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## SCHOLAR ADVENTURERS SERIES: Fall 2023

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**Each SAS must be registered for prior to the program. For the SAS programs including food (indicated by \*), please register early and be sure to notify us if your plans change so that we will know how much to order. To receive credit for any virtual SAS, students must submit a paragraph response to a prompt after the program attended.**

### **\*1. APPLYING THE FIRST AMENDMENT**

Lena Shapiro, Clinical Assistant Professor and  
First Amendment Clinic Director

Wednesday, September 20, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
166 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

Learn more about the First Amendment and how it comes into play on campus, both in the physical space and on-line.

Lena Shapiro is the inaugural director of the new First Amendment Clinic, supported by The Stanton Foundation, which will focus on defending and advancing freedoms of speech, press, and assembly across the Midwest. Prior to joining the Illinois faculty, Lena worked as a litigator representing clients in a variety of commercial, intellectual property, and information privacy disputes. Born in Ukraine, Lena was raised in Chicago and the Chicago suburbs, and she is a proud double Illini, having earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and her Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois College of Law.

### **\*2. CHALLENGES OF POLICE REFORM – INCLUDING NEW TRAINING DESIGNED TO ADDRESS RELATED ISSUES**

Joseph Gallo, Director, Police Training Institute  
Michael Schlosser, Emeritus Director, PTI  
Marcus Beach, Associate Director,  
Wrongful Conviction Awareness and Avoidance

Thursday, September 21, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
132 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

Join us for an enlightening conversation with public safety experts as we delve into the pressing challenges that police and other safety officials navigate in today's multifaceted social and political environment. At the heart of our discussion is the revolutionary wrongful conviction course, collaboratively designed with the esteemed leaders of the Illinois Innocence Project based in Springfield and the Police Training Institute. This course is more than a fresh approach to reforming policing practices; it's a paradigm shift in how training is conceived and delivered.

What sets the Police Training Institute apart from conventional academies is its unwavering commitment to the adult learning model. This approach ensures not just a training experience, but one that is deep, nuanced, and rooted in real-world scenarios. The aim? To empower new recruit officers with enhanced critical thinking and emotional intelligence, paving the way for more effective and empathetic interactions with the communities they serve.

Joseph Gallo is a former Champaign Deputy Chief who retired after 24 years of service, and he assumed the role of Director of the UI Police Training Institute in May 2023 after serving as PTI Associate Director

Dr. Mike Schlosser served as the Director of the UI Police Training Institute until 2023, after retiring as a lieutenant from the Rantoul Police Department in 2004. Dr. Schlosser has conducted and collaborated in numerous research projects related to police reform.

Marcus Beach is the Associate Director of Wrongful Conviction Awareness and Avoidance, having retired from the Rantoul Police Department, and has served as an Adjunct Instructor at the UI Police Training Institute.

### 3. THE FOURTH STATE OF MATTER AND THE COOL THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH IT

David Ruzic, Abel Bliss Professor of  
Nuclear Plasma and Radiological Engineering and  
Director of the Center for Plasma Material Interactions  
Daniel Andruczyk, Associate Research Professor, NPRE

Friday, September 29, 2023,  
4:00 – 5:10 p.m.  
Nuclear Radiation Laboratory, 201 S. Goodwin Avenue  
Urbana, Illinois

Professors Ruzic and Andruczyk will give you a guided tour of the plasma facilities in the Center for Plasma Material Interactions laboratories, and they will blow up a few things for you. They will tell you about and show you how plasmas are used to make everything from semiconductor chips to fusion energy. In addition, they will tell you about a GIANT FUSION DEVICE operating at Illinois. HIDRA (Hybrid Illinois Device for Research and Applications) weighs 70 tons and will use 2,000,000 Watts of electricity. Hail HIDRA!

***\*\*NOTE: For logistical reasons, this SAS will be limited to the first 15 confirmed registrants.\*\****

### \*4. THE “RIGHT TO CHARGE” – IMPLICATIONS OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE USE

Eleftheria Kontou, Assistant Professor,  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Tuesday, October 3, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
108 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

More than 3.6 million electric cars are used in the U.S., and charging can be a barrier to ownership that many states – including Illinois as of June 2023 – and cities are attempting to address with “right to charge” laws. Because electric cars can improve the environment and the health of urban residents, multiunit dwelling charging and accessibility is a smart policy for cities, and these laws aim to streamline home charging access as new buildings are constructed. Learn about how this is being implemented in Chicago, and what needs to be done in the future.

Dr. Ria Kontou’s research focuses on sustainable and electrified transportation systems planning and management; her research group models mobility systems and performs data-driven analytics. She is a member and the communications coordinator of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committee on Alternative Fuels and Technologies (AMS40) and the Chair of TRB’s Young Members Coordinating Council. She is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Transportation Research Part D journal and an Early Career Advisory Board member of the Transportation Research Part C journal, and serves on the Steering Committee of the Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation.

### \*5. THE SCIENCE OF DECEPTION – HOW TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED

Daniel Simons, Professor of Psychology  
Assistant Head for Information and Communication

Wednesday, October 4, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
166 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

From phishing scams to Ponzi schemes, fraudulent science to fake art, chess cheaters to crypto hucksters, and marketers to magicians, our world brims with deception. This talk will address why we are so easily deceived and what we can do about it.

Daniel Simons heads the Visual Cognition Laboratory, and he is affiliated with the Charles H. Sandage Department of Advertising and the Gies College of Business. His research explores the limits of awareness and memory, the reasons why we often are unaware of those limits, and the implications of such limits for our personal and professional lives. In addition to publishing more than 100 scholarly papers and writing articles for the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, his work has been featured in science museums worldwide. His hobbies include biking, juggling, bridge, chess, and wearing gorilla suits in public.

## **\*6. KING GILGAMESH – THE WORLD’S FIRST SUPERHERO**

Rob Chappell  
Assistant to the Honors Director, ACES Academic Programs

Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
108 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

In this presentation, Rob Chappell will give a panoramic overview of how this ancient Sumerian king developed from a historical person into a literary phenomenon. In addition to the Gilgamesh Epic, we will also look at other ancient sources to piece together Gilgamesh’s legendary biography and trace the impact of his perennially popular legend from the ancient Near East to the present day. Finally, we will unpack some of the insights that can be gleaned from this epic tale of long ago and far away.

Rob Chappell enrolled at the University of Illinois as a freshman in the fall of 1986. He majored in Latin and obtained his B.A. degree in Classical Philology in May 1991 with Bronze Tablet Honors. He also completed an M.A. degree in Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois in May 1996. Rob began his administrative professional career in May 1997 at the UI Graduate College, where he ran its Information Office for three years. He has served as the Assistant to the Honors Director in ACES Academic Programs since April 2000. His master’s thesis (on vampirology in a 19th-century Swiss-German novella) was published as a book in 2012, and he continues to lecture and write in his spare time.

## **\*7. WATER POLLUTION: CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS**

Marin Elisabeth Skidmore, Assistant Professor,  
Agricultural and Consumer Economics, and CHP alum

Monday, October 16, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
166 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

Non-point source water pollution is a classic environmental problem with similarities to air pollution and climate change. However, it has the added challenge of not being able to reliably measure how much each actor is polluting – making the regulatory environment much less straightforward, since it’s politically unpopular to tax or punish people for something they may or may not actually be doing. We will contextualize the problem in the economic theory of externalities and discuss why the efficient solutions for other externalities (i.e., taxes or cap and trade) don’t work as neatly. We will then talk about the policies and regulations that have been used to date, and students can brainstorm additional potential solutions.

Marin Skidmore is an applied economist studying the interaction between policy, agriculture, and the environment, and her research focuses on how market-based and public agricultural policy in the United States and the Brazilian Amazon influence farmer behavior. She uses this lens to study indirect policy effects on the environment, including deforestation, GHG emissions, and water quality, and she approaches these questions by combining econometric methods, “big data,” extensive field work, and collaboration with interdisciplinary partners in the US and Brazil.

## **8. LINCOLN HALL TOUR – ACCESSIBLE, HISTORICAL, AND ECO-FRIENDLY**

Dennis Craig, Campus Historic Preservation Officer

Friday, October 20, 2023  
3:00 - 4:15 p.m.  
702 S. Wright Street, Urbana  
Meet at front/east doors, in the vestibule

You may have known that Lincoln Hall is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most used classroom building on campus, and you are very likely to have a class (or several) in the building, but did you know its prairie-influenced Italian design which honors President Abraham Lincoln is eligible to be on the National Register of Historic Places? See the artwork dedicated to Lincoln’s life, count as many of the 69 owl figures as you can see, and pause by the WWI Memorial in the South Courtyard. Dennis Craig will also tell us about the time capsule buried there, and many more fun historic facts!

Dennis Craig, three-degree Illinois alumnus who is also a Bronze Tablet honoree, left the private sector as an architect to become the UI’s Campus Historic Preservation Officer. When he’s not managing projects to ensure the UI is compliant with the National Historic Preservation Act, he’s responding to inquiries like the one from a granddaughter of a contractor

on the Mumford House or a woman whose great uncle carved one of the statues at Memorial Stadium. And of course, he's the go-to person whenever a newly unearthed time capsule is discovered. (He thinks there are at least twenty or thirty still buried around campus.)

***\*\*NOTE: For logistical reasons, this SAS will be limited to the first 25 confirmed registrants. \*\****

**\*9. "CREATING YOUR POWERFUL RESUME" WORKSHOP**

James Castree  
Senior Assistant Director, The Career Center

Monday, October 23, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
166 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

Having a well thought-through and strategically laid out resume is key to landing an interview. Upon completion of this workshop, you will be able to draft an effective resume that describes your qualifications, skills, and experience.

***\*\*Note: Previous attendees of a Resume SAS are welcome to attend, but will not receive duplicate SAS credit. \*\****

**\*10. STUDY ABROAD WORKSHOP**

Joy Phaphouvaninh, Director, Illinois Abroad and Global Exchange  
And a panel of CHP students

Thursday, October 26, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m. *(including light dinner)*  
212 Honors House *(unless otherwise notified)*

This is the CHP's annual Fall workshop for Chancellor's Scholars interested in studying abroad sometime during their undergraduate career. It dispels the common myths about study abroad and includes a panel of current CHP students who have studied in a variety of countries.

***\*\*Note: Previous attendees of Study Abroad Workshop are welcome to attend this SAS, but will not receive additional SAS credit, unless they are a presenter. \*\****

**\*11. CHANGES IN THE LAND: OVER A CENTURY OF SOIL ALTERATIONS IN THE ANTHROPOCENE**

Andrew Margenot, Assistant Professor, Crop Sciences  
Center for Digital Architecture, and  
Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment

Wednesday, November 1, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
132 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

When Illinois soil samples going back to 1862 were discovered in an old barn, this illustrated a unique, physical timeline into how Illinois soils have changed from the days when it truly was the "prairie" state. Learn more about what researchers have learned from this unique archive located on our campus, and how it informs a soil-based approach to understanding the Anthropocene.

Dr. Andrew Margenot's research addresses the literal foundation of all cropping systems: soils. He advances how we monitor and manage soils as natural capital. His research team evaluates how human activities can enhance or compromise soil services to human societies, with an emphasis on food security from urban and rural agroecosystems in the U.S. Midwest and East Africa.

**\*12. AFRICAN AMERICAN MIDWEST: A 500 YEAR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM**

Erik S. McDuffie, Associate Professor,  
African American Studies and History

Tuesday, November 7, 2023  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
108 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

In 1539, an enslaved African set foot in what today is Nebraska as part of a Spanish expedition, 80 years before the arrival of enslaved Africans in the Jamestown Colony (events for which the 1619 Project is named), and two years later, enslaved persons – Indigenous American and Africans – were brought to modern day Kansas. For the next 250 years-plus, chattel race-based slavery was practiced in the Midwest by European colonizers as well as some Indigenous nations, and while federal slavery bans began as early as 1787, the efficacy of these slavery bans was limited in the Midwest, and many fugitive slaves were relocated, as slaves, to the Midwest. The 1539 Project details why Black Midwest history matters, and places these issues in context.

Dr. Erik S. McDuffie has served as an Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Faculty Fellow, and he is a Faculty Affiliate with Center of African Studies, Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies; Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center. He is also a Lifetime Member of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, and he has worked on the documentary film project *African American Midwest: A 500 Year Fight for Freedom*, which will be completed in 2025 (<https://africanamericanmidwest.com/pbs-documentary/>).

**\*13. MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONSTRUCTIONS OF RACE – DURING SLAVERY AND BEYOND**

Rana Hogarth, Associate Professor, History

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

5:15 – 6:30 p.m.

166 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin, Urbana

Can understanding past racism in medical science help us understand contemporary issues in health care? Race continues to exist as a proximate marker of bodily difference thanks to medicine and its allied scientific fields. Underlying assumptions about innate racial difference, including assumptions that Black people's bodies are somehow different in relation to whites, is a feature, not an aberration, in the production of medical knowledge – creating a troubling pattern that the assumption that they were different remained unquestioned, and which continues to cause problems now, because assumptions of innate racial difference continue to surface, often subtly, in medical practice and scientific research today.

Dr. Rana Hogarth's first book, *Medicalizing Blackness: Making Racial Difference in the Atlantic World, 1780-1840*, was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2017. In it, she examines how white physicians "medicalized" blackness – a term used to describe the process by which white physicians defined blackness as a medically significant marker of difference in slave societies of the American Atlantic.