

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Scholars in Action

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020



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Our Vision: To be widely recognized as a premier public university with outstanding teachers and scholars who prepare students to contribute to the world in a meaningful way.



Dr. Missy Alexander

Provost and
Vice President of
Academic Affairs

Welcome to Western Connecticut State University's Scholars in Action program. Each fall and spring semester we bring together outstanding faculty for the Scholars in Action program. In a casual, moderated panel discussion, chosen professors present their recent research and scholarship to fellow faculty, administrators and students. This exchange of ideas among the WCSU community fosters dialogue about innovative pedagogies and creates a pathway to interdisciplinary research projects.

This program provides an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of scholarly endeavors pursued by our faculty. From new works of art to grant funded research in the sciences to the scholarship of teaching and learning, our faculty are deeply engaged in their disciplines. An annual report on scholarship is available on the Academic Affairs website, but this document features some of the highlights.

I'm proud to introduce you to the 2019-2020 Scholars in Action and to recognize the 2018-2019 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Board of Regents of Higher Education Award Winner from WCSU. For more information visit wcsu.edu/academics.

Missy Alexander



Dr. Hasan T. Arslan

Associate Professor of
Justice and Law
Administration

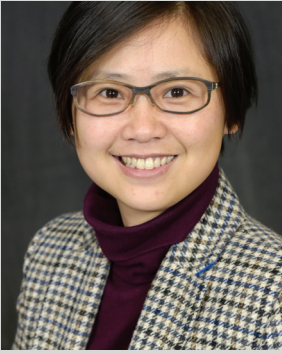
Dr. Arslan's research interests include homeland security and police use of force. He worked for nine years at the Institute for the Study of Violent Groups, where he served as analyst and supervisor in development of a database capable of tracking the more than 2,000 global and domestic extremist groups. He holds a law degree from Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey, and a Ph.D. from the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University. His Scholars in Action presentation *Popular Culture and Homeland Security* explores whether a useful distinction can be made between internal and external threats to national security, whether the concept of homeland security existed prior to 9/11, and how the subject is portrayed in books, TV and film .



Dr. Joshua Cordeira

Associate Professor
of Biological and
Environmental
Sciences

Dr. Cordeira is the author of *Voluntary Wheel Running Reduces Weight Gain in Mice by Decreasing High-fat Food Consumption* (Physiology and Behavior, 2019). Based on results from student-driven experiments, his article investigates the biological basis for food intake behavior and the benefits of exercise. Noting that individual responses to exercise show varied degrees of success in achieving weight loss, his research seeks to model human conditions and improve intervention strategies by using mice to study physiological mechanisms mediating the effectiveness of exercise in promoting good health. Dr. Cordiera has been a member of the WCSU Biological and Environmental Sciences faculty since 2014. He holds a B.S. in Biology from Stonehill College and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Tufts University.



Dr. Xiaoqi Han

Professor of Marketing

Dr. Han's research focuses on consumer judgment and decision making, exploring how consumers process information, draw inferences, display bias and respond to persuasion or debiasing techniques. Her special interest is omission neglect and the mechanisms that render consumers insensitive to missing information in the decision-making process. Her Scholars in Action presentation, *Social Exclusion and Consumer Boycotting*, finds that consumers who feel ignored but not rejected will boycott a company they perceive as socially irresponsible in a consumption context, seeking and choosing alternative options when available and declining gifts from the company viewed as irresponsible. Dr. Han earned her Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of Cincinnati.



Dr. Jess Kraybill

Assistant Professor
of Psychology

Dr. Kraybill's research interests include the investigation of individual differences in executive functioning abilities during the transition from more external (i.e., parent-based) to more internal means of regulating behavior during early childhood. Her Scholars in Action presentation, *Improving Cognitive Control in Children: When Children Benefit, We All Benefit*, argues that society profits from investment in intervention strategies during early childhood to support development of cognitive control skills critical to the ability to consciously and deliberately persist in a task in later life. Dr. Kraybill has been a member of the WCSU Psychology faculty for four years. She received her Ph.D. in Developmental and Biological Psychology from Virginia Tech.



Dr. Stephanie Kuhn

Professor of
Education and
Educational
Psychology

Dr. Kuhn's research has focused on the assessment and treatment of severe behavior, most recently in adolescents and young adults. She has been engaged in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis for more than 25 years, with extensive clinical experience in treatment of diverse populations in outpatient and inpatient settings. Her presentation, *Use of Self-Monitoring Interventions to Support Inclusion for Adolescents and Young Adults Autism Spectrum Disorder*, examines the effectiveness of self-monitoring in increasing adaptive behavior and decreasing inferring behavior. Dr. Kuhn holds a B.S. in Psychology from Virginia Tech and an M.A. and Ph.D. in School Psychology from Louisiana State University. She is a licensed psychologist, licensed Behavior Analyst and Board



Dr. Anna Malavisi

Assistant Professor
of Philosophy and
Humanistic
Studies

Dr. Malavisi's research interests include practical and global ethics, feminist philosophy and epistemology, social and political thought, environmental philosophy, and peace and justice issues. Her dissertation, *Global Development and Its Discontents: Rethinking the Theory and Practice*, offers a critical analysis of global development from an ethical and feminist epistemology perspective. She worked in the NGO sector in Latin America for 16 years in areas of development practice and management. Dr. Malavisi's Scholars in Action presentation, *Academics as Allies: Reflecting on Global Development*, offers an innovative and concrete approach to supporting critical dialogue among stakeholders in the global development process. She has a Master of Health and International Development degree, and earned her Ph.D. in Philosophy from Michigan State University.



Dr. Manoj Misra

Assistant Professor
of Social Sciences

Dr. Misra's research focuses on global environmental justice movements in the context of climate change and coal energy development in South Asia. His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Agrarian Change*, *Agriculture and Human Values*, and *Climate and Development*. He has received Best Paper awards from the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development and the American Anthropological Association. His *Scholars in Action* presentation explores the struggles of grassroots community stakeholders confronting a repressive political climate to gain a meaningful hearing for their demands for environmental justice. Dr. Misra joined the WCSU Social Sciences faculty in 2018, and serves as an Expert Reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Alberta.



Dr. Jeff Schlicht

Professor of Health
Promotion and
Exercise Sciences

Dr. Schlicht is an exercise epidemiologist interested in the implementation of community programs that provide physical activity options for underserved populations. Most recently, his research collaboration with a University of Sydney laboratory has examined high-intensity power training in older adults. His *Scholars in Action* presentation, *Exercise as Medicine*, explores the relationship between exercise and disease prevention, and reviews federal health guidelines for physical activity that prescribe even limited exercise as beneficial. He also discusses the benefits of WCSU membership in the American College of Sports Medicine's *Exercise is Medicine* on Campus program, where he serves on the Older Adult Committee. Dr. Schlicht has been a member of the HPX faculty at WCSU since 2000 and is coordinator of the Fitness and Wellness option in the Health Promotion Studies program. He earned his Ph.D. in Sport, Leisure and Exercise Science at UConn.

2018-2019 CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

WESTERN
CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY

**Board of Regents System-Wide Teaching
Award**

Two system-wide Teaching Awards (one from state universities and one from community colleges) are given to recognize faculty who best exemplify high-quality teaching.

WINNER

Dr. Kelli Custer

Associate Professor
Writing, Linguistics
and Creative
Process



MISSION

Western Connecticut State University changes lives by providing all students with a high quality education that fosters their growth as individuals, scholars, professionals, and leaders in a global society.

To achieve this, we

Offer undergraduate and graduate programs that weave together liberal arts and professional education and instill a desire for life-long learning.

Sustain a vibrant, inclusive campus that connects individuals through co-curricular programs, cultural events, and service to the community.

Attract student-centered faculty who are passionate teachers and accomplished scholars.

Establish partnerships that create opportunities for internships, research, and experiential learning.

VALUES

Excellence. We value outstanding achievement realized through persistence, effort, honest feedback, and self-reflection.

Curiosity. We value the questions that drive learning, innovation, and creativity, which serve as the beginning and the desired outcome of education.

Dialogue. We value the conversations that explore diverse perspectives and encourage shared understanding.

Engagement. We value the interactions with ideas, peers, and community that are essential to a vibrant university environment.

Opportunity. We value the possibilities created by affordable, accessible educational environments in which students can grow into independent thinkers and confident leaders.

Respect. We value the right of all people to be treated with dignity and fairness and expect this in our policies, classrooms, and community.

VISION

Western Connecticut State University will be widely recognized as a premier public university with outstanding teachers and scholars who prepare students to contribute to the world in a meaningful way.



Ancell School of Business



Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences



School of Professional Studies



School of Visual & Performing Arts

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



Office of the Provost

University Hall, Suite 301

