PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Ali B. Ali-Dinar, Ph.D.
Associate Director, African Studies Center
University of Pennsylvania
aadinar@upenn.edu

Dr. Ali B. Ali-Dinar is the Associate Director of the African Studies Center and manages the University of Pennsylvania’s African Studies website, the most comprehensive online resource about Africa. Dr. Dinar is a board member of the African Studies Association and was the past president of the Sudan Studies Association. At Penn, Dr. Dinar teaches courses on Sudan, Darfur and Sudanese Arabic.

Abeer Aloush
Lecturer in Arabic, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
University of Pennsylvania
aaloush@sas.upenn.edu

Abeer Aloush obtained her first M.A. in Translation and Comparative Linguistics from Cairo University and her second M.A. in French and French Studies from SUNY – New York State University. She is pursuing a Master of Science in “Curriculum Design and Technology in Second Language Acquisition” and also writing her dissertation for a Ph.D. in the social psychology field on “The Relationship between Fatwa and Islamism in a Universalistic Discourse”.

Rodolfo Altamirano, Ph.D.
Director, International Student & Scholar Services,
Office of International Programs, University of Pennsylvania
rudiea@pobox.upenn.edu

A former Fulbright recipient himself, Dr. Altamirano is the director of Penn’s International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). His main responsibility is to provide overall leadership in determining and implementing organizational and campus-wide strategies for ISSS including the delivery of quality services and programs to international students, scholars, faculty, staff, exchange visitors and community members. He has a doctoral degree in International Resource Development with a major in Cross-Cultural Communication. He has held regional and national leadership positions in NAFSA: The Association for International Educators. Dr. Altamirano was an elected national representative for the Council of Foreign Student Advisors [CAFSS] section of NAFSA and then was elected national Chair of KCISSS (Knowledge Community for International Students and Scholars). He has presented and conducted more than 300 immigration, cross-cultural communication and conflict resolution workshops nationally and internationally.
Reyes Caballo-Márquez, Ph.D.
Coordinator, Spanish 2002, Romance Languages Department
University of Pennsylvania
reyca@sas.upenn.edu

Reyes rew up in Seville, Spain. She studied English Philology at the University of Seville. She holds a Ph.D. in Spanish from Georgetown University. During her doctorate, her focus of study was Contemporary Latin American Literature, Cultural Studies, and Film. Her dissertation explored the effects of globalization on social cinema through the study of corporeality. She is currently working on expanding her research on globalization and social cinema, new filmic technologies, and the materiality of film. Reyes has taught Spanish language and content courses at the university level since 2000.

Derek Cook
Program Officer, Fulbright FLTA Program, Institute of International Education

Derek assists in the management of communication with program partners overseas, grantee services, the maintenance of grantee records, and provides support in all aspects of the Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program. Prior to working with FLTA, Derek worked for nearly two years as an English teacher in South Korea. Derek graduated from Winthrop University in May of 2009, where he received a B.A in English Literature.

Erin Cross
Associate Director, Penn LGBT Center
University of Pennsylvania
ecross@exchange.upenn.edu

Erin is a Cleveland, Ohio native who now calls Philadelphia home. Before coming to Penn she held various jobs after earning her B.A. in History and Political Science from The College of Wooster, M.A. in Political Science from The Pennsylvania State University, and Ph.D. at Penn's Graduate School of Education (GSE). In addition to her duties at the Center, Erin is a Senior Fellow at Penn Nursing’s Center for Global Women's Health, Pre-Major Advisor in the College, Student Invention Services team member, sits on the Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force, and serves on the Advisory Boards of Makuu: Black Cultural Center and the Division of Public Safety. She has taught at both GSE and School of Social Policy and Practice. Outside of work, Erin enjoys spending time with her pup and god-children as well as discovering greater-Philadelphia’s hidden historical, food, and musical gems.

Ralph De Lucia
Associate Director, Office of Affirmative Action
University of Pennsylvania
deluciar@upenn.edu

Ralph De Lucia joined the staff of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs after a 24-year career in the Insurance industry as a training and organizational development professional
working both domestically and internationally. Ralph’s key responsibilities at the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs include the initiation, development and evaluation of all training programs.

Ralph holds a Master of Science in Training and Organizational Development from St. Joseph’s University, and has achieved both Workers Compensation Law Association and Casualty Claims Law Association certifications. Ralph is also a certified web designer. In addition, Ralph was a former Insurance Chair and Professor of Insurance at Delaware County Community College and Lecturer at the Wharton School of Graduate Business. He also lectures at the American College of Insurance and the Insurance Society of Philadelphia.

Maiheng Dietrich, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer in Chinese, Department of East Asian Languages & Civilizations
University of Pennsylvania
maiheng@sas.upenn.edu

Edward Dixon, Ph.D.
Technology Director, Penn Language Center
University of Pennsylvania
edixon@sas.upenn.edu

Ed Dixon is the Technology Director of Penn Language Center. He holds a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures from the University of Pennsylvania and is active in several areas related to classroom instruction and faculty training with technology and innovative uses of participatory networks for both face-to-face and live online courses. In Summer 2010, Ed taught the first online language course from the University of Pennsylvania to students studying German both in the U.S. and abroad. His latest article “Re-purposing an open educational resource for the online language course” is scheduled for publication in October 2013 in the journal for Computer Assisted Language Learning.

Christina Frei, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Language Instruction for the School of Arts and Sciences
Academic Director, Penn Language Center
Director of Language Instruction, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
Adjunct Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania
cefrei@sas.upenn.edu

Teaching represents the most immediate and rewarding venue of combining Christina Frei’s research projects, application of technology and language education. She received the 2010 SAS Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching by Affiliated Faculty describing her dynamic classroom presence as mesmerizing.

Most recently, Frei was promoted to Executive Director of Language Instruction for the School of Arts & Sciences. The newly established position of Executive Director of Language Instruction recognizes her
deep commitment to the university and the language education community across SAS, Wharton, LPS, The Graduate School of Education and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. She is also a member of the Online Learning Faculty Advisory Committee.

Since 2009, Frei chairs the Penn Language Center, home of many less commonly taught languages at Penn. Frei currently is co-authoring an innovative textbook for introductory German language and culture: Augenblicke. This semester, she is teaching with these innovative materials one section of Elementary German II. Feel free to ask her about her course and the on-line components.

She received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis with a Special Emphasis in Second Language Acquisition.

**Feride Hatiboglu**  
Lecturer in Turkish, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
University of Pennsylvania  
feride@sas.upenn.edu

**Nora Lewis**  
Vice Dean for Professional and Liberal Education  
University of Pennsylvania  
nlewis@sas.upenn.edu

Nora Lewis, appointed Vice Dean for Professional and Liberal Education in 2010, has been a member of the full-time professional staff in the School of Arts and Sciences since 1993. Prior to becoming Vice Dean, she was Executive Director of the College of Liberal and Professional Studies (LPS). She has also served as Executive Director of LPS and interim director of Penn's English Language Programs.

Ms. Lewis has 20 years of experience in international higher education. Her responsibilities have included teaching English as a second language, program development and coordination, marketing, recruitment, student services and advising, and general administration. Her publications include journal articles and book chapters on the role of input and interaction in second language acquisition (with Teresa Pica and Lloyd Holliday); on intergenerational approaches to adult literacy and ESL programming (with Gail Weinstein-Shr); and on language planning and policy in the former Soviet republics. Her research interests focus on the role of learner production and feedback in second language acquisition. She is a member of NAFSA, AACRAO, TESOL, and UPCEA.

Ms. Lewis holds a B.A. in English from the College of William and Mary and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Lusi McKinley**  
Lecturer in Indonesian, Penn Language Center  
University of Pennsylvania  
lusimck@sas.upenn.edu
Kathryn K. McMahon, Ph.D.
Director of Language Programs, Department of Romance Languages
University of Pennsylvania
kmcmahon@sas.upenn.edu

Kathryn K. McMahon is Director of Language Programs in the Department of Romance Languages at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds a Ph.D. in Medieval French Literature from Cornell University and her teaching interests have included courses in Romance Philology, Old French, History of French, French Sociolinguistics, and French Phonetics. She currently is responsible for the pedagogical training and professional development of Teaching Assistants and Language Instructors in the Department of Romance Languages.

Litty H. Paxton, PhD.
Director, Penn Women’s Center
University of Pennsylvania
fpaxton@sas.upenn.edu

Born and raised in the United Kingdom, Litty Paxton received a B.A. in English and American Literature from the University of East Anglia, a Ph.D. in American Civilization and a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies from Penn. Litty has taught at the University of East Anglia and at Emory University, where she served as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Myth and Ritual in American Life. She has received fellowships from the Fulbright Commission, the British Academy, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard and the Thouron Award. In addition to serving as the Director of the Penn Women’s Center, Litty teaches for Penn’s Annenberg School for Communication and for Penn’s Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies Program.

Thi Vuong Poerner
Administrative Coordinator, Penn Language Center
University of Pennsylvania
thivuong@sas.upenn.edu

Thi joined Penn Language Center in 2004 while still a student at Penn’s Graduate School of Education where she earned her M.S. Ed. in TESOL. She organizes PLC’s various programs, services and events as well as manages the Center’s daily operations. In addition, she has taught Vietnamese at PLC. Before coming to Penn, Thi taught English in China. She has her B.A. in Anthropology and French from Rutgers University.

Rébaïa Saouli-Corley
Lecturer in French, Department of Romance Languages
University of Pennsylvania
rebaia@sas.upenn.edu
Rébaïa Saouli-Corley is a Lecturer in Foreign Languages in the University of Pennsylvania’s Romance Languages Department. She has 27 years of experience teaching beginner to advanced French levels at Penn.

In addition to teaching, Rébaïa has participated in and led several seminars to keep current on new instructional approaches and multimedia tools, which she is currently applying to her classes. As a full time coordinator of the intermediate and advanced levels, she trained, supervised and evaluated new teaching personnel as well as advised students.

Her professional interests focus on developing web-based approaches to teaching. Rébaïa was awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Teaching in 2011 and 2 Certificates of Appreciation for the Continuous Dedication to Educating the Students in 2007 from the University of Pennsylvania.

She graduated from the University of Burgundy, France with an MA in American and English Literature and Civilization.

Lada Vassilieva
Administrative Director, Penn Language Center
University of Pennsylvania
vassilie@sas.upenn.edu

Lada Vassilieva came to Penn Language Center from Moscow State Linguistics University where she taught courses in stylistics and the English language. She has taught Russian language courses at University of Miami and University of Pennsylvania. She holds an M.A. in English and German Linguistics from Moscow State Linguistics University, and an M.L.A. from University of Pennsylvania. As Administrative Director at Penn Language Center, Ms. Vassilieva helps develop and implement various language courses including an on-line medical Spanish program for the CME market. She oversees development of on-line language courses in other languages and works with Penn Language Center faculty on the design and delivery of regular courses in less-commonly–taught languages.

Anu Vedantham, Ed.D
Director, Weigle Information Commons
Penn Libraries, University of Pennsylvania
vedantha@upenn.edu

Anu Vedantham comes to Penn from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, where she directed the Southern Regional Educational Technology Training Center (ETTC) for six years providing professional development and technology models for college faculty and K-12 teachers. She also served as Interim Associate Provost and as Director of Instructional Technology. Her research on global warming has been recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) as a significant contribution to the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Ms. Vedantham holds her New Jersey Principal Certificate and served for two years as Director of Grants and Community Initiatives at Stafford Township School District. In the mid-90s, Ms. Vedantham served as Program Officer at the Telecommunications
Opportunities Program at the United States Department of Commerce. Anu has completed her doctorate in Higher Education Management from Penn's Graduate School of Education, her Masters in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and her Bachelors and Masters in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).