**Clark University Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program**

**2023-2024 Facilitator Bios**

**Facilitator: Maria Barluenga**

Maria is an International Higher Education Project Manager, Intercultural Trainer and Consultant, with wide experience designing and managing projects and cross-cultural programs in higher education and private institutions in several countries. She currently works at UMass Medical School as a Global Health Project Manager for West Africa. Before that, she worked for 4,5 years as an Assistant Director of International Career Services and Management Instructor at the School of Management at Clark University. In that position she provided intercultural career advice and training, taught international management, global entrepreneurship and business and intercultural communication classes. Additionally, she has been a trainer at Clark University Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program in 2018 and 2019. Maria has a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University, a Master in Financial Analysis from Universidad Carlos III in Madrid, and Bachelor in Business Administration and Management from Universidad de Oviedo in Spain.

**Facilitator: Tameka Ellington**

TBD

**Facilitator: Catherine Fung**

Dr. Catherine Fung (she/they) is a writing coach and curriculum consultant who teaches Asian American studies at San Jose State University. Formerly an English and Media Studies professor at Bentley University and high school teacher at Lick-Wilmerding High School, she has served as the book reviews editor for the journal *MELUS* and on the executive board and as conference co-chair for the Association for Asian American Studies. Catherine has also worked as a project manager and developmental editor at the academic editing company Ideas On Fire. Her research and writing appear in *Social Text, College Literature,* [*Dismantle Magazine*](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdismantlemag.com%2F2019%2F10%2F14%2Fhistorical-costume-not-white%2F&data=05%7C01%7CAsCaruso%40clarku.edu%7C570f7709e39f43b3d36008db2af96ca9%7Cb5b2263d68aa453eb972aa1421410f80%7C0%7C0%7C638151023030542258%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0B5aW1Gv%2FoSreskbC1W3orX3Fttoj7ifMUMKVSXlEA0%3D&reserved=0), *Novel: A Forum on Fiction, MELUS*, and *Techno-Orientalism: Imagining Asia in Speculative Fiction, History, and Media*, *Asian American Literature in Transition*, among other publications.

**Facilitator: Hayley Haywood**

Hayley Haywood has served as a leader in higher education for over a decade, specifically centering equity and retention initiatives for the past five years. She formerly served as the Director of Multicultural and First Generation Student Support at Clark, and was recently promoted into a new role as Assistant Dean for Equity and Student Success. Hayley has engaged diverse constituencies in training and programming promoting equitable leadership, dismantling structural oppression, and engaging in proactive, inclusive student support. She is a Clark alum who also holds a Master of Education in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland College Park and is in pursuit of a doctorate in Organizational Change and Leadership through the University of Southern California.

**Facilitator: Thekia Jackson**

Thekia Cheeseborough Jackson is a social psychology doctoral student working with Dr. Nicole Overstreet. She is a proud alumna of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology followed by an M.A in Psychology at Clark University. Broadly, her research focuses on how social identity and group membership shape minority individual’s experiences of prejudice and stereotyping and the implications that these experiences have for their overall well-being (i.e. interpersonal, socio-emotional, and health). Throughout her professional career, she has engaged in community involvement and activism. She has previously worked as a classroom teacher, student services coordinator, and founder of “B.E.S.T Moms: Building and Encouraging Success in Teen Moms”.

**Facilitator: Néstor Noyola**

Néstor Noyola (he/his) received his B.S. in Psychology from Brown University and his M.A. in Psychology from Clark University. He is currently a doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology at Clark University. Overall, Néstor’s area of research includes understanding the mental health of sexual, gender and racial/ethnic minorities from an intersectional perspective, with a particular interest in risk for suicide and non-suicidal self-harm.

**Facilitator: Fran Manocchio**

Fran Manocchio serves as an Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Director, Student Accessibility Services at Worcester State University, Worcester, Massachusetts.  Fran brings 30+ years of work in social justice and human services to her position.  Prior to joining WSU in 2011, Fran was Director of Human Rights and Disabilities for the City of Worcester and previously served as an executive director for two non-profit agencies.  She earned her undergraduate degree in psychology and sociology from Merrimack College and a Master’s Degree and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Rehabilitation Counseling from Assumption College.

**Facilitator: Irene Mutwiri**

TBD

**Facilitator: Romina Pacheco, Ph.D.**

Romina A. Pacheco was born and raised in the Caribbean city of Maracay, Venezuela. Romina’s early work as an educator focused on teaching English as a Foreign Language, and Spanish as a Second Language. Romina’s career as an educator shifted when she migrated to the United States in her mid-20s where most of her work has concentrated in teaching Social Justice Education and Critical Multicultural Education in both institutions of higher education and the K-12 school system. Romina has a M.Ed. in Social Justice Education from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and a Ph.D. from New Mexico State University where she studied Curriculum & Instruction and Gender & Sexuality Studies. She currently works for the Collaborative for Educational Services, an educational non-profit, and lives in Bridgeport, Connecticut. One of Romina's biggest joy is raising her children Asha and Pierre Aristides.

**Facilitator: ShaQuan Read**

ShaQuan Read has been a trainer in the DICP since its inception.  She began her career as an engineer, but always gravitated towards helping people and providing support to those in need.  She received her BS in Environmental Engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology and a MA in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University.  For the past 18 years she has worked in higher education, both in student affairs, academic affairs, and an adjunct faculty member. ShaQuan is also the owner of ShaQuan Read Counseling and as a clinician she works with individuals and groups who are struggling with racial identity development and heal from oppression related trauma.

**Facilitator: Kourtney Senquiz, Ph.D.**

Dr. Kourtney Senquiz is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Clark University. Her research specialization is in African American literature, culture, and intellectual history. She received her Ph.D., M.A, and B.A. from the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Also, she earned a M.A.T. at Elms College and studied at the University of Ghana, Legon. Early in her educational career, Dr. Senquiz studied at the prestigious Kokrobitey Institute in Ghana. During this time, she developed a love for service while volunteering as a reading and writing tutor for the children in the community. Soon after her return to Massachusetts, she transferred to UMass Amherst and applied to study abroad at the University of Ghana in Legon. During this second trip to Ghana, she helped launch Madamfo; a program that encouraged international students to volunteer their time to tutor and raise educational funds for the children of Medina in exchange for university credits.

After receiving her B.A. at UMass, Dr. Senquiz worked as a public-school teacher while earning her M.A.T. It was during this time that she joined the MTA and CEA to work as a Political Action Leader. Her work as a Political Action Leader (PAL) included speaking engagements alongside Chicago teachers during a collective bargaining summit. Soon after, Dr. Senquiz joined forces with Educators for a Democratic Union and advocated for a New Business Item (NBI) to eliminate discrimination in the public school system. The successful passing of the NBI during the MTA Annual Meeting led to the implementation of a task force on race in Massachusetts.  Currently, Dr. Senquiz's research focuses on the African American Gothic, specifically the Gothic Double. Although historically placed in binary opposition, the racial double connects whiteness to Blackness and expands the field of critical race theory. Although her current project focuses on the 19th century African American Gothic, her work is relevant to current real-time concerns of race relations and makes connections to issues such as restorative justice, reparations, and restitution for slavery and Jim Crow segregation which complements her activist work.

**Facilitator: Taj Smith, Ed.D.**

Dr. Taj Smith is Director of Diversity Education at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). He also serves on the steering committee for the Levine Center to End Hate. Prior to moving to Rochester, he worked at Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio) as the Director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion for 4 years. While in Cincinnati, he served as a board member for Design Impact, a non-profit social innovation firm that uses the design field to equip leaders to address community issues. Prior to joining Xavier University, Taj was Assistant Director of the Davis Center at Williams College (Western Massachusetts). He coordinated the Intergroup Dialogue Program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

A native of Paterson and Passaic, NJ, Taj earned his doctorate in Social Justice Education from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, a master’s degree in Africana Studies from Cornell University, and a bachelor’s in Journalism and Mass Media Studies from Rutgers University. His assets and talents are empathetic listening, facilitating difficult conversations, consulting on cultural humility, strategic planning, curriculum development, teaching, understanding how systems of oppression function and engaging men in critical conversations about masculinity.

**Facilitator: Peyton Wu**

Peyton Wu (they, them) earned their Bachelors of Arts in History and a Certificate in LGBTQ Studies at the University of Maryland College Park and their Masters of Science in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Miami University. Prior to joining the Multicultural and First Generation Student Support team at Clark University as the Associate Director, Peyton served as a program coordinator within the Office of Ethnic Programs and Services at the University of Cincinnati. Peyton is passionate about equity, inclusion, social justice, and leadership and identity development. Peyton’s other interests include traveling, reading, watching sports, and exploring and eating different types of food.