The Inaugural Conference on Climate Research, Teaching, and Collaboration
Friday, March 10, 2023

Agenda

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mindy Engle-Friedman, Professor of Psychology, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences (Weissman)
Lin Peng, Krell Chair Professor in Finance, Zicklin School of Business (Zicklin)
Linda Essig, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. RESEARCH AND TEACHING: CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Moderator: Anna D'Souza, Associate Professor, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs

Local Waterways and Coastal Ecosystems
Chester Zarnoch, Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology, Weissman

Bringing Oysters Back to NYC: Research, Education, and Outreach working with the BOP
Stephen Gosnell, Associate Professor of Environmental Science, Weissman

Food Production, Factory Farming, Environmental Impacts
Valerie Watnick, Professor and Chair, Department of Law, Zicklin

Climate Impacts and Environmental Justice
Shelly Eversley, Professor of English and Interim Chair, Black and Latino Studies, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. RESEARCH AND TEACHING: CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY PART II CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SEC

Moderator: Terrence Martell, Saxe Distinguished Professor of Finance and Director Emeritus of the Weissman Center for International Business, Zicklin

Developing Leaders to Save the Planet: The Case of the Zicklin School of Business
Cynthia Thompson, Professor, Narendra Paul Loomba Department of Management, Zicklin

Climate Change, Real Estate Markets, and Teaching Initiatives at the Newman Institute
Yildiray Yildirim, Professor and Chair, William Newman Department of Real Estate, Zicklin

ESG, Energy, Incentives, and Regulation
Nizan Geslevich Packin, Professor, Department of Law, Zicklin

Retrofitting Social and Behavioral Sciences to Address Questions Related to Climate Change Impact
Frank Heiland, Professor, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs
12:45 – 1:45 p.m.  LUNCH

1:45 – 2:30 p.m.  DEANS’ PANEL: INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

Moderator: Raquel Benbunan-Fich, Interim Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Research, and Innovation, Professor of Information Systems and Statistics, Zicklin

Dean Jessica Lang, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

Interim Dean Paquita Davis-Friday, Zicklin School of Business

Dean Sherry Ryan, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.  CLIMATE CHANGE, DISCLOSURE, AND FIRM OUTCOMES

Moderator: Jun Wang, Professor and Chair, Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance, Zicklin

Role of Political Beliefs in Investor and Firm Attitudes Toward CSR

Leonard Kostovetsky, Associate Professor, Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance, Zicklin

Corporate Governance and Sustainability

Yao Shen, Assistant Professor, Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance, Zicklin

ESG Disclosure and Corporate Investment

Joonsung Won, PhD student, Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance, Zicklin

ESG Disclosure, Performance, and Stock Returns

Mehmet Ozbilgin, Assistant Professor, Stan Ross Department of Accountancy, Zicklin

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  COLLABORATING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

Moderator: Lin Peng, Krell Chair Professor in Finance, Zicklin

NYC’s governmental and corporate partners:

John Adler, Chief ESG Officer, NYC Comptroller’s Office

Sonay Aykan, Associate Director ESG and Sustainability, Colgate-Palmolive

Salome Makharadze, Millennium Fellow, the Atlantic Council; Managing Director, Alternatives Capital Markets and Strategy Group at Goldman Sachs

Julie Santoro, Partner and Head of ESG Reporting, KPMG

5:00 – 5:15 p.m.  CLOSING REMARKS

Mindy Engle-Friedman, Professor of Psychology, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

Lin Peng, Krell Chair Professor in Finance, Zicklin
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Inaugural Conference on Climate Research, Teaching, and Collaboration

March 10\textsuperscript{th}, 2023

MINDY ENGLE-FRIEDMAN - Professor of Psychology, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

Professor Mindy Engle-Friedman focuses her research on the role of climate change awareness on decision-making. Her recent experiment found participants directed to imagine themselves in the future, showed a significant increase in sustainable behavior. Her recent survey shows that over 86% of Baruch students feel climate change is a threat to their future well-being, over 84% believe educators are responsible for helping to combat climate change and nearly 40% believe climate change isn’t discussed enough in class. That survey also found nearly 8% of Baruch students report an intention to have fewer children in response to future uncertainty caused by climate change.

In 2008, Professor Engle-Friedman became the Chairperson of the Baruch College Task Force on Sustainability, and in 2011 she brought together seven of the Task Force colleagues from Weissman, Zicklin and Marxe to create the Baruch Climate Change Faculty Seminar (BCCS). It now includes 15 Baruch faculty members, with a new title: Baruch Climate Action Collaborative (BCAC). Sponsored by the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences', the BCAC organizes the ‘WE ARE CLIMATE ACTION’ lecture series. The Baruch 2018-2023 Strategic Plan includes Climate Change as a curricular goal thanks to the input and foresight of the BCAC. The BCAC created the Baruch Climate Scholars program, which has evolved to include four CUNYs – Baruch, Bronx Community College, Brooklyn and Hunter.

Professor Engle-Friedman is also the Baruch College Ombudsperson.

LIN PENG - Krell Chair Professor in Finance, Zicklin School of Business

Lin Peng is the Krell Chair Professor of Finance at Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College, City University of New York. She has a diverse range of expertise in the fields of Social Finance, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance), Behavioral Finance, and Corporate Governance. Prof. Peng has taught a variety of finance courses at undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels, including Investment Analysis, Social Finance, ESG and Sustainability, and Behavioral Finance, and has won the Zicklin School’s Teaching Excellence Award. Her recent research focuses on designing CEO incentive contracts to encourage corporate social responsibility, and she has analyzed the impact of social networks on financial markets.

Professor Peng’s work has been supported by the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) and the Keynes Fund, and has earned her several accolades, including the Institute for Quantitative Research in Finance Research Award and the best paper award at the International Conference on Smart Finance. Prof. Peng's research has been published in top economics and finance journals and has been featured by well-known media outlets such as the Financial Times, Reuters, Institutional Investor, and the UCLA Anderson Review. She has held visiting professor positions at Princeton University, the University of Cambridge, and Columbia University, among others. Additionally, she serves as an associate editor and editorial board member for several leading academic
journals. Prof. Peng holds a MA in Biology from Wesleyan University and a PhD in Finance from Duke University.

**LINDA ESSIG** - Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Linda Essig, MFA, PhD, was appointed Baruch College’s Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs on July 1, 2021. She previously served as dean of the College of Arts & Letters at California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA) where she was responsible for nine academic departments, four centers, and the Ronald H. Silverman Fine Arts Gallery. Prior to Cal State LA, Dr. Essig was director of Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Programs for the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University (ASU) and founding director of its School of Theatre and Film. She also served as chair of the Department of Theatre & Drama and director of University Theatre at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Essig has authored four books and numerous articles and book chapters on both arts entrepreneurship and theatrical lighting design.

**ANNA D’SOUZA** - Associate Professor, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs

Anna D’Souza is an Associate Professor at the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College. As a development economist, her research addresses food and nutrition security, price shocks, household coping mechanisms, conflict and instability, governance, and trade. She teaches courses on economic analysis of public policy and international development. She is the Provost Innovation Fellow for Inclusive Teaching at Baruch College (2021-2023), a TLH fellow, and is active in several DEI and anti-racist initiatives, including organizing campus-wide DEI Friday virtual gatherings. Professor D’Souza also worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal. She holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Economics from UCLA and a B.S. in Finance and Economics from the Stern School at NYU.

**CHESTER ZARNOCH** - Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

Chester B. Zarnoch is a Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology at Baruch College, City University of New York (CUNY) and is Graduate Faculty in the Biology Program at CUNY’s Graduate Center. He has been an active researcher in marine ecology and aquaculture since 2001 and has published papers on shellfish biology, sediment nitrogen cycling, salt marsh ecology, and intensive aquaculture. His current research aims to develop and evaluate nature-based solutions for improving water quality in aquatic ecosystems and for making urban shorelines more resilient to climate change. Zarnoch holds a Ph.D. in Biology (The Graduate Center - CUNY, 2006).
**STEPHEN GOSNELL** - Associate Professor of Environmental Science, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

A native of South Carolina, Stephen completed his PhD at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and postdoctoral positions at the UCSB Marine Science Institute and the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory before joining Baruch College as an assistant professor in 2014. His goal as an ecologist is to gather data on how communities are structured and what they provide so we can aid management and restoration efforts. Much of his lab's work currently focuses on understanding coastal systems in and around New York. The lab also asks similar questions in other parts of the world through analysis of existing data sets and collaborations.

Stephen’s research interests and approach also drive his work as a teacher. He leads upper division courses on conservation biology and biostatistics, and enjoys introducing students to ecology through non-majors and first-year courses. His courses typically use open educational resources in lieu of traditional textbooks in order to increase student access and bring current material into the classroom.

**VALERIE WATNICK** - Professor and Chair, Department of Law, Zicklin School of Business

Professor Watnick brief bio: Professor Watnick, Professor and Chair of the Department of Law at the Zicklin School of Business, is an expert on the regulation of toxic substances to protect human health, particularly the regulation of pesticides. Her latest research focuses on the effect of animal agriculture on pollution, climate change and social and environmental sustainability. Prof. Watnick has written most recently about California’s legislation to protect and improve conditions for farm animals, as well as on litigation against Monsanto/Bayer regarding the pesticide product RoundUp and allegations that the product causes lymphoma in humans. She has also written about government action under the federal Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act. Her past work spans related topics, including cosmetics regulations, the Organic Foods Production Act, and the regulation of polychlorinated bi-phenols or PCBs in the nation’s schools. Prof. Watnick’s work has been published in Harvard’s Environmental Law Review, New York University’s Environmental Law Journal, and other top law reviews and journals.

**SHELLY EVERSLEY** - Professor of English and Interim Chair, Black and Latino Studies, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Shelly Eversley is Professor of English and Interim Chair of the Black and Latino Studies department at Baruch College, City University of New York (CUNY), where she designed the Bachelor of Arts in Black and Latino Studies. She is also Professor of English at The Graduate Center (CUNY). She teaches and publishes in literature, feminism, and Black Studies. Her institutional leadership also includes her role as Faculty Co-Director of the Mellon Foundation’s Transformative Learning in the Humanities initiative at CUNY.

In Fall 2023, alongside Cathy N. Davidson, she will lead CUNY’s Futures Initiative (FI), an initiative focusing on equity and innovation in higher education through collaborative pedagogies that empower the next generation of intellectual leaders with bold, creative, and independent methods for confronting problems in the world today.
TERRENCE MARTELL - Saxe Distinguished Professor of Finance and Director Emeritus of the Weissman Center for International Business, Zicklin School of Business

Terrence F. Martell received his BA in Economics from Iona College and his Ph.D. in Finance from the Pennsylvania State University. He is Chair of the Baruch Faculty Senate.

Terrence Martell is chairman of ICE Clear US, a director of ICE Clear Credit, where he chairs its Risk Committee and vice chair of ICE Futures U.S. He is also chairman of the Board of VVC, an exploration and production company that is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Terrence Martell chairs the Audit Committee as a trustee of the PSC/CUNY Welfare Fund, which manages drug benefits for the employees of the City University of New York and serves as a board member of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. He is a director and treasurer of One to World. He is also a director of Gresham Investment Management LLC and the Tara Emerging Asia Liquid Fund.

From January 2007 until May 2016, he served as a director of Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) where he was the chair of the Risk Committee and as a member of the Audit Committee. From May 2012 until May 2016, he served as chair of the University Faculty Senate and a trustee of the City University of New York and served on its Fiscal, Audit, and Investment Committees.

A resident of Pelham, New York, he served as President of the Pelham School Board and the United Way of Pelham.

CYNTHIA THOMPSON - Professor, Narendra Paul Loomba Department of Management, Zicklin School of Business

Cynthia Thompson, Ph.D., is Professor of Management and former Academic Director of the Executive MBA Program in the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College, where she teaches courses on work-life integration, organizational behavior, leadership, and organizational change & sustainability. She feels passionately about the need to integrate climate change and environmental sustainability topics throughout the MBA, EMBA, and undergraduate curriculum. As Academic Director of the Executive MBA program, she worked with faculty to integrate sustainability as a key theme throughout the curriculum. More recently she developed a summer faculty seminar on integrating sustainability into the business school curriculum and offered it in the summer of 2022 with her collaborator, co-facilitator, and sustainability buddy, Professor Ivan Montiel. She hopes to continue the work that she and Ivan began over four years ago.

Cynthia received her Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Tennessee and her B.S. in psychology and statistics from Florida State University. She is originally from Sarasota, Florida and currently lives in New Jersey. She is committed to exploring the hiking
trails of the Catskills and has even gone rock climbing in the Shawangunks Ridge in Ulster County, NY.

In addition to her academic responsibilities, Prof. Thompson is president of WorkVision, LLC, a management consulting firm specializing in leadership development. Prior to that, she was a senior consultant at LearnTech Associates in New York City, a management consulting firm. She has also worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority, Union Carbide, and AT&T.

**YILDIRAY YILDIRIM - Professor and Chair, William Newman Department of Real Estate, Zicklin School of Business**

Professor Yildiray Yildirim is the William Newman Chair Professor in Real Estate Finance and the Director of the Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute at the Zicklin School of Business. Previously, he was the Michael Falcone Professor of Finance and the Director of the James D. Kuhn Real Estate Center at the Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University.

His research interests are real estate finance, in particular mortgage securitization and commercial leasing, climate risk, household finance, and affordable housing.

Dr. Yildirim is cited in newspapers and magazines such as U.S. News, Business Week, Real Deal, and Bloomberg TV, among others. He has consulted for real estate companies, banks, rating companies, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He serves on the editorial board of multiple journals, such as *Real Estate Economics* and *The Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*. He is the co-creator of the Jarrow-Yildirim framework for pricing inflation linked securities. His co-authored work on Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities (CMBS) was patented in 2014.

Professor Yildirim is a Weimer School of Advance Studies Fellow in Real Estate and Land Economics. He graduated from Yildiz Technical University with a B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering. He received his M.A. in Economics and a Ph.D. in Statistics at Cornell University.

**NIZAN GESLEVICH PACKIN - Professor, Department of Law, Zicklin School of Business**

Nizan is a Professor at Baruch College, CUNY, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Haifa, and an Affiliated Faculty at Indiana University Bloomington’s Program on Governance of the Internet and Cybersecurity. Nizan researches Tech Policy and Ethics, Financial Regulation, Privacy Law, and Consumer Protection, and writes about these issues for Forbes. Nizan has published Op-Eds in outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, Toronto Star, and American Banker. Her work and opinions have been discussed in media outlets such as the Business Insider, Yahoo Finance, Protocol, Medium, Vox, and CoinDesk. Prior to entering academia, she practiced law at Skadden Arps, served as a law clerk in the Israeli Supreme Court, interned at the FTC, and externed at the federal court of the EDNY. Nizan earned a law degree from the Columbia Law School, and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. Her undergraduate degrees in economics and law are from the University of Haifa. She also served as a visiting researcher at the Annenberg School of Communication and Goethe University, and taught Tech Policy at NYU.
FRANK HEILAND - Professor, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs

Dr. Heiland is trained in health, labor, and demographic economics and holds the position of Full Professor in both the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) (Programs in Demography and Economics) and Baruch College’s Marxe School of Public and International Affairs. He currently serves as Associate Director of the CUNY Institute for Demographic Research, a CUNY-wide interdisciplinary research center. Dr. Heiland specializes in health and aging research and regularly teaches statistics and demographic methods to CUNY M.A. and Ph.D. students. Dr. Heiland frequently works with multi-disciplinary research teams; he currently leads an NIH-funded interdisciplinary project on the impact of COVID-19 on mortality among particularly vulnerable New Yorkers, those buried in the public burial grounds on New York’s Hart Island.

RAQUEL BENBUNAN-FICH - Interim Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Research, and Innovation, Professor of Information Systems and Statistics, Zicklin School of Business

Raquel Benbunan-Fich, PhD, is a Professor of Information Systems in the Paul H. Chook Department of Information Systems and Statistics at the Zicklin School of Business.

Areas of expertise include user behavior and multitasking, virtual teams and virtual collaboration, social computing, e-commerce, and usability. Dr. Benbunan-Fich has published over 50 articles on these topics in various practitioner and academic journals, including ACM Transactions on Human-Computer Interaction, Communications of the ACM, Decision Support Systems, European Journal of Information Systems (of which she has been Senior Associate Editor since 2013), IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication, Information & Management, International Journal of Electronic Commerce, and Journal of Strategic Information Systems.

She is the 2011 recipient of the Sidney Lirtzman Award for outstanding research, teaching, and service at the Zicklin School of Business and in 2013 received Baruch College’s Presidential Excellence Award for Faculty Service.

Dr. Benbunan-Fich earned her PhD in management information systems from Rutgers University.
DEAN JESSICA LANG - Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

Jessica Lang, PhD, served as Interim Dean of the George and Mildred Weissman School of Arts and Sciences beginning in July 2020 and was named Dean in February 2022. Dr. Lang brings a wealth of academic, scholarly, and administrative experience to this position. As interim dean, she has focused on a number of critical initiatives, including diversity, equity, and inclusion; flexible course delivery; on-track graduation; supporting faculty research, and managing services and needs that arise in the distance learning environment.

Formerly chair and professor in the Department of English, Dr. Lang joined Baruch in 2004 as an assistant professor of English. Her areas of specialization span early American fiction and Jewish American and Holocaust literature. Her numerous publications include Textual Silence: Unreadability and the Holocaust and Off the Derech: Leaving Orthodox Judaism. Dr. Lang is the founding Newman Director of Baruch’s Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center.

As department chair, Dr. Lang created a peer mentoring program for pre-tenure faculty members as part of a larger effort to support and recognize faculty accomplishments. To expand students’ horizons, she developed a “micro-study abroad” program for January Intersession. Her Baruch accolades include the 2017 Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Teaching. She holds a BA from Cornell University, an MA from Washington University in St. Louis, and a PhD from Brandeis University. She served as a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University before joining the Baruch faculty.

INTERIM DEAN PAQUITA DAVIS-FRIDAY - Zicklin School of Business

Paquita Y. Davis-Friday is the interim dean of the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College and a professor in the Stan Ross Department of Accountancy. She was a Senior Associate Dean in the Zicklin School from December 2017 until December 2022, and was the Executive Director of Graduate Programs in the Zicklin School from April 2013 until December 2017. She earned her Ph.D. in accounting at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor where her dissertation received the 1997 Outstanding International Accounting Dissertation Award from the American Accounting Association. Before entering the Ph.D. program, she worked as an auditor for Deloitte in Detroit and as a tax accountant for Deloitte in Ann Arbor and was certified in 1992 by the State of Michigan as a public accountant.

Prof. Davis-Friday has taught principles of financial accounting, intermediate accounting and auditing to undergraduate students, financial reporting to MBA students and an international accounting research seminar to doctoral students. Her primary research interests are executive compensation and pensions and as a member of the American Accounting Association’s Financial Accounting Standards Committee, Dr. Davis-Friday was a principal author of the Committee’s responses to the FASB’s Exposure Drafts on Share-Based Payments and Pensions.

Prof. Davis-Friday is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Pollyanna Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to helping institutions achieve their diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.
DEAN SHERRY RYAN - Marxe School of Public and International Affairs

Sherry Ryan, PhD, was named dean of the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs in June 2022 and began her tenure on September 1, 2022. She previously served as the Director of the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University. While at San Diego State, Dr. Ryan oversaw the growth of a number of its programs. She was a faculty member both there and at the University of Iowa.

Dr. Ryan’s joint academic and practice careers have allowed her to develop a professional foundation of great breadth, part exploratory research–part nuts-and-bolts planning practice. She served as project manager for multiple local and regional bicycle and pedestrian master planning efforts, including the award-winning San Diego Regional Bike Plan, the City of San Diego’s Bicycle Master Plan Update, and the City of Carlsbad Pedestrian Master Plan. She is a founding principal of Chen Ryan Associates (now CR Associates), a transportation planning and engineering firm dedicated to enhancing walking and cycling. Dr. Ryan holds a BA from Princeton University and MS and PhD degrees from the University of California, Irvine.

JUN WANG - Professor and Chair, Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance, Zicklin School of Business

Jun “Jonathan” Wang, PhD, is a Professor of Finance and Chair of the Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance at the Zicklin School of Business. His research interests are corporate finance, financial markets, risk management, econometric modeling, and quantitative investment analysis.

Dr. Wang’s work has been published in leading journals, including Journal of Finance; Review of Financial Studies; Review of Economic Studies; Game and Economic Behavior; Journal of Law, Economics and Organization; Journal of Risk and Insurance, etc.

Dr. Wang has taught courses in introductory corporate finance, advanced corporate finance, mergers and acquisition at both the undergraduate level and the master level. He teaches Ph.D. corporate finance theory at Baruch, corporate finance, mergers & acquisitions in the Zicklin Executive MS in Finance program.

Dr. Wang has a bachelor’s degree in physics from Fudan University and a PhD in finance from Georgia State University.

LEONARD KOSTOVETSKY - Associate Professor, Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance, Zicklin School of Business

Professor Kostovetsky is an Associate Professor of Finance at the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College since 2022. His main research interests lie in the area of financial economics. Several of his research projects examined the fast-growing industry of socially responsible investing, and how political beliefs and connections affect the decisions of financial investors and corporate managers. Prior to coming to Baruch, he was an Assistant Professor at Boston College and the University of Rochester. His work has been published in top finance journals.

**YAO SHEN** - Assistant Professor, Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance, Zicklin School of Business

Yao Shen is an assistant professor of finance at the Zicklin school. Her main research areas are empirical corporate finance and corporate governance. She has examined research topics including executive compensation, shareholder voting, corporate innovation, and FinTech lending, etc.

**JOONSUNG WON** - PhD student, Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance, Zicklin School of Business

Joonsung “Francis” Won is a PhD student in the Bert W. Wasserman Department of Economics and Finance at the Zicklin School of Business and is originally from Seoul, South Korea. Before joining Zicklin, he attended Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, for his undergraduate and master’s degrees in business administration with concentration in finance. His current research interests include capital structure and external financing activities, bank lending, and firm level credit risks.

**MEHMET OZBILGIN** - Assistant Professor, Stan Ross Department of Accountancy, Zicklin School of Business

Mehmet Ozbilgin is an Assistant Professor of Accountancy at the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College. His interests lie in accounting disclosure theory and corporate social responsibility. His papers were published in Management Science, Journal of Business, and Journal of Management Accounting Research. He earned his Ph.D. in Accounting at Purdue University.

**JOHN ADLER** - Chief ESG Officer, NYC Comptroller’s Office

John Adler joined the Office of the Comptroller’s Bureau of Asset Management as the Chief ESG Officer in January 2022. In this role, he is responsible for the Office of ESG that knits together previously separated areas of work as well as engages in new initiatives concerning environmental, social and governance impact on the companies in which the pension funds invest. The areas of work include corporate governance; Economically Targeted Investments; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; climate change.
change; workers’ rights; and integration of ESG throughout the investment process.

Prior to BAM, Mr. Adler served as the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Pensions and Investments and Chief Pension Investment Advisor under Mayor Bill de Blasio, where he was responsible for advising the Mayor’s trustees on the five New York City retirement system boards and on the New York City Deferred Compensation Plan Board on all relevant investment issues that impacted the portfolios.

He previously spent 23 years in the labor movement, most recently as the Director of the Retirement Security Campaign at SEIU, where he managed all aspects of SEIU’s retirement security program, including public pension funds, Taft-Hartley pensions, Social Security, and private sector plans. He ran state campaigns to create state-sponsored retirement plans for workers without access to plans, and co-founded the Georgetown Center for Retirement Initiatives.

Mr. Adler received his B.A. from Yale University.

SONAY AYKAN - Associate Director ESG and Sustainability, Colgate-Palmolive

Sonay Aykan is a sustainability expert and believes in creating a more sustainable future by translating environmental and social impacts into business growth. Sonay leverages his academic expertise, research mindset and problem solving skills to be a change agent in organizations, linking the interests of multiple stakeholders to incentivize change towards a new organizational vision where sustainability becomes a part of everyday practices. Sonay currently serves as Associate Director, Sustainability and ESG at Colgate-Palmolive Company, overseeing the creation, management and disclosure of sustainability data, as well as integration of sustainability metrics into business risks and opportunities. Sonay leads the efforts to embed UN Sustainable Development Goals into Colgate’s Sustainability & Social Impact Strategy by creating roadmaps and educational material. Sonay has a PhD. in Urban Systems from Rutgers & NJIT, an MA in Sociology and a BA in Economics from Bogazici University. He also holds a SASB FSA credential. He is an avid cyclist.

SALOMÉ MAKHARADZE - Millennium Fellow, the Atlantic Council; Managing Director, Alternatives Capital Markets and Strategy Group at Goldman Sachs

Salome Makharadze is a Millennium Fellow at the Atlantic Council and the managing director for the Alternatives Capital Markets and Strategy Group at Goldman Sachs. Here, she focuses on institutional capital markets, capital raising, and client strategy for alternative investments. Also, in this role, she leads the strategy for the climate transition funds platform. Makharadze is also the co-head of the Americas Women’s Network for Asset Management and a member of the Private Markets Sustainability Council at Goldman Sachs. Prior to her current role, Makharadze spent more than three years in the Goldman Sachs Executive Office, working with two of its presidents and chief operations officers as well as the firm’s chief administrative officer to develop and implement key strategic initiatives for the firm and its clients. Prior to this, Makharadze spent ten years focusing on risk management. She earned her BBA in finance from Baruch College and a JD from Fordham University Law School. She is a member of the New York State Bar.
JULIE SANTORO - Partner and Head of ESG Reporting, KPMG

Julie is a partner in the KPMG US Department of Professional Practice. She has specialized in the interpretation of accounting standards and the development of related guidance for many years, including experience in South Africa, Germany, New Zealand, Russia and the UK. Julie’s areas of expertise include both US GAAP and International Financial Reporting Accounting Standards.

Throughout her career, Julie has maintained an interest in ESG reporting and now leads the ESG-related professional practice activities of the US firm. She is also a Vice Chair of the KPMG Global Corporate and Sustainability Reporting Topic Team.

Before joining KPMG in the US, Julie was a partner in the UK firm of KPMG, and COO of the KPMG International Standards Group (based in London). Before that, she was a partner in the Russian firm of KPMG. Having also worked for KPMG in South Africa and New Zealand, Julie has considerable experience in dealing with diverse perspectives on financial reporting.

Julie specializes in ESG- and accounting-based communications published by KPMG. For a number of years she was responsible for the flagship publication on International Financial Reporting Accounting Standards, Insights into IFRS; and was co-author of IFRS compared to US GAAP. Julie led the development of the US firm’s Audit Quality Report in 2020 and 2021, and the firm’s inaugural Diversity, Equity & Inclusion report in 2021; and leads the US GAAP publication, Climate risk in the financial statements.

Julie has a special interest in corporate communications.