

NEW FACULTY

— SPRING 2022 —

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



NYU | ABU DHABI



NYU Abu Dhabi leadership and faculty are researchers, scholars, and artists of extraordinary distinction within and beyond their disciplines, and at the same time exceptional teachers, dedicated to supporting and challenging their students and to transforming them into intellectual colleagues. In addition to a growing cohort of full-time faculty, the University also draws talent from across NYU's global network and hosts visiting faculty from outstanding universities around the world.

Today NYU Abu Dhabi has a faculty of more than 300 experts who are drawn to the University by the quality and passion of our students, by a very favorable research environment, and, as importantly, by the institution's resolve to contribute significantly to the region and to shape a better world through education and research.



NADIA EL CHEIKH

**Vice Provost for Cultural and Research Engagement,
Professor of History**

PhD in History and Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, USA

Nadia El Cheikh comes to NYUAD from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon, where she was the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and a professor of history, leading a division of 3,700 students, 400 faculty, and 100 staff. She is a highly accomplished scholar of the Abbasid Caliphate and Byzantium, with a focus on women, gender, and Islam.

El Cheikh has published two monographs: *Women, Islam and Abbasid Identity* and *Byzantium Viewed by the Arabs*; and co-authored *Crisis and Continuity at the Abbasid Court: Formal and Informal Politics in the Caliphate of al-Muqtadir*. In 2019, she received a \$1 million Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant for an oral history project, *The Arab Oral History Archive: Gender, Alternative Histories, and the Production of Knowledge*.

El Cheikh has been visiting professor and scholar at Harvard, Columbia, University of California Los Angeles, Amherst College, and New York University. She also served as a member of the International Advisory Board of the NYU Press and NYU Abu Dhabi's Library of Arabic Literature, which she has championed from its inception.

Previously: Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon



MARK JENKINSON

Assistant Arts Professor

BFA in Photography, The Cooper Union, USA

Mark Jenkinson has been a working professional photographer for the last 40 years. He has photographed hundreds of feature stories on a vast array of subjects including fashion, celebrity portraiture, sports, business, travel, architecture and automobiles. Publications include *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Fortune*, *GQ*, *Town and Country*, *Men's Journal*, and *The New York Times*. He has also published three text books on photography techniques and practices: *Photography Essentials*, *The Portrait Photography Course*, and *Careers in Photography: Finding your True Path*.

His personal photography projects include a 30-year documentation on the evolution of Las Vegas as an urban phenomenon, a 15-year project examining capital punishment in the United States as well as other smaller projects on color interaction. He has a lifelong interest in theoretical physics and is currently researching how evolving theories in the history of science have influenced the history of art. In addition to his professional career, Jenkinson has been teaching at NYU for over 35 years.

Affiliated from: Photography and Imaging, NYU, USA



JING CHAI

Lecturer of Chinese

MA in Chinese, East China Normal University, China

Jing Chai is senior language lecturer of Chinese language. Her research focuses on Chinese language pedagogy, internet and technology-based language learning, community-engaged language learning, Chinese characters, intercultural communications, and historical architectures in Shanghai.

Prior to her current appointment, she was the senior language lecturer and level coordinator of NYU Shanghai.

Affiliated from: Chinese, NYU, China



MATHURA GOVINDARAJAN

Visiting Assistant Professor of Interactive Media

MPS in Interactive Telecommunications, NYU, USA

Mathura is a creative technologist working on projects that encourage alternate ways of education. She is currently working on Peblío - a computer science instructional tool, and conducts workshops and classes around design and tech education.

Visiting from: Founder, Paper Crane Lab, USA



VENKATESAN (RAM) NATARAJAN

Visiting Assistant Professor of Writing

PhD in Anthropology, NYU, USA

Ram Natarajan's research and teaching focus on violence, memory, human rights, literature, and law. His current book project examines what it is to live with cruelty in the context of state violence in Argentina.

His research has received funding from the Fulbright-Hays Program, the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation.

Visiting from: Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Latin American Studies, University of Arkansas, USA



KIM ROBERTSON

Adjunct Associate Professor Art & Art History

MFA in Print, Royal College of Art, UK

Kim Robertson is a self-employed design and manufacturer of screen printed products for an extensive Global client-base.

She was the head of the print-making studio at Tashkeel, has taught at various institutions including the Sharjah Art Foundation and The Ruskin School of Art, Oxford University, UK and has led workshops across the region in Screen printing on paper, Screen printing on fabrics, Etching and Photo Etching, text and smartphone photography and Sculpture.

Previously: Self-employed



KONSTANTINOS KYRIAKOPOULOS

Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

PhD in Computer and Systems Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA

Konstantinos (Kostas) Kyriakopoulos is professor of electrical engineering. Kostas works on real time embedded control systems and robotics with emphasis on multi-agent autonomous systems (ground, marine, aerial). His current interest is in decentralized interaction control of hybrid autonomous systems.

He was awarded the G.Samaras award of academic excellence (NTUA), the Bodosakis Foundation Fellowship, the Alexander Onassis Foundation Fellowship and the Alexander Von Humboldt Fellowship. He has published around 330 papers to journals and fully refereed international conferences. He is the specialty chief editor for Frontiers in Robotics and AI, senior editor of IEEE/ASME Transactions on Mechatronics and he serves in the editorial committees of a number of publications, in addition to serving as an administrative member of a number of international conferences. He has directed 40 research projects funded by the EC and Greek Sources. He is an IEEE Fellow.

Prior to joining NYU, Kyriakopoulos served as faculty at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the National Technical University of Athens.

Previously: Professor of Robotics, Mechatronics and Control, National Technical University of Athens, Greece



JEFF MANZA

Professor of Sociology

PhD in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Jeff Manza is Professor of Sociology and the former chair of the Department of Sociology at New York University. Prior to joining NYU in 2006, he taught at Penn State (1996-98) and Northwestern (1998-2006).

His teaching and research interests lay at the intersection of inequality, political sociology, and public policy. His research examines how different types of social identities and inequalities influence political processes such as voting, partisanship, and public opinion (at both the macro and micro level).

Affiliated from: Sociology, NYU, USA



BARBARA CONSTANCE SCHECK

Visiting Professor of Business, Organizations and Society

PhD in Business Administration, Technical University Munich, Germany

Barbara Scheck is the professor for entrepreneurship at Munich Business School and co-founder of the European Center for Social Finance. Her research focuses on the financing of social enterprises, impact and mission-related investing, and impact assessment. Prior to joining MBS, Barbara was an assistant professor for social investment at Hamburg University.

During her PhD she developed the Social Reporting Standard, guidelines for impact-oriented reporting. Other significant experiences include consulting for a social venture capital fund and projects for development cooperation agencies on social entrepreneurship. She was a visiting fellow at the Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship & Philanthropy at NUS National University of Singapore and is a co-founder of the digital mentoring platform Volunteer Vision. Scheck was a member of the EU's GECES subgroup on impact measurement in social enterprise and the Impact Measurement Working Group of the Social Impact Investment Task Force established by the G8. She is a member of the investment committee at GLS Treuhand.

Visiting from: Professor for Entrepreneurship, Munich Business School, Germany



LUCIA DELOGU

Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology

PhD in Biochemistry, Biology, and Biotechnology, University of Sassari, Italy

Lucia Gemma Delogu is currently leading the ImmuneNano-lab at the University of Padua, Italy. She has a scientific background related to nanotechnology, immunology and applied biochemistry. In 2011, she was selected as one of the "200 Best Young Talents of Italy" from the Italian Ministry of Youth and since has received several awards.

She served the European Commission as an invited expert for different review panels of FP7 and Horizon 2020. She has been granted by the University of Padua for "STARS", a highly competitive call, with a project on MXenes material biomedical applications. She has been the scientific coordinator of two interdisciplinary European Projects (G-IMMUNOMICS and CARBO-IMMAP) on nanomedicine and nanosafety involving ten leading Institutions in EU and extra EU Countries including China, USA and Qatar. She is head of the biology section for the project funded by the European Space Agency, Whiskies, on wound healing, nanomaterials, and immune cell interaction for applications on the hearth and in Space.

Visiting from: Assistant Professor of Biology, University of Padua, Italy



ÖMER F. ÖRSÜN

Visiting Lecturer of Political Science

PhD in Political Science, Koç University, Turkey

Ömer F. Örsün is a Visiting Lecturer of Political Science at New York University Abu Dhabi. Before New York University, he held pre-doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard University, Department of Government and Harvard Institute of Quantitative Social Science. He also held a position of Assistant Professor of International Politics at Istanbul University, where he taught empirical and theoretical models in international relations.

Ömer's research interests include international security, game theory, and machine learning. His recent research appeared in International Interactions, Democratization, Oxford Research Encyclopedia as various book chapters.

Previously: Instructor of Social Science, NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE



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