

# NEW LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SERIES 2023-24

## Participant Bios



### **WES ALLEN**

#### **Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics Perkins School of Theology**

Rev. Dr. O. Wesley Allen, Jr. is the Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology. He serves as president of the Academy of Homiletics and earned degrees from Emory University (Ph.D.), Yale Divinity School (M.Div.); and Birmingham-Southern College (B.A.) . Previous to Perkins, Dr. Allen served on the faculties of Lexington Theological Seminary and Drew University and served as a local church pastor and campus minister.

He is the author and editor of numerous books on homiletics and New Testament interpretation as well as many scholarly articles and published sermons. Allen's area of expertise is the Synoptic Gospels and Acts about which he produced the seminal *Reading the Synoptic Gospels: Basic Methods for Interpreting Matthew, Mark, and Luke* (revised and expanded in 2013).

In the arena of preaching and worship, Dr. Allen has special interest in rethinking the role of preaching and liturgy in the shifting, postmodern world of the twenty-first century. Other books published with Chalice Press include *Preaching Resurrection* and *Preaching and Reading the Lectionary: The Three Dimensions of the Liturgical Year*.



### **ALI BESKOK, PH.D.**

#### **The Brown Foundation, Inc. Professor of Engineering Department of Mechanical Engineering Lyle School of Engineering**

Professor Ali Beskok received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Türkiye in 1988. He received a M.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Indiana University in 1991, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton University in 1994 and 1996, respectively.

Dr. Beskok was a Visiting Scholar at Brown University, Center for Fluid Mechanics from 1994 to 1996, and a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Research Laboratory of Electronics from 1996-1998.

He joined Texas A&M University Mechanical Engineering Department as an Assistant Professor in 1998 and became an Associate Professor in 2004. In 2007, he moved to Old Dominion University, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department as the Batten Endowed Chair Professor of Computational Engineering. He was also the founding director of the ODU Institute of Micro and Nanotechnology. In 2013, he moved to Southern Methodist University as the chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department and served in that capacity until 2019. Currently, he is the Associate Dean for Research Innovation and Industry Partnerships in Lyle School of Engineering and the George R. Brown Chair in Mechanical Engineering.

For publications please see Google Scholar:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=dMEOZKsAAAAJ>

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**HEMANG DESAI**  
**Distinguished Chair in Accounting and Department Chair**  
**Department of Accounting**  
**Cox School of Business**

Hemang Desai is the Distinguished Professor of Accounting and the Chair of the Accounting Department in the Cox School of Business. His research is interdisciplinary and broadly focused in the area of Capital Markets-based research in Accounting and Finance. His research has addressed a wide range of topics such as analyzing the role of short sellers in capital markets, reputational consequences to managers of financial misreporting, and the performance of money managers and analysts in addition to evaluating the impact of corporate restructuring transactions such as spin-offs and mergers. His papers have been published in top academic journals in finance and accounting as well as in top practitioner journals such as *Financial Analysts Journal*. In addition, his articles have been subject of various columns at publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's*, *New York Times*, *CFO Magazine*, among others. He has twice been the recipient of the Outstanding Research Award at the Cox School of Business.

He currently teaches Strategic Financial Statement Analysis in the Cox School's MBA programs and has received the Cox School's Distinguished Teaching Award and the Outstanding Teaching Award as well as the university's Golden Mustang Outstanding Faculty Award for his work in the Cox School. He is a Carl Sewell Distinguished Service to the Community Award recipient. He teaches in several open enrollment and custom executive education programs covering various topics related to financial reporting.

Some of his consulting clients include McKinsey and Co., Entergy Corp., and Baker and McKenzie. He received his MBA from the University of New Orleans and his Ph.D. from Tulane University in 1997. From July 2014 to January 2021, he served on the Board of Directors of Parsley Energy Inc. (NYSE:PE), where he was a member of the Audit and the Compensation Committees.



**KLAUS DESMET**  
**Ruth & Kenneth Altshuler Centennial Interdisciplinary Professor**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences**

In addition to his endowed professorship, Klaus Desmet is SMU's Altshuler Professor of Cities, Regions and Globalization, Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), and Research Associate at National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). He holds a M.S. degree in Business and Engineering from the Université Catholique de Louvain and a PhD in Economics from Stanford University.

Before moving to SMU, he was Professor at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. His research focuses on urban economics, climate change, economic growth, political economy, and international trade. His work has been published in top academic journals such as the *American Economic Review*, the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *Economic Journal*, the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, the *Journal of Economic Theory* and the *Journal of Development Economics*. His research has been covered in media outlets such as *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *El País*, *El Mundo*, *La Vanguardia*, *El Confidencial*, *Trends*, *NPR*, and the *BBC*. In 2019, he was the co-recipient of the Robert E. Lucas Jr. Prize and in 2010 he was the co-recipient of the August Lössch Prize.

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### **CHRISTINE HURT**

**Alan R. Bromberg Centennial Chair in Corporate, Partnership, Business and Securities Law  
Dedman School of Law**

Christine Hurt joined SMU's Dedman School of Law as the inaugural Alan R. Bromberg Centennial Chair in Corporate, Partnership, Business, and Securities Law from Brigham Young University Law School where she was the George Sutherland Chair and Professor of Law. She joined the BYU faculty as the Rex J. and Maureen E. Rawlinson Professor in 2014 and served as Associate Dean for Faculty and Curriculum before becoming the Associate Dean for Academic Projects. Prior to that, she was a Professor of Law and Director of the Program in Business Law and Policy at the University of Illinois College of Law.

Prior to Illinois, Professor Hurt held appointments at Marquette University Law School and the University of Houston. As a teaching fellow at Texas Tech University School of Law, she co-pioneered a system of online legal citation exercises, now the Interactive Citation Workbook and its related web-based program on the LexisNexis website. Professor Hurt was a member of the National Adjudicatory Council of FINRA, which hears appeals regarding broker-dealer and registered representative violations of FINRA and SEC rules.

Before entering academic law, Professor Hurt practiced corporate law in Houston at Baker Botts L.L.P., and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. As a first-year law student, she co-founded the *Texas Journal of Women and the Law*.

Professor Hurt's teaching and research focuses on securities regulation, corporate tax, micro finance, torts, and business associations. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Corporation Law*, *Iowa Law Review*, *Ohio State Law Journal*, *Boston University Law Review*, *Boston College Law Review*, *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*, *UC-Davis Law Review*, and *Cardozo Law Review*. Recently, she and BYU colleague, Gordon Smith, published a new edition of the popular treatise "Bromberg & Ribstein on Partnership" with Wolters Kluwer.



### **AKI KAMATA**

**Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Endowed Professor  
Department of Education Policy & Leadership  
Simmons School of Education and Human Development**

Dr. Kamata is the Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Endowed Professor and director of the Ph.D. program in the Simmons School of Education and Human Development's Department of Education Policy & Leadership, Center on Research and Evaluation, Simmons School of Education & Human Development. Prior to joining SMU in 2013, Dr. Kamata was a member of the faculty at the University of Oregon and Florida State University.

Dr. Kamata's primary research interest is psychometrics and educational and psychological measurement, focusing on implementation of item-level test data analysis methodology through various modeling framework, including item response theory, multilevel modeling, and structural equation modeling. Currently, Dr. Kamata's primary focus is on psychometric model development for oral reading fluency (ORF) assessment data through three grant projects funded by IES: U.S. Department of Education. Previously, Dr. Kamata did pioneering work on multilevel item response theory modeling, where item response data from individuals are nested within

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group units, such as schools. This line of work is represented by his 2001 publication in *Journal of Educational Measurement*, a special issue on multilevel measurement modeling in *Journal of Applied Measurement* in 2005, and several book chapters on the topic, including a recent chapter in the *Handbook of Advanced Multilevel Analysis* (2011).

Dr. Kamata received his Ph.D. in Measurement and Quantitative Methods from Michigan State University in 1998.



### **RITA KIRK**

**Professor and William F. May Endowed Director of the Maguire Ethics Chair  
Meadows School of the Arts**

Rita Kirk, Ph.D., is a senior research professor, award-winning teacher, experienced administrator, and management consultant. Her passions for aligning resources with innovation, empowering ideas, and building coalitions in order to successfully implement strategic initiatives are hallmarks of her work. Currently, she is the William F. May Endowed Director of the Maguire Ethics Center and Professor of Corporate Communication and Public Affairs in the Meadows School of the Arts.

Kirk's understanding of the political environment and her commitment to ethics in action provides a powerful perspective for her clients. In addition to keynote seminars, Kirk counsels domestic and international public and private sector organizations on strategic communication campaigns, market analysis and stakeholder engagement. Kirk advises clients on a range of ethical issues ranging from impact investing to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to ethics and compliance issues. As a Peabody Award-winning journalist, serving as an analyst for CNN during the last five Presidential elections, she knows how to ask the tough questions and understands the mediated culture where organizations must learn to thrive.

Kirk's academic books include: *Political Empiricism: Communications Strategies in State and Regional Elections*, which won the "Best Book in Applied Communication" from the National Communication Association; *Hate Speech*, a book analyzing implications for hate discourse in public communication, with coeditor David Slayden, and was awarded the Outstanding Book on the subject of Human Rights in North America and the James Madison Prize for work on free speech; the highly reviewed *Solo Acts: The Death of Discourse in a Wired World*; and co-edited books *Political Communication in Real Time: Theoretical and Applied Research Approaches*; and *Ethics at the Heart of Higher Education*.



### **STEPHANIE LANGIN-HOOPER**

**Karl Kilinski II Endowed Chair of Hellenic Visual Culture  
Division of Art History  
Meadows School of the Arts**

Stephanie M. Langin-Hooper is associate professor and Karl Kilinski II Endowed Chair of Hellenic Visual Culture in the Meadows School of the Arts' Department of Art History. Her primary research analyzes the terracotta figurines of Hellenistic Babylonia utilizing perspectives of miniaturization affect, post colonialism, gender theory and materiality.

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Her book on this topic, *Figurines in Hellenistic Babylonia: Miniaturization and Cultural Hybridity*,” was published with Cambridge University Press in 2020. Miniaturization is also the focus of a volume that Dr. Langin-Hooper co-edited with S. Rebecca Martin of Boston University. Published by Oxford University Press in 2018, this book is entitled, “*The Tiny and the Fragmented: Miniature, Broken, or Otherwise Incomplete Objects in the Ancient World*.” Langin-Hooper’s other research interests include monuments and issues of monumentality in Mesopotamian art history and Hellenistic Babylonian prosopography.

Her work is also concerned with issues of archaeological provenance and looting; see for instance her 2016 article in *IRAQ* and her involvement in the case of 12 Roman mosaic fragments repatriated from Bowling Green State University to Turkey. Langin-Hooper is a contributing partner of the digital humanities projects HBTIN (Hellenistic Babylonia: Texts, Images, and Names).

Dr. Langin-Hooper received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2011. Her doctoral field was ancient Near Eastern art and archaeology with a concentration in Mesopotamian art history. She received a M.Phil degree (with distinction) in world archaeology from the University of Oxford in 2005 and a B.A. *summa cum laude* in anthropology and ancient mythology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2003. Prior to joining the faculty at SMU, Langin-Hooper was assistant professor of ancient art history at Bowling Green State University from 2011 through 2014.



**JIM LINCK**  
**Distinguished Chair, Finance and Department Chair**  
**Department of Finance**  
**Cox School of Business**

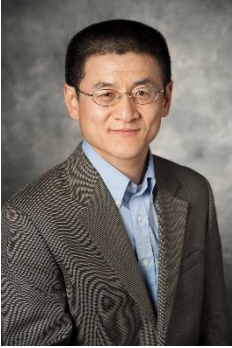
Dr. James S. Linck (Jim) is the finance department chair and also holds the distinguished chair in finance at the Cox School of Business. Prior to joining the Cox faculty, he was the BB&T scholar in the finance department at the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business, and he previously taught at the University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business and at the WP Carey School of Business School at Arizona State University. Between his academic appointments, he held various corporate finance and accounting positions at Intel, NCR/AT&T, and Ernst & Whinney.

Professor Linck has taught courses in financial management, research methods, international finance, corporate finance, corporate control, valuation, financial statement analysis, and financial accounting at the undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels. Having received numerous teaching awards, he also has taught financial statements, corporate finance, valuation, and investments in executive development seminars as well as many executive and professional MBA courses incorporating web-enhanced online learning tools. His research interests include corporate finance, organizations, governance and corporate control, and his work has been published in the *Journal of Finance*, the *Journal of Financial Economics*, the *Review of Financial Studies*, and *The Accounting Review*, among other outlets. He is widely cited in academic literature and the popular press.

Professor Linck holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certifications.

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**ZHONG LU**  
**Shuler-Foscue Chair**  
**Department of Earth Sciences**  
**Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences**

Zhong Lu received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Peking University, Beijing, China, in 1989 and 1992, and a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1996. He was a physical scientist with U.S. Geological Survey from 1997-2013 and is now a professor and endowed Shuler-Foscue chair in Dedman College's Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences. ([www.smu.edu/dedman/lu](http://www.smu.edu/dedman/lu)).

His research interests include technique developments of interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) processing and their applications to the study of natural and human-induced geohazards. He has produced more than 260 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters focused on InSAR techniques and applications, and a book on "InSAR Imaging of Aleutian Volcanoes: Monitoring a Volcanic Arc from Space" with Dan Dzurisin. He is a member of NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar (SAR) Science Team (2012 - present), NASA Venus SAR Science Team (2023-present), NASA/JPL OPERA Science Team (2023 - present), Editor-in-Chief of the journal *GeoHazards*, and Associate Editor of journals *Remote Sensing*, *Scientific Reports*, and *Frontier in Earth Sciences*."



**DINESH RAJAN**  
**Cecil and Ida Green Chair in Engineering**  
**Senior Associate Dean**  
**Lyle School of Engineering**

Dinesh Rajan received his B.Tech degree from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras in Electrical Engineering. He was also awarded M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Rice University in Houston, Texas both in the areas of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He joined SMU in 2002 as an Assistant Professor. He was Department Chair in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at SMU from 2012 to 2022. He is currently Senior Associate Dean and Cecil and Ida Green Professor in the Lyle School of Engineering.

Dr. Rajan's broad interests are in the sensing, extraction, transmission, and dissemination of information. His current research is interdisciplinary and spans the traditional areas of communications theory, wireless networks, information theory, system optimization, and computational imaging. His work has led to the design of algorithms that can improve energy efficiency of next-generation mobile devices by an order-of-magnitude compared to existing methods.

He has published over 150 peer-reviewed technical articles in leading journals and conferences. He has also co-edited two books and coauthored one book. He has three patents issued. His work has been supported by federal agencies such as NSF, ONR, ARL, DARPA, AFOSR and companies including Toyota, SENSR Inc and Nokia. He was technical program chair for the IEEE vehicular technology conference in 2009 and served on several other conference executive and technical committees. Dinesh received a National Science Foundation CAREER award in 2006 for his work on applying information theory to the design of mobile wireless networks. At SMU, he also received the Ford Research Fellowship and the Golden Mustang Award. IEEE Dallas named him outstanding young engineer in 2009.

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### JENIA TURNER

**Amy Abboud Ware Centennial Professor in Criminal Law  
Dedman School of Law**

Jenia Iontcheva Turner is the Amy Abboud Ware Centennial Professor in Criminal Law at SMU's Dedman School of Law where she teaches criminal procedure, comparative criminal procedure, international criminal law, and international law. Before joining SMU, she served as a Bigelow Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School, where she taught legal research and writing and comparative criminal procedure.

She attended law school at Yale, where she was a Coker Fellow and editor for the *Yale Law Journal* and the *Yale Journal of International Law*. After her first year of law school, she was a summer clerk at the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and the following summer, she worked at the Federal Public Defender's Office in Houston and the New York and Paris offices of Debevoise & Plimpton.

Her scholarship interests include U.S., comparative, and international criminal law and procedure. She has written numerous articles and book chapters on these topics. In 2009, she completed a textbook, *Plea Bargaining Across Borders*, exploring plea bargaining in several national and international jurisdictions. She is also the co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Criminal Process* (with Darryl K. Brown and Bettina Weisser, 2019) and *Criminal Procedures: Cases, Statutes, and Executive Materials* (with Marc L. Miller, Ronald F. Wright, and Kay L. Levine, 2019, 2023)

Professor Turner is an Associate Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law and an Editorial Board Member of the *Criminal Law Forum*. She served as the Treasurer and then Co-Chair of the International Criminal Law Interest Group of the American Society of International Law in 2016-19.



### CANDACE WALKINGTON

**Annette and Harold Simmons Centennial Chair and Professor  
Gerald J. Ford Research Fellow  
Department of Teaching and Learning  
Simmons School of Education and Human Development**

Dr. Candace Walkington is an Annette and Harold Simmons Centennial Chair, Professor, and a Gerald J. Ford Research Fellow in the Department of Teaching and Learning, specializing in mathematics education. She holds a B.S. and a M.S. in Mathematics from Texas A&M University, and she is a former NSF-GK12 Fellow and college mathematics professor. She received her Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from University of Texas at Austin. She was an IES Postdoctoral Fellow in Mathematical Thinking, Learning, and

Instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Walkington was a recipient of a Spencer Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Grant. In 2019, Dr. Walkington received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) from the U.S. Department of Education. While at SMU, she has received over \$11 million worth of grants as PI or co-PI, from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Defense. Dr. Walkington serves as an Executive Editor of *Cognition and Instruction*.

Dr. Walkington's research examines how abstract mathematical ideas can become connected to students' concrete, everyday experiences and "funds of knowledge," such that mathematical ideas are more

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understandable. She conducts research on “personalizing” mathematics instruction to students’ out-of-school interests in areas like sports, music, shopping, and video games, and their intended careers like nursing or software design. She currently is PI on an NSF iTEST grant, which examines how receiving mathematics instruction personalized to STEM career interests impacts students learning and attitudes towards math as well as their interest in STEM careers. She is also conducting research on the walk STEM initiative, which connects math learning to art, architecture, and nature by having children and families take guided “math walks” together and create their own math walks. She is currently PI on an NSF grant that is creating a mobile place-based game for math walks in informal learning environments.

Dr. Walkington’s research further examines ways to connect mathematical practices with physical motions, including gestures, using AR, VR, and motion-capture technologies. She currently is PI on a grant from the U.S. Department of Education examining how Augmented Reality (AR) technologies can allow students to collaborate using shared holograms of geometric shapes. Her work draws on embodied and distributed theories of cognition.

Dr. Walkington has worked with the UTeach secondary math and science teacher preparation program at the University of Texas at Austin as well as the Gates Foundation’s *Measures of Effective Teaching (MET)* Project. She teaches courses for pre-service and in-service mathematics teachers.



### **JIA ZHANG**

**Cruse C. and Marjorie F. Calahan Centennial Chair in Engineering  
Interim Chair, Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
Lyle School of Engineering**

Dr. Jia Zhang is the Cruse C. and Marjorie F. Calahan Centennial Chair in Engineering, Professor and chair, *ad interim*, of the Lyle School of Engineering’s Department of Computer Science. Her research interests emphasize the application of machine learning and information retrieval methods to tackle data science infrastructure problems with a recent focus on scientific workflows, provenance mining, software discovery, knowledge graph, cloud computing, and interdisciplinary applications of all of these interests in the area of earth science. She has served as PI on grants worth over \$5 Million.

Dr. Zhang has co-authored one textbook "Services Computing" and has published over 190 refereed journal papers, book chapters, and conference papers ([Google Scholar](#)). Her research won two Best Paper awards at IEEE SCC (2011, 2017), and three Best Student Paper awards at IEEE ICWS (2014, 2018) and IEEE ICC (2018). She also holds three U.S. patents. Dr. Zhang has served as an associated editor of the IEEE TSC 2008. She served as Program Committee Chair for IEEE SCC (2020), ICWS (2019), CLOUD (2018), and Big Data Congress (2017). In 2021 and 2022, she served as Program Chair-in-Chief of IEEE World Congress of Services (CLOUD/EDGE/ICDH/ICWS/SCC/SMDs).

Dr. Zhang holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Prior to joining SMU, she was a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University - Silicon Valley, Northern Illinois University, and Nanjing University.