural League of New York) and editor of *Sentient City: Ubiquitous Computing, Architecture and the Future of Urban Space* (MIT Press). His work has been exhibited at museums, galleries and festivals internationally, including the Venice International Architecture Biennial; the Prix Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria; Transmediale, Berlin, Germany; and the International Architecture Biennial Rotterdam, the Netherlands, among others. Mark is an Associate Professor of Architecture and Media Study at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, where he directs the Media Arts and Architecture Program (MAAP) and the Center for Architecture and Situated Technologies (CAST). He is additionally affiliated faculty with the UB Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

SHARON STROVER, Professor, University of Texas at Austin and Co-Director, Technology & Information Policy Institute

Dr. Strover is the Philip G. Warner Regents Professor in Communication, a former Chair of the Radio-TV-Film Department at the University of Texas, and now Professor in the School of Journalism and Media where she teaches communication technology and pol-

icy courses and directs the Technology and Information Policy Institute. She is the Chair of the University of Texas Good Systems project, a research grand challenge exploring ethics and artificial intelligence. Her current research projects examine broadband networks; libraries and digital literacy; AI, surveillance technologies and public policy; and the digital divide. Sharon has worked with several international, national and regional government agencies, foundations, and advisory groups on communications policy matters, and her work can be found in several major professional journals. Dr. Strover received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her graduate degrees from Stanford University.

JASMINA TACHEVA, Assistant Professor, Syracuse University and PhD student, University at Buffalo

Jasmina Tacheva is Assistant Professor in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University where she teaches courses on the social and environmental effects of data and artificial intelligence. She graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a PhD in Management and is currently working on her second doctorate in Comparative Literature at the same institution. Tacheva's main interest is at the intersection of technology and transnational queer and feminist theory, and her work in this area has appeared in journals such as *Big Data & Society*. Tacheva is the inaugural recipient of the UB Humanities Institute's Judith B. Kerman Fellowship in Technology and the Humanities.



LIFE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

2022 PARTICIPANTS

KEVIN WILLIAMS, Associate Professor, SUNY Buffalo State and Director, Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium

Kevin Williams is an associate professor of Earth Sciences at SUNY Buffalo State and director of the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium. As planetarium director, Dr. Williams presents information about Earth, our solar system, and the Universe to classes and to public and private groups. He is also dedicated to expanding the planetarium beyond astronomy to all disciplines including the Arts and the Humanities. Part of Dr. Williams' scientific research involves unraveling the geologic history of Mars to understand the relative timing of impact cratering, volcanism, tectonics, wind-blown processes, and water flowing over and below the surface. This work includes images from Mars orbiters, which provide information over large areas at resolutions as fine as 20 cm per pixel. These orbital images also provide context for surface operations of past and present landers and rovers.

PAUL VANOUSE, Professor, University at Buffalo and Director, Coalesce Center for Biological Art

[Exhibiting Artist] Paul's artwork employs molecular biology techniques to challenge entrenched notions of individual, racial, and national identity, and the cultural authority of DNA. His projects have been exhibited in over 25 countries and widely across the US. Solo exhibitions include: Burchfield-Penny Gallery in Buffalo, Muffathalle in Munich, Schering Foundation in Berlin, and Kapelica Gallery in Ljubljana. His work has been supported by Creative Capital Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and the New York

Foundation for the Arts. His multi-sensory artwork, *Labor*, was awarded a Golden Nica at Prix Ars Electronica, 2019.

EWA PLONOWSKA ZIAREK, Julian Park Professor, University at Buffalo

Ziarek is Julian Park Professor of Comparative Literature at UB and a Visiting Faculty in the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts Maine. Most recently she co-authored with Rosalyn Diprose, *Arendt, Natality and Biopolitics: Towards Democratic Plurality and Reproductive Justice* (2019), a book awarded Book Prize of Symposium: Canadian Journal for Continental Philosophy. Her other books include *Feminist Aesthetics and the Politics of Modernism* (2012); *An Ethics of Dissensus: Feminism, Postmodernity, and the Politics of Radical Democracy* (2001); *The Rhetoric of Failure: Deconstruction of Skepticism, Reinvention of Modernism* (1995); and co-edited volumes, such as, *Intermedialities: Philosophy, Art, Politics* (2010); *Time for the Humanities* (2008) and *Revolt, Affect, Collectivity: The Unstable Boundaries of Kristeva's Polis* (2005).



LIFE IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

2022 INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 23 | TORN SPACE THEATER

Torn Space Theater is located at 612 Fillmore Ave., Buffalo, NY 14214 (<https://goo.gl/maps/u5PcbNuK-Drji9Q6N9>)

Off-street parking is available in the parking lot directly next to the theater, and directly across from the theater. The bar at The Adam Mickiewicz Dramatic Circle will be open one hour before show time and features a wide selection of Eastern European and craft beers along with Eastern European spirits and aperitifs. The bar is CASH ONLY.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24 + SUNDAY, SEPT. 25 | SILO CITY

Sessions will take place in two locations at Silo City/ Rigidized Metals: the Design Studio and the Willow Trellis (see schedule for each session location).

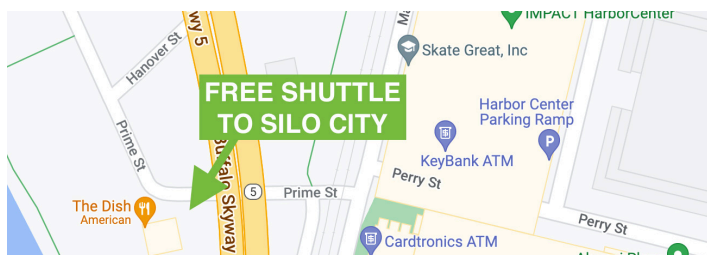
DIRECTIONS TO THE DESIGN STUDIO AT SILO CITY/ RIGIDIZED METALS

Address: 630 Ohio Street, Buffalo, NY 14203 (<https://goo.gl/maps/YT5pUt8WTuftybe3A>)

SHUTTLE SERVICE | CANALSIDE → SILO CITY → CANALSIDE

To accommodate using public transportation and off-site parking, a FREE SHUTTLE will be available from Canalside to Silo City and back. The shuttle service will run through out the day from 10:30am-4:30pm. Approximate times are:

- Leaving Canalside: on the :00 and :30 each hour
- Leaving Design Studio at Silo City: on the :15 and :45 each hour



PARKING

There is limited on-site parking due to construction activities taking place in other areas of Silo City. If driving to Silo City, we strongly encourage car-pooling. Buffalo Humanities Festival parking will be located in the parking lot on the Ohio Street side of the grounds and at Rigidized Metals, adjacent to the Design Studio (see map image above).

Alternate parking options include:

- Canalside: multiple parking areas are available around Canalside with free shuttle provided to Silo City (see above Shuttle Service info).
- Outer Harbor/Fuhrmann Boulevard: plentiful street parking is available along Fuhrmann Blvd., which is easy bicycling distance (approx. 1/2 mile depending on location on Fuhrmann Blvd.) to Silo City via Ohio St./NYS Bicycle Rte 517. [-10 mins. walking]

REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN

On arrival, please check-in at the table located by the Design Studio.

WHAT TO BRING

Silo City is a regenerated former industrial site with ongoing ecological restoration work happening under the direction of Joshua Smith. Please wear comfortable shoes suitable for walking on semi-groomed paths and trails, bring layers appropriate for changing weather conditions including wind and cooler temperatures associated with proximity to the lake, and anything else you might want to enjoy this partially outdoor event.

FESTIVAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Buffalo Humanities Festival is made possible, in part, through the generous support of Humanities New York, the University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Additional funding provided by the Robert and Carol Morris Humanities Institute fund.