



## THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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### **University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2015**

#### **Biological and Life Sciences**

##### **Nicholas Corsepius**

College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Department of Biochemistry

Title: “*Experimental, Computational and, Theoretical Analysis of the GroEL/GroES Catalytic Cycle*”

Dissertation Advisor: George H. Lorimer, Chemistry and Biochemistry

#### **Humanities and Fine Arts**

##### **Mark Engelbert**

College of Arts and Humanities, Department of Philosophy

Title: “*Innateness in the Sciences: Separating Nature, Nurture, and Nativism.*”

Dissertation Advisor: Georges Rey, Philosophy

#### **Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering**

##### **Jia Zheng**

A. James Clark School of Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Title: “*Failure Mechanics of Functional Nanostructures in Advanced Technologies*”

Dissertation Advisor: Teng Li, Mechanical Engineering

#### **Social Sciences**

##### **Hongshuang (Alice) Li**

Robert H. School of Business

Title “*Attribution Modeling and Marketing Resource Allocation in an online Environment*”

Dissertation Advisor: P.K. Kannan, Marketing



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### **University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2014**

#### **Biological and Life Sciences**

##### **Mariano Kanamori**

School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Title: "The Effects of Orphan and Vulnerable Child Primary Care Giving Household Wealth and Female Autonomy on Women's Body Mass Index in Southern Africa"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Olivia Carter-Pokras

#### **Humanities and Fine Arts**

##### **Matthew Scott Heerman**

College of Arts and Humanities, Department of History

Title: "Deep River: Slavery, Empire, and Emancipation in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, 1730-1860"

Dissertation Advisor: Distinguished University Professor Ira Berlin

#### **Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering**

##### **Jane Cornett**

A. James Clark School of Engineering, Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Title: "Thermoelectric Transport Phenomena in Semiconducting Nanostructures"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Oded Rabin

#### **Social Sciences**

##### **Ariel Ortiz Bobea**

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Title: "Essays on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Agriculture"

Dissertation Advisor: Distinguished University Professor Richard Just



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**University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2013**

**Biological and Life Sciences**

**Hui Wang, Ph.D.**

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Program

Title: *Circuit Analysis of Synaptic Dysfunctions in the CA3 Area of BACE1 Knockout Mice*

Dissertation Advisor: Hey-Kyoung Lee, Associate Professor, The Mind/Brain Institute, Baltimore Maryland

**Humanities and Fine Arts**

**Rajani Bhatia, Ph.D.**

College of Arts and Humanities, Department of Women's Studies

Title: *Lifestyle Sex Selection: Reproduction, Transnational Flows, and Inequality*

Dissertation Advisor: Bonnie Thornton Dill, Professor and Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

**Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering**

**Kazi Rajibul Islam, Ph.D.**

College of Computer, Mathematics, and Natural Sciences, Department of Physics

Title: *Quantum Simulation of Interacting Spin Models with Trapped Ions*

Dissertation Advisor: Christopher Monroe, Bice Zorn Professor of Physics, Joint Quantum Institute

**Social Sciences**

**Teresa Fort, Ph.D.**

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Department of Economics

Title: *Firms' Organization of Global Production: Theory and Evidence*

Dissertation Advisor: Nuno Limao, Associate Professor, Department of Economics



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### **University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2012**

#### **Biological and Life Sciences**

##### **Kelly O'Quin, Ph.D.**

College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences; Department of Behavior, Ecology, Evolution and Systematics

Title: *Evolution, Development and Genetics of Opsin Gene Expression in African Cichlid Fishes*

Dissertation Advisor: Karen Carleton, Associate Professor, Department of Biology

#### **Humanities and Fine Arts**

##### **Mirna Zakic, Ph.D.**

College of Arts and Humanities; Department of History

Title: *The Furthest Watch of the Reich: National Socialism, Ethnic Germans and the Occupation of the Serbian Banat, 1941 - 1944*

Dissertation Advisor: Jeffrey Herf, Professor, Department of History

#### **Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering**

##### **Zhao Zhang, Ph.D.**

A James Clarke School of Engineering; Department of Mechanical Engineering

Title: *Morphologic Instability of Graphene and its Potential Applications*

Dissertation Advisor: Teng Li, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering

#### **Social Sciences**

##### **Sarah Gerson, Ph.D.**

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences; Department of Psychology

Title: *Comparing Me to You: Comparison Between Novel and Familiar Goal-Directed Actions Facilitates goal Extraction and Imitation*

Dissertation Advisor: Amanda Woodward, William S. Gray Professor, University of Chicago



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**University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2011**

**Biological and Life Sciences**

**Jie Chen, Ph.D.**

College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences; Department of Chemical Physics

Title: “*Link Between Dynamics and Function in Single and Multi-subunit Enzymes*”

Dissertation Advisor: Devarajan Thirumalai, Institute for Physical Science and Technology

**Humanities and Fine Arts**

**Juliet Wiersema, Ph.D.**

College of Arts and Humanities; Department of Art History

Title: “*The Architectural Vessels of the Moche of Peru (200-850 A.D). Talismans for the Afterlife*”

Dissertation Advisor: Joanne Pillsbury, Per-Columbian Program, Dumbarton Oaks

**Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering**

**Ricardo Arévalo, Ph.D.**

College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences; Department of Geology

Title: “*Quantitative Modeling of Mantle Heterogeneity and Structure*”

Dissertation Advisor: William McDonough, Department of Geology

**Social Sciences**

**Biance Bersani, Ph.D.**

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences; Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Title: “*Are Immigrants Crime Prone? A Multifaceted Investigation of the Relationship Between Immigration and Crime in Two Eras*”

Dissertation Advisor: John H. Laub, National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice