

## Mentor Biographies



**Derek Alderman** is Professor of Geography at University of Tennessee and Past President of the American Association of Geographers. As a cultural/historical geographer, his scholarly interests include public memory, race, social justice, heritage tourism, and critical place name study—with an emphasis on the African American experience in the southeastern United States. He is a long-time advocate and beneficiary of professional mentoring. In the summers of 2016 and 2017, Derek co-directed the GFDA Early Career Workshops along with hosting the AAG Department Leadership workshops. From 2012 to 2017, he served as Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee. As Head, Derek oversaw seven successful tenure and/or promotion cases and led that unit through strategic planning, curriculum and program restructuring, and the creation of initiatives devoted to diversity and mentoring. In 2017, he received the Distinguished Mentor Award from the National Council for Geographic Education and the Distinguished Career Award from the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group of the AAG. As President of the AAG, from 2016 to 2017, Derek developed the “Geography is REAL (Responsive, Engaged, Advocating, and Life-Improving)” initiative, which encourages greater attention to public intellectualism, communication savviness, and disciplinary promotion and well-being.



**Sarah A. Blue** is an associate professor of geography at Texas State University. Her research broadly focuses on how international migration and changes in the global political economy affect local socio-economic dynamics in the Latin America and the United States. Her current areas of research focus on gender, race, and transnationalism, specifically undocumented Latino migration to the United States and socio-economic change in Cuba. She took over the directorship of the Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference in 2016 and is Co-Coordinator of the IX REP Conference with Rebecca Torres.



**Scott Wm. Bowman, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Texas State University and the Special Assistant to the Provost for Inclusion and Diversity. Dr. Bowman earned his Ph.D. in Justice Studies from Arizona State University with an emphasis on racial and socioeconomic inequalities. His current teaching and research interests include race and crime, socioeconomic status and crime, hip-hop and positive youth development, and juvenile justice. His recent research appears as various academic journals and books on a variety of criminological and sociological topics, including a two volume, edited book on race and prisons entitled “Color Behind Bars: Racism in the U.S. Prison System.”



**Joe T. Darden** received his Ph.D. in 1972 from the University of Pittsburgh. He is Professor of Geography and former Dean of Urban Affairs Programs, 1984-1997. He received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1984. He is a former Fulbright Scholar, Department of Geography, University of Toronto, 1997-1998. Dr. Darden’s research interests are urban social geography, residential segregation, immigration, and socioeconomic neighborhood inequality in multi-racial societies. He is the author or co-author of 9 books and numerous scholarly articles on race and residential segregation, especially in Metropolitan Detroit. Among his previous books are: *Detroit: Race and Uneven Development* (co-authored with Richard Hill, June Thomas, and Richard Thomas), Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987; and *Detroit: Race Riots, Racial Conflicts, and Efforts to Bridge the Racial Divide* (co-authored with Richard Thomas), East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2013.



**Caroline Faria** is a feminist political geographer. She draws on feminist intersectional approaches to examine the geopolitical intimacies of violence, with a particular interest in the racialized, gendered, sexual and classed politics of nationalism and neoliberal globalization in South Sudan and Uganda. Her current NSF funded research project examines the political-economies of the beauty industry in the Gulf-East African region.

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**Melissa R. Gilbert** is Director of the Center for Sustainable Communities, and Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography and Urban Studies at Temple University. Her research interests are in the areas of feminist and critical race theory, economic and welfare state restructuring, and the intersection of urban inequalities and lack of access to information and communication technologies. Her research has been supported by the Fulbright Commission, the National Science Foundation, and the Social Science Research Council. Her research has been published in journals such as the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, the *Professional Geographer*, *Urban Geography*, *Geoforum*, *Transactions in GIS*, and *Information, Communication & Society*. With Dr. Michele Masucci, she published *ICT Geographies: Strategies for Bridging the Digital Divide*, (2011, Praxis (e) Press). She has worked with community organizations related to economic empowerment and digital inequalities, is a former member of the Montgomery County Planning Commission Board in Pennsylvania, and the President of the Lower Merion School Board.



**Audrey Kobayashi** is an activist scholar whose work includes topics on racism, gender, migration, human rights, disability, homelessness, and poverty. She is past president of the AAG and a Fellow of the AAG. Her recent publications include the co-authored *The Equity Myth: Racism and Indigeneity in Canadian Universities*, and co-edited *International Encyclopedia of Geography*, as well as articles in many geography journals. She is currently working on homelessness activism in Dublin and on housing in Vancouver's Downtown East Side.



**Wei Li** received her BS and MS degrees in China and PhD at the USC(CA). She is Professor at the Asian Pacific American Studies/School of Social Transformation, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning in ASU. Her foci of research are migration, integration and transnational connections. She is the author or [co-]editor of six scholarly books and two journal theme issues, and has 138 other publications. Funding sources of her work include NSF (four grants) and Canadian government (three grants). She served at the inaugural class of the National Asia Research Associates with the National Bureau of Asian Research and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Fulbright Senior Scholar to Canada (2006-2007) and India (2016-2017), and recipient of Rockefeller Foundations' Bellagio Writing Fellowship (2014). She was a member (2003-2012), Vice Chair (2004-2010), and Chair (2010-2012) of the U.S. Census Bureau's Race and Ethnic Advisory Committees on the Asian Population; a member of the International Steering Committee for the International Metropolis Project since 2008; and the North American Director for the International Society of Studying Chinese Overseas (2010-2019).



**Minelle Mahtani** is an Associate Professor in the Institute for Social Justice and Senior Advisor to the Provost on Racialized Faculty at The University of British Columbia. Dr. Mahtani is a former radio host, for "Sense of Place," on Roundhouse Radio, 98.3 Vancouver (shows are posted at [minellemahtani.com](http://minellemahtani.com)) and a former journalist with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.



**Dr. Aimee Roundtree's** research researches communication in STEM fields, including science, technology, engineering, and medicine, using qualitative, survey, text mining, and user research methods, as well as mixed methods approaches. In particular, her work interrogates points of translation and transaction between experts, policymakers, and the public, as well as human and non-human agents. . She is the Associate Editor of Book Reviews for *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*; the Social Media Officer for the Association of Research, Science, Technology and Medicine; a Review Board Member for the Writing Across the Curriculum Clearinghouse; and the President of the American Communication Association.

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**Rickie Sanders** is Professor of Geography/Urban Studies. During her tenure at Temple she served as both Graduate Chair and Chair of her Department, Director of Women's Studies, and was named a Fellow at the Center for the Humanities. She has published in *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Revista Artemis XVI*, *Journal of Geography*, *Professional Geographer*, *Gender Place and Culture*, *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, *Antipode*, and *Urban Geography*. Her current interests are photography, urban geography, geography and gender, and teaching. In addition to her publications, she has served on numerous committees for the Association of American Geographers (AAG), National Council of Geographic Education, and the American Geographical Society, among others. She has also been recognized by numerous organizations for her teaching. Her awards include the Gilbert Grosvenor Award for Outstanding Teaching, the Eleanor Hofkin Award for Outstanding Teaching from the College of Liberal Arts/Temple University; and the Distinguished Teaching Award from the National Council for Geographic Education. The Finding A Way Project under her directorship received the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award Special Commendation from the American Association of University Women. The Association of American Geographers recently honored her for her success in Enhancing Diversity in the discipline.



**Emily Skop** is Professor and Chair in the Department of Geography and Environment Studies and Founding Director of the Global Intercultural Research Center at UCCS. Through the lens of urban, ethnic, and social geographies, Professor Skop's scholarship explores global migration and its consequences. Her work confronts persistent notions about how identity and inequality are constructed across places, and also examines the multiple ways in which scale is utilized as a concept to create legacies of advantage and disadvantage. Professor Skop has built a significant research record, including a book titled *The Immigration and Settlement of Asian Indians*, and nearly fifty peer-reviewed book chapters and research articles. In addition, she maintains ongoing academic and service interests in the discipline of geography. As evidence of her continued contributions, Professor Skop was recently awarded the 2018 Distinguished Scholar Award in Ethnic Geography from the American Association of Geographers, as well as the 2017 UCCS Faculty Award for Outstanding Contribution to Diversity and Inclusiveness.



**Dr. Nikoleta Theodoropoulou** is an Associate Professor of Physics at Texas State University and the director of the Physics graduate program. She received her B.S. in Physics from the University of Athens in Greece and her Ph.D. in Experimental Condensed Matter Physics from the University of Florida. Prior to joining Texas State in 2008, Dr. Theodoropoulou worked as a postdoctoral associate at MIT and Michigan State University focusing on the spin properties of oxides and semiconductors. Her current research examines the electronic properties of epitaxial interfaces between dissimilar materials such as Silicon and multifunctional oxides. Dr. Theodoropoulou has received an NSF-Career award and she has published over 50 research articles. In 2017, she initiated a monthly workshop series on Diversity and Inclusion for Texas State Physics graduate students and faculty on topics such as LGBTQIA, Race, Abilities and Disabilities, Intercultural communication and for Unconscious bias in STEM fields.

**Dr. Rebecca Torres**