

LAGUARDIA RESEARCH COMMITTEE



RESEARCH COMMITTEE FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

The mission of the LaGuardia Research Committee (LaRC) is to bring together faculty and staff to promote and support undergraduate research and faculty scholarship.

Committee Members

Rejitha Nair (Academic Affairs) – Co-chair

Derek Stadler (Library) – Co-chair

Daniel Boudon (Social Science)

Bijoyeta Das (English)

Camila Gelpi (Social Science)

Jenna Graziano (Humanities)

Nathan Hosannah (Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science)

Niki Jones (Academic Affairs)

Juline Koken (Human Services, Community Health and Wellness)

Marta Kowalczyk (Natural Sciences)

John Parssinen (Grants & Sponsored Programs)

Francine White (Humanities)

Jessica Zeichner-Saca (Grants & Sponsored Programs)

RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATES

Human Services, Community Health and Wellness

Motivational Interviewing (Juline Koken, Maureen Doyle, and Govindi Singh)



Professor Govindi Singh and Juline Koken (third and fourth from left)

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an evidence-supported form

of communication used in social work, human services, education, and healthcare. The standard training videos for MI are proprietary, cost money to use in classroom settings, and feature primarily white MI providers and clients. Recognizing that these videos were not meeting the needs of our diverse learning community, Juline, Maureen, and Govindi undertook to create their own MI educational videos with diverse faculty and student collaborators. The videos were supported with funds from the New York State Empire Development fund as well as an OER (Open Educational Resources) grant. Filming was completed in Fall 2024 and editing in Spring 2025.

This semester, Juline, Maureen, and Govindi debuted the MI instructional videos. The videos feature staff and students demonstrating MI and are now being used for HSS 216 classes. Since the [videos are OER](#), they can be used by any MI learner and showcase LaGuardia's unique Human Services program.

Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science

Institutional Capacity and Faculty Agency: Rethinking Disability Inclusion in Two-Year College Classrooms (Reem Jaafar)

Reem's qualitative study, *Institutional Capacity and Faculty Agency: Rethinking Disability Inclusion in Two-Year College Classrooms*, grounded in institutional quantitative data, investigates how faculty at an open-admission, two-year college perceive student success, and equity related to disability inclusion in first-year STEM and non-STEM gateway courses. Funded by the PSC-CUNY Traditional A (Cycle 55) grant, this study was motivated by institutional data that showed large discrepancies in course outcome rates for students registered and unregistered with the Office of Accessibility (OOA) in gateway math and English courses. Through sixteen semi-structured interviews with faculty across various disciplines, the study investigates how instructors interpret disclosure, accommodations, and institutional responsibility when it comes to supporting students with disability in the classroom.



Professor Reem Jaafar

Preliminary findings show that faculty express both empathy and frustration. Faculty expressed genuine commitment to supporting students with disability but felt constrained by limited institutional resources, inconsistent communication with the accessibility office, and a lack of training in inclusive pedagogy. Faculty identified stigma and delayed disclosure as major barriers to student success.

The study underscores that advancing disability equity requires institutional capacity, not just individual goodwill. Findings call for sustained professional development, shared language around equity, and stronger coordination between faculty and accessibility services to ensure that inclusion is systemic and sustainable rather than exceptional.

Natural Sciences

Mycobacterial Genetics and Drug Candidate Studies against Tuberculosis (Richa Gupta)

Richa conducted research, served as the principal investigator, and mentored undergraduate students in the project, "Mycobacterial Genetics and Drug Candidate Studies against Tuberculosis," through the NIH-Bridges and CUNY Research Scholars



Professor Richa Gupta

Programs from 2019 to the present. At the LaGuardia Undergraduate Research Day on May 22, 2025, the entry “Studies with Natural Compounds to Combat Antitubercular Drug Resistance” won second place in the research poster competition. Richa co-presented that research at the New York Academy of Sciences Chemical Biology Symposium on May 28, 2025. She also presented “Infectious Disease ‘Tuberculosis’ and New Drugs to Combat It” at the LaGuardia Scientific Kaleidoscope Event on October 29.

Richa also wrote the following article on tuberculosis:

Gupta, Richa, et al. “In the Quest for New Horizons: Evaluating Novel Therapeutic Approaches for Tuberculosis Treatment.” *Physiology*, vol. 40, issue S1, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1152/physiol.2025.40.S1.1987>.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP*

* Click on title to view LaGuardia Library’s copy.

Sultan A. Jenkins (Natural Sciences)

Jenkins, Sultan A. “A Pre-Semester Boost: Impact of a Preparatory Human Anatomy and Physiology Workshop on Students Grade Performance.” *Journal of College Science Teaching*, Sep. 2025, pp. 1–9, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0047231X.2025.2555893>.



Professor Sultan A. Jenkins

Lucie Mingla (Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science)

Mingla, Lucie. "Using Digital Tools and Real-Life Interactive Activities to Teach Trigonometric Functions." *Mathematics Teaching-Research Journal* (MTRJ), vol. 17, no. 4, 2025, https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.commonsc.gc.cuny.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/34462/files/2025/09/9_mingla.pdf.



Professor Lucie Mingla

Joy Sanchez-Taylor (English)

Sanchez-Taylor, Joy. [*Dispelling Fantasies: Authors of Color Reimagine a Genre*](#). Ohio State UP, 2025.



Professor Joy Sanchez-Taylor

RECENT SCHOLARSHIP*

* Click on title to view LaGuardia Library's copy of material highlighted in the [2025 LaGuardia Faculty and Staff Research and Scholarship Showcase booklet](#).

Ian Alberts (Natural Sciences)

Co-authored articles:

Li, Jijun, et al. "[Rhynchophylline Alleviates Hyperactivity and Cognitive Flexibility Impairment Associated with Inhibition of Inflammatory Responses in Mice That Partly Lack the Dopamine Transporter Protein](#)." *Brain and Behavior*, vol. 14, no. 11, 2024, p. e70121, <https://doi.org/10.1002/brb3.70121>.

Onorato, Thomas M., et al. "[A Pandemic-Resilient CURE Shifts Community College Students from Knowledge Consumers to Authentic Knowledge Producers](#)." *Journal of College Science Teaching*, vol. 52, no. 7, 2023, pp. 8–19, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0047231X.2023.12315873>.

Jacqueline A. Brashears (Natural Sciences)

Co-authored an article:

Onorato, Thomas M., et al. "[A Pandemic-Resilient CURE Shifts Community College Students from Knowledge Consumers to Authentic Knowledge Producers](#)." *Journal of College Science Teaching*, vol. 52, no. 7, 2023, pp. 8–19, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0047231X.2023.12315873>.

Habiba Boumlik (Education and Language Acquisition)

Authored a book chapter:

Boumlik, Habiba. "[Global Trajectories, Localized Stories: Amazigh Filmmaking through the Eyes of Selected Filmmakers](#)." *Amazigh Cinema: An Introduction to North African Indigenous Film*, edited by Lucy R. McNair and Yahya Laayouni, University of Regina Press, 2025, pp. 227-53

Tao Chen (Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science)

Co-authored articles:

Chen, Tao, and Linda Keen. "[Meromorphic Functions with a Polar Asymptotic Value](#)." *Conformal Geometry and Dynamics*, vol. 28, no. 1, 2024, pp. 1–36, <https://doi.org/10.1090/ecgd/390>.

Chen, Tao, et al. "[Ergodicity in Some Families of Nevanlinna Functions](https://doi.org/10.4064/fm230929-26-1)." *Fundamenta Mathematicae*, vol. 265, 2024, pp. 179-95, <https://doi.org/10.4064/fm230929-26-1>.

Claudette Davis (Natural Sciences)

Co-authored an article:

Onorato, Thomas M., et al. "[A Pandemic-Resilient CURE Shifts Community College Students from Knowledge Consumers to Authentic Knowledge Producers](https://doi.org/10.1080/0047231X.2023.12315873)." *Journal of College Science Teaching*, vol. 52, no. 7, 2023, pp. 8–19, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0047231X.2023.12315873>.

Monika Ekiert (Education and Language Acquisition)

Co-authored a book chapter:

di Gennaro, Kristen, and Monika Ekiert. "[Spamvitations: Examining Invitations to Submit Scholarly Work](https://doi.org/10.4324/97810031707239)." *Predatory Practices in Scholarly Publishing and Knowledge Sharing: Causes and Implications for Scholarship*, edited by Pejman Habibie and Ismaeil Fazel, Routledge, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.4324/97810031707239>.

Kuhu Joshi (English)

Authored a book:

Joshi, Kuhu. [*My Body Didn't Come Before Me*](#). Speaking Tiger Books, 2023.

Ana Maria Hernandez del Castillo (Education and Language Acquisition)

Authored an article:

Hernandez del Castillo, Ana Maria. "Eroticism, Mysticism, Satire, and Melodrama in *Captain Pantoja and the Special Service*." *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas*, vol. 57, no. 1, 2024, pp. 116–22, <https://doi.org/10.1080/08905762.2024.2336821>.

Sumanth Inukonda (Humanities)

Co-edited a book:

Inukonda, Sumanth, et al., editors. [*Propaganda, Communication and Empire: Western Intervention in Afghanistan*](#). Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003459200>.

Fern Luskin (Humanities)

Authored an article:

Luskin, Fern. "[*Titian's Bacchus and His Two Loves*](#)." *Renaissance Studies*, vol. 39, no. 2, Apr. 2025, pp. 237-66, <https://doi.org/10.1111/rest.12936>.

Malgorzata Marciniak (Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science)

Authored a book:

Marciniak, Malgorzata. [*Creativity in STEM Fields: A View from an Eclectic Mind*](#). Alinea Learning, 2025.

Ann Matsuuchi (Library)

Co-authored a book:

Mannion, Elizabeth, et al. [*Samuel R. Delany: A Reference Guide to His Life and Works*](#). Rowman & Littlefield, 2025.

Lucy McNair (English)

Co-edited a book:

McNair, Lucy R., and Yahya Laayouni, editors. [*Amazigh Cinema: An Introduction to North African Indigenous Film*](#). University of Regina Press, 2025.

Thomas Onorato (Natural Sciences)

Co-authored articles:

Onorato, Thomas M., et al. "[A Pandemic-Resilient CURE Shifts Community College Students from Knowledge Consumers to Authentic Knowledge Producers.](#)" *Journal of College Science Teaching*, vol. 52, no. 7, 2023, pp. 8–19, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0047231X.2023.12315873>.

Oulhen, Nathalie, et al. "[Conservation and Contrast in Cell States of Echinoderm Ovaries.](#)" *Molecular Reproduction and Development*, vol. 91, no. 8, 2024, pp. e23721-n/a, <https://doi.org/10.1002/mrd.23721>.

Wise, Maria, et al. "[A Molecular Basis for Spine Color Morphs in the Sea Urchin *Lytechinus Variegatus*.](#)" *Scientific Reports*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2024, pp. [1-14], <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-79312-3>.

Ari Richter (Humanities)

Authored a book:

Richter, Ari. [Never Again Will I Visit Auschwitz: A Graphic Family Memoir of Trauma & Inheritance.](#) Fantagraphics Books, Inc., 2024.

Joan Schwartz-Chaney (Humanities)

Authored a book:

Schwartz-Chaney, Joan. [Critical Faith: What It Is, What It Isn't & Why It Matters.](#) Fortress Press, 2024.

Ingrid D. Veras (Natural Sciences)

Co-authored an article:

Onorato, Thomas M., et al. "[A Pandemic-Resilient CURE Shifts Community College Students from Knowledge Consumers to Authentic Knowledge Producers.](#)" *Journal of College Science Teaching*, vol. 52, no. 7, 2023, pp. 8–19, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0047231X.2023.12315873>.

Kenneth J. Yin (Education and Language Acquisition)

Authored a book:

Yin, Kenneth J. [*Mystical Forest: Collected Poems and Short Stories of Dungan Ethnographer Ali Dzhon*](https://doi.org/10.3726/b18961). Peter Lang, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.3726/b18961>.