



THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

UMD CHARLES A. CARMELLO DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD
2023 DISSERTATIONS

AWARDS

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Christina Blomquist, Ph.D.

Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences

Dissertation Title: *"Determining the sources of spoken language processing delays in children with cochlear implants"*

Dissertation Advisor: Jan Edwards

HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

Hazim Abdullah-Smith, Ph.D.

Department of American Studies

Dissertation Title: *"Paradise Remixed: The Queer Politics of Tourism in Jamaica"*

Dissertation Advisor: Nancy Mirabal

MATHEMATICS, PHYSICAL SCIENCES, AND ENGINEERING

Alexander Levine, Ph.D.

Department of Computer Science

Dissertation Title: *"Scalable Methods for Robust Machine Learning"*

Dissertation Advisor: Ramani Duraiswami

BIOLOGICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

Renee Chou, Ph.D.

Biological Sciences Program

Dissertation Title: *"Application of Advanced Machine Learning Strategies for Biomedical Research"*

Dissertation Advisor: Michael Cummings



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2023 DISSERTATIONS**

HONORABLE MENTIONS

MATHEMATICS, PHYSICAL SCIENCES, AND ENGINEERING

Vishal Sivasankar, Ph.D.

Department of Mechanical Engineering

Dissertation Title: *"Simulation of polymeric drop dynamics: Effect of photopolymerization, impact velocity, and multi-material coalescence"*

Dissertation Advisor: Siddhartha Das

BIOLOGICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

Micaela Everitt, Ph.D.

Fischell Department of Bioengineering

Dissertation Title: *"Simplifying assay chemistry via complex sample preparation integration for point-of-care diagnostics"*

Dissertation Advisor: Ian White

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Hyunsun Park, Ph.D.

Business and Management Program

Dissertation Title: *"Model Citizen or Squeaky Wheel? How Employees of Lower Social Class Origins Face Ambivalent Reactions at Work"*

Dissertation Advisor: Subrahmaniam Tangirala

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Chandra Reyna, Ph.D.

Department of Sociology

Dissertation Title: *"Latinx Motherhood Reassessed: How Second and Later-Generation Latina Mothers Redefine Motherhood, Latinidad, and Pursue Intergenerational Healing"*

Dissertation Advisor: Dawn Dow

HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

Jordan Ealey, Ph.D.

School of Theatre and Performance Studies

Dissertation Title: *"The Song of Her Possibilities: Black Women-Authored Musicals from the Nineteenth Century to the Present"*

Dissertation Advisor: Nancy Mirabal



THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

**UMD Charles A. Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award
2022 Dissertations**

Awards

Social Sciences

Audra Elizabeth Wormald, Ph.D.

Department of Business and Management

Dissertation Title: *"Money Matters: Pioneering of Platforms Under Institutional Uncertainty in the Global Mobile Money Industry"*

Dissertation Advisor: Rajshree Agarwal

Humanities and Fine Arts

Nahid Ahmadian, Ph.D.

Department of Comparative Literature

Dissertation Title: *"THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEATER IN POST-REVOLUTIONARY IRAN FROM 1979 TO 1997"*

Dissertation Advisor: Fatemeh Keshavarz-Kar

Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

Hema Choudhary, Ph.D.

Department of Chemical Engineering

Dissertation Title: *"The Hydrogel Reimagined: Gel-Derived Sponges and Sheets as Absorbents for Water, Blood, and Oil"*

Dissertation Advisor: Srinivasa Raghavan

Biological and Life Sciences

Anshuman Swain, Ph.D.

Department of Biological Sciences

Dissertation Title: *"How resource availability, information flow, and targeted interactions shape eco-evolutionary processes in microbial organisms across scale"*

Dissertation Advisor: Bill Fagan



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GRADUATE SCHOOL

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2022 Dissertations**

Honorable Mentions

Social Sciences

Emilia Mercedes Guevara, Ph.D.

Department of Anthropology

Dissertation Title: *“Chronic Suffering: Chronic Illness, Disability, and Violence Among Mexican Migrant Women”*

Dissertation Advisor: L Jen Shaffer

Humanities and Fine Arts

Jessica Lynn Wicks-Allen, Ph.D.

Department of History

Dissertation Title: *“‘If I Am Free My Child Belongs to Me?: Motherhood and Mothering in the Era of Emancipation?’”*

Dissertation Advisor: Leslie Rowland

Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

Uday Saha, Ph.D.

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dissertation Title: *“Quantum Modem and Router for the Quantum Internet”*

Dissertation Advisor: Edo Waks



THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

**UMD Charles A. Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award
2021 Dissertations**

Awards

Social Sciences

Tangere Hoagland, Ph.D.

Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Dissertation Title: *"When Surviving is Illegal: Black Women and the Entrapment of U.S. Incarceration and Welfare"*

Dissertation Advisor: Associate Professor Michelle Rowley

Humanities and Fine Arts

Samuel Miner Ph.D.

Department of History

Dissertation Title: *"The Exiles' Return: Emigres, Anti-Nazis, and the Basic Law"*

Dissertation Advisor: Distinguished University Professor Jeffrey Herf

Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

Tianning Su, Ph.D.

Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences

Dissertation Title: *"Remote Sensing of Aerosol and the Planetary boundary layer"*

Dissertation Advisor: Distinguished University Professor Zhanqing Li

Soheil Behnezhad, Ph.D.

Department of Computer Science

Dissertation Title: *"Modern Large Scale Algorithms for Classical Graph Problems"*

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Mohammad Hajiaghayi

Biological and Life Sciences

Morgan Botdorf, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology

Dissertation Title: *"Assessing the impact of typical variations in stressful life events on hippocampal development in childhood"*

Dissertation Advisor: Associate Professor Tracy Riggins



THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

**UMD Charles A. Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award
2021 Dissertations**

Honorable Mentions

Social Sciences

Magda Mankel, Ph.D.

Department of Anthropology

Dissertation Title: *"Walking the Migrant Trail: Mobilizing cultural heritage and commemorating clandestine migration in the Arizona-Sonora Borderlands"*

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Paul Shackel

Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

Adelaide Nolan, Ph.D.

Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Dissertation Title: *"Computational Study of Solid-Cathode Interfaces and Coatings for Lithium-ion Batteries"*

Dissertation Advisor: Associate Professor Yifei Mo

Biological and Life Sciences

Yantnew Gete, Ph.D.

Biological Sciences Program

Dissertation Title: *"INVESTIGATION OF THE MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL DYSFUNCTION IN HUTCHINSON-GILFORD PROGERIA SYNDROME THROUGH IN VITRO 2D AND 3D MODELS"*

Dissertation Advisor: Associate Professor Kan Cao



THE
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2020 DISSERTATIONS

AWARDS

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Cody Tuttle, Ph.D.

Department of Economics

Dissertation Title: *"Essays on Government Responses to Crime and Racial Inequality"*

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Melissa Kearney

HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

Lisa Carney, Ph.D.

Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Dissertation Title: *"By the Authority of Dreams: Truth and Knowledge in Kichwa Muskuy Narratives"*

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Regina Harrison

MATHEMATICS, PHYSICAL SCIENCES, AND ENGINEERING

Eric Marcz, Ph.D.

Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Dissertation Title: *"Broadband Permittivity Characterization of Tunable Dielectric Thin Films for Millimeter-wave Devices"*

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ji-Cheng Zhao

BIOLOGICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

Alexander Simon, Ph.D.

Biological Sciences Program

Dissertation Title: *"Molecular Evolution and Biophysical Characterization of Plant Glutamate Receptor-like Ion Channels"*

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jose Feijo



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HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

Gerard Holmes, Ph.D.

Department of English

Dissertation Title: *"DISCRETION IN THE INTERVAL: EMILY DICKINSON'S MUSICAL PERFORMANCES"*

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Martha Nell Smith

MATHEMATICS, PHYSICAL SCIENCES, AND ENGINEERING

Yuan Su, Ph.D.

Department of Computer Science

Dissertation Title: *"Algorithms for quantum simulation: design, analysis, implementation, and application"*

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Andrew Childs

Proloy Das, Ph.D.

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dissertation Title: *"Bayesian Modeling and Estimation Techniques for the Analysis of Neuroimaging Data"*

Dissertation Advisor: Associate Professor Behtash Babadi

BIOLOGICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

Edward Hurme, Ph.D.

Biological Sciences Program

Dissertation Title: *"Movement ecology of the Mexican fish-eating bat, Myotis Vivesi"*

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Gerald Wilkinson