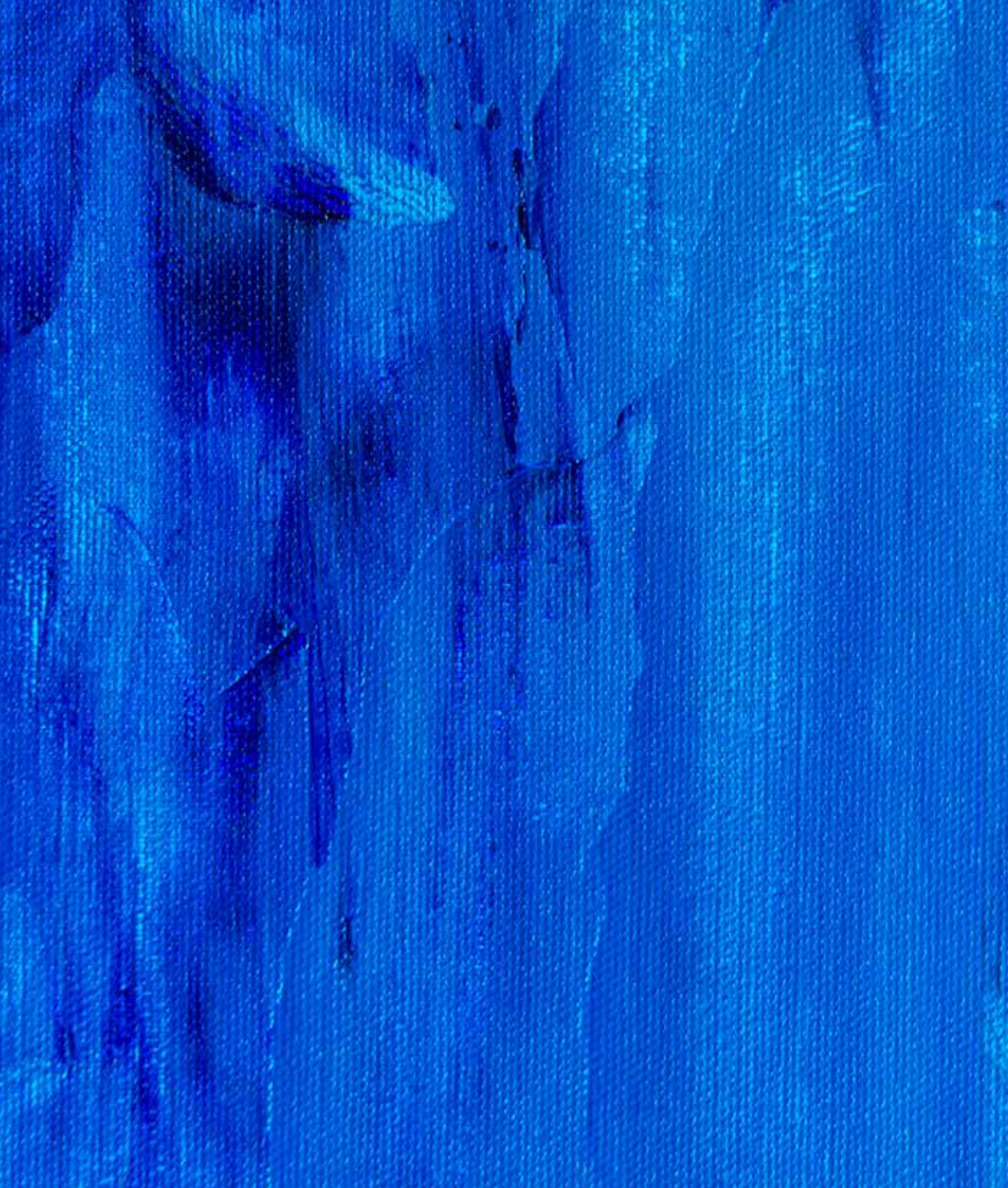


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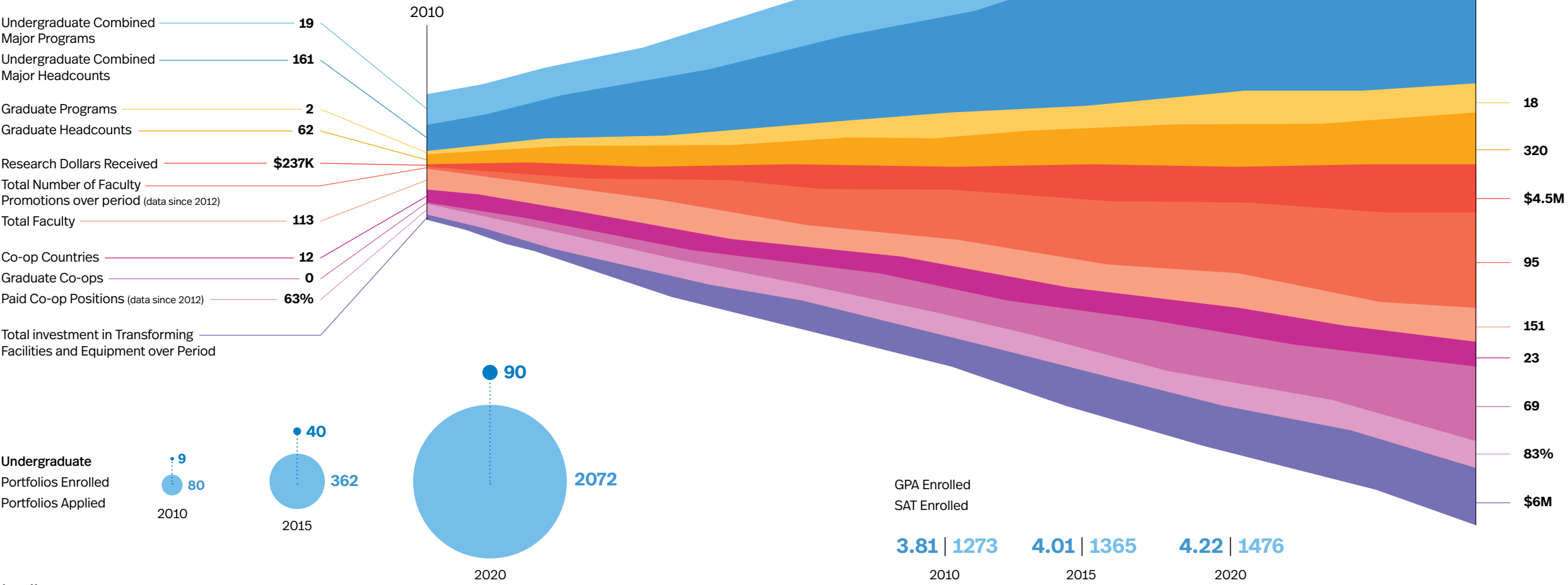
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A Year of
Disruption

A TRANSFORMATIVE DECADE

In 2010, CAMD was created from the division of Arts and Sciences into three separate colleges. Ten years later, the college has grown to become a national leader and a vital part of Northeastern University's ecosystem. The past decade has been transformative, as departmental roles in the college's mission have been clearly defined, centers have been born and research and creative practice have gained primacy. Outstanding faculty hires and investments in facilities and technology have strengthened CAMD's role as one of Northeastern's leaders in humanics, integrating data and technology with the human literacies of creativity and communication.

GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION



Janne Yang
Department of Art + Design
Information Design and Data Visualization, MS

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Whether you are a current or future student, a parent, an alumnus, faculty member or friend, I hope you are as proud of CAMD's growth and evolution as I am.

Our college has industry-relevant, emerging programs, a strong voice and a vital position within the thriving Northeastern networks.



Contemplating the culmination of a decade of growth and transformation for the College of Arts, Media and Design is both exciting and a bit daunting in the context of this particular year, which itself contained its own transformation and disruption.

As you will discover within these pages, though, there are many terrific stories from across this year to share: stories that express what a journey of transformation these ten years have wrought. During this past year, we redefined the Center for the Arts and launched the Center for Design, an innovative hub to explore collaborative practices across disciplines to advance design research for human and societal advancement.

Our innovative faculty continue to conduct ground-breaking research, scholarship and creative practice, in fields as diverse as architecture, experience design, journalism, and music. Faculty and student work continues to be supported by the Media Studio Organization, the labs and managers of which work to provide technological support and tools to students and faculty across all of CAMD's departments and schools.

And when the Covid-19 virus unleashed a global pandemic that affected the way we work and live, faculty, staff and students came together to find new opportunities within the myriad challenges that arose. Our college quickly pivoted and embraced solutions for online learning and research, working to bring lab and studio experiences into students' homes. In turn, our students faced many challenges with courage in order to continue to benefit from Northeastern's renowned experiential education.

I couldn't be prouder of the CAMD community, of the college's growth and evolution and all who have contributed to it. Our college has industry-relevant, emerging programs, and a strong voice within the thriving Northeastern networks. And with this, we are demonstrating the vitality and relevance of CAMD disciplines for a new era.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Hudson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elizabeth Hudson
Dean, College of Arts, Media and Design



Amera Youssef
School of Architecture

Photo by Matthew Modoono/Northeastern University



Paolo Ciuccarelli

Center for Design / Department of Art + Design /
School of Architecture / Research

CENTER FOR DESIGN

HUMANICS IN DATA VISUALIZATION

An approach that challenges data's impersonality by designing engaging visual narratives that reconnect numbers to stories, people, and ideas.

Renowned Information Designer **Giorgia Lupi** Keynotes *Human by Design* CfD Launch Event

Designers and creative-thinkers from across Northeastern University and throughout Boston gathered for the Center for Design (CfD) launch event, *Human by Design* on January 28, 2020. The event served as an overview of the CfD's nature and structure, a celebration of the initiatives being incubated within the Center, and the first in a series of lectures hosted by the CfD. It brought together members of the Northeastern community – faculty, staff, alumni, and students – and working professionals – from design-focused firms and labs such as IDEO, Hacin + Associates, and metaLab (at) Harvard – as well as representatives from other universities, the Boston Mayor's Office, and the Italian Consulate General. Together, these guests spearheaded meaningful discussions surrounding technology, data, design, artificial intelligence (AI), visualization, and more – with the celebration of design at the center.

"As a colleague wrote me after the event, there was this palpable positive energy in the room," said **Paolo Ciuccarelli**, Founding Director of the Center for Design and Professor of Design at Northeastern University. "The spontaneous emotional response of the audience at the end of the talks, during the reception, is a limpid manifestation of how design can create a deeper bond. I feel this event marks an important step forward in positioning design as a key component of Humanics."

The mission of the Center for Design is to foster initiatives that serve as the bridge between design and other disciplines by opening up space for interdisciplinary exchanges to take place. One example is the *Co-Lab for Data Impact*, which officially launched in conjunction with the CfD. Dedicated to research and scholarship in data storytelling and visualization, information design, new media technology, and media innovation, the *Co-Lab for Data Impact* has created a bridge between Design and Journalism.

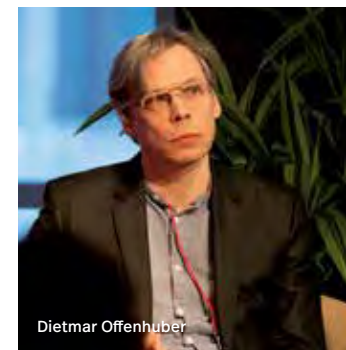
Center for Design faculty members had an opportunity to introduce themselves and share a bit about their current research and projects. Professors **Dietmar Offenhuber**, **Kristian Kloeckl**,

Ang Li, **Mark Sivak**, **Miso Kim**, and **Pedro Cruz** discussed real-world applications of design as an interdisciplinary and integrative discipline.

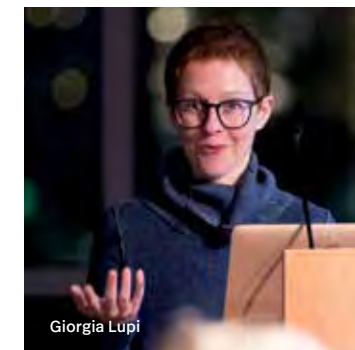
The evening's keynote speaker **Giorgia Lupi** shared her thoughts on the importance of design to Northeastern's vision of "humanics." Lupi is an information designer and partner at Pentagram – the world's largest independent design consultancy – who advocates for Data Humanism through her work. In her practice, she takes a humanistic approach to data by challenging its impersonality and designing engaging visual narratives that reconnect numbers to what they stand for: stories, people, ideas.

After Lupi's keynote presentation, panelists **Ari Adler** (IDEO), **Gigi Gromley Kalaher** (Fidelity labs), and **Jeffrey Schnapp** (Piaggio Fast Forward and Harvard University) joined Lupi in a discussion about the challenges that design faces when it comes to new technology, such as Artificial Intelligence, and whether or not design is robot-proof.

Human by Design fostered valuable conversations, connections, and ideas. The evening represents the beginning of a lively future for CAMD's Center for Design. [N](#)



Dietmar Offenhuber



Giorgia Lupi



Kristian Kloeckl

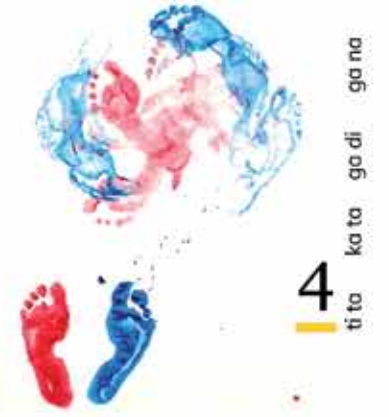
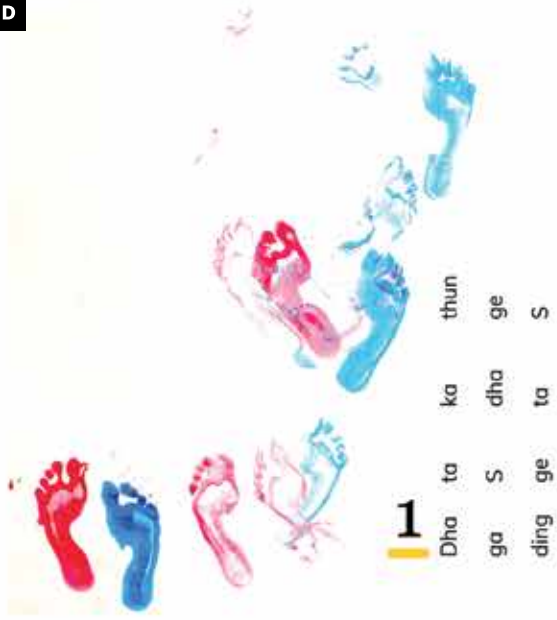
Giorgia Lupi
Information Designer
Partner at Pentagram advocating for Data Humanism

“Earlier in 2019, I had the incredible opportunity to design an entire data-driven fashion collection for & Other Stories: a co-lab that turns data visualizations into wearable stories, where the graphic patterns printed, embroidered, sewed on the sixteen pieces I created, reveal the amazing achievements of three female science trailblazers. These women have been pioneers in previously male dominated fields, and paved the ground for other women to get started and thrive.

Using datasets about their major accomplishments, as well as impactful information from their lives as design material, we created three unique patterns. This resulted in a collection based on data-driven narratives, beautifully visualized to reveal a deeper meaning.”

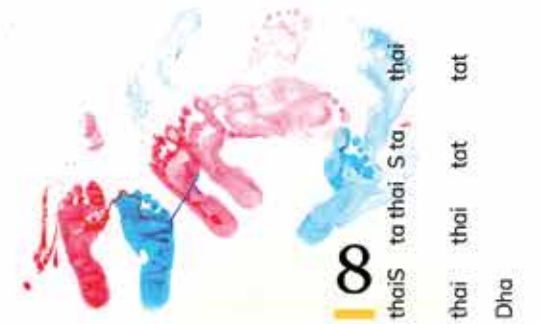
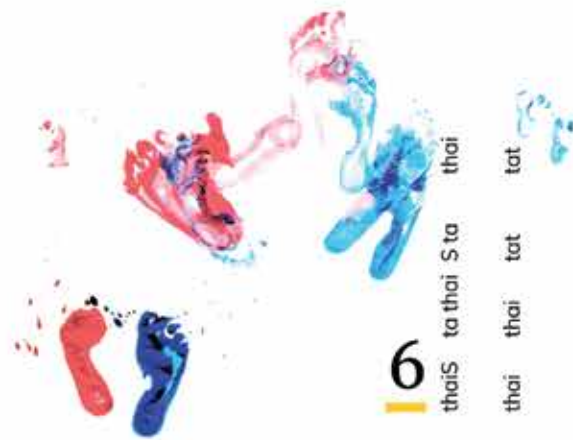
Text and imagery courtesy of GiorgiaLupi.com

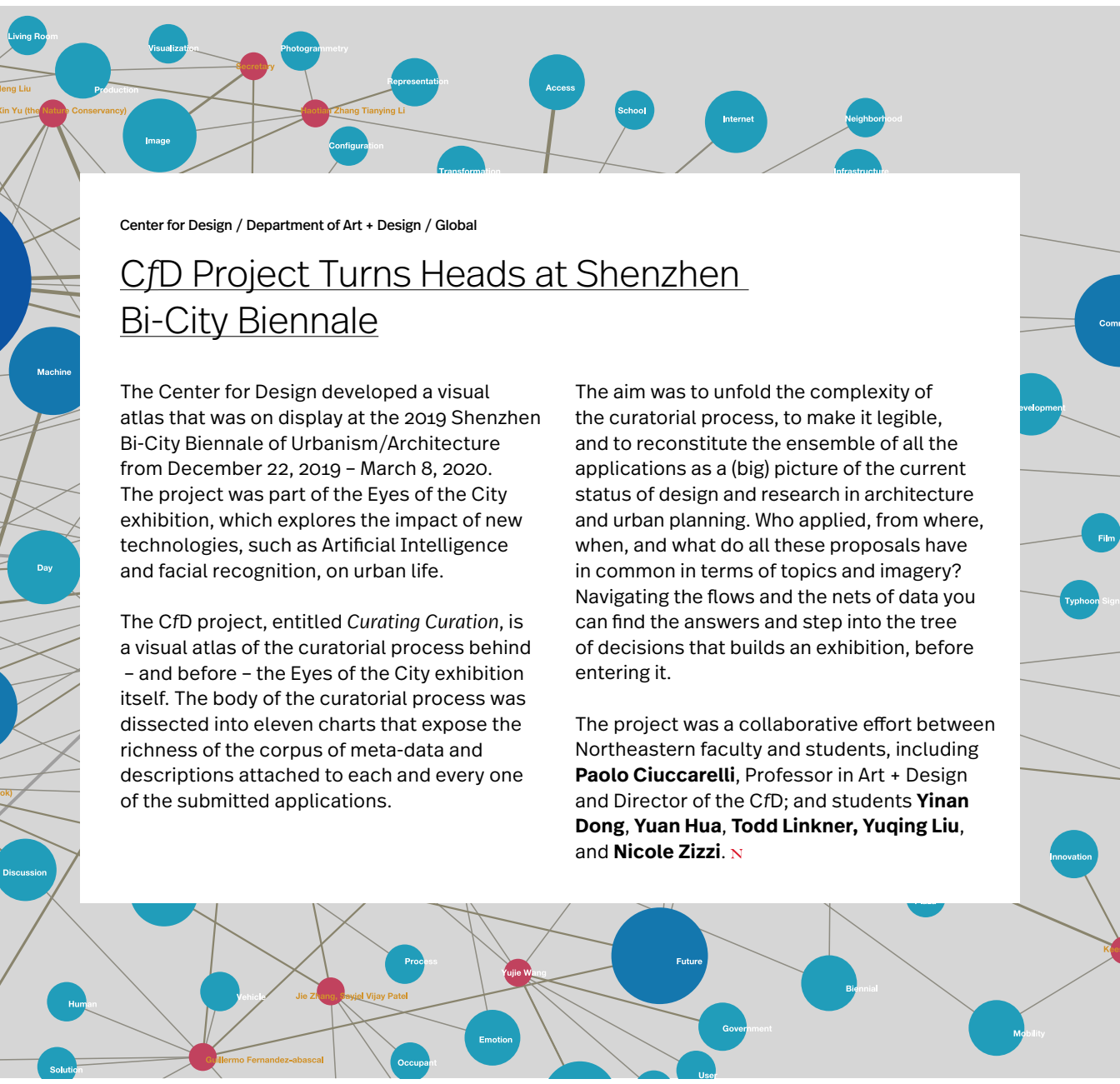




Arushi Singh
Department of Art + Design, Information Design and Data Visualization, MFA

This project translates the intricate movements in the Indian classical dance of Kathak into abstract and expressive visualizations using non-traditional methods of capturing movement.





Center for Design / Department of Art + Design / Global

CfD Project Turns Heads at Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale

The Center for Design developed a visual atlas that was on display at the 2019 Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture from December 22, 2019 – March 8, 2020. The project was part of the Eyes of the City exhibition, which explores the impact of new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence and facial recognition, on urban life.

The CfD project, entitled *Curating Curation*, is a visual atlas of the curatorial process behind – and before – the Eyes of the City exhibition itself. The body of the curatorial process was dissected into eleven charts that expose the richness of the corpus of meta-data and descriptions attached to each and every one of the submitted applications.

The aim was to unfold the complexity of the curatorial process, to make it legible, and to reconstitute the ensemble of all the applications as a (big) picture of the current status of design and research in architecture and urban planning. Who applied, from where, when, and what do all these proposals have in common in terms of topics and imagery? Navigating the flows and the nets of data you can find the answers and step into the tree of decisions that builds an exhibition, before entering it.

The project was a collaborative effort between Northeastern faculty and students, including **Paolo Ciuccarelli**, Professor in Art + Design and Director of the CfD; and students **Yinan Dong, Yuan Hua, Todd Linkner, Yuqing Liu,** and **Nicole Zizzi**. [N](#)



MITIGATE NEGATIVE HEALTH EFFECTS OF EVERYDAY LIVES

The competition asked the health and design communities to envision solutions that would reshape everyday life to be healthier by default.

Department of Art + Design / Research

Redesigning the Commute

A team of students in CAMD’s Experience Design program won the 2019 Health X Design Challenge in the “reimagine a system or space” category. The competition – run by Mad*Pow’s Center for Health Experience Design (CHXD) and Health 2.0 Advocates, with prizes funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWFJ) – asked the health and design communities to envision solutions that would reshape everyday life to be healthier by default.

The team’s solution included a major system redesign that would provide transportation that is more reliable, easier to navigate, and more comfortable. Their project was chosen as a winner for its efforts to understand how to turn long commutes into something more desirable.

The project reflects Northeastern’s Experience Design program’s approach to design, which focuses on the quality of the human experience in concrete situations. It embraces research-driven design thinking for entrepreneurship and innovation, focusing on today’s important, relevant challenges. [N](#)

Northeastern students **Estefania Ciliotta, Deirdre Ni Chonail, and Houjiang Liu** were recognized for their project *Smooth Commuting*. Their work envisioned a way to mitigate the negative health effects on “extreme commuters” – those who commute 90 minutes or more.

Center for Design / Department of Art + Design / Research / Global

Innovative Faculty Present at International Data Viz Conference

In October 2019 in Vancouver, Professor **Dietmar Offenhuber**, Art + Design, presented his work at IEEE VIS 2019, a conference that brings together an international community of visualization researchers, designers, and media artists to explore topics in data visualization – with the main goal of fostering new thinking, discussion, and collaboration between various fields. It is considered the top conference in the visualization field. Professor Offenhuber's full paper, *Data by Proxy – Material Traces as Autographic Visualizations*, was presented in the opening session of the conference called *Provocations*. It proposed a counter-model to data visualization that emphasizes the material nature of data. The paper compares physical traces to visualizations and describes the techniques and visual practices for producing, revealing, and interpreting them.

He also gave a talk in the conference's art program (VISAP'19), which further expanded on this framework of "autographic visualization" through two of his related art projects: *Dustmarks and Ozone Tattoos: Autographic Displays of Air Pollution*.

The work highlights two examples of autographic visualizations that aim to make environmental pollution visible and legible. Using particulate matter and ground-level ozone pollution as case studies, the pictorial illustrates the design principles of creating autographic visualizations that make phenomena reveal themselves.

CAMD also had a booth at the event, where Professors **Pedro Cruz** and **Paolo Ciuccarelli** represented the graduate degree offerings in Information Design and Data Visualization. They had the opportunity to showcase student and faculty work and highlight various applications of the degrees. [N](#)

Center for Design / Department of Art + Design / Research / Global

Exploring Experience & Principles of Design

CAMD Associate Professor **Kristian Kloeckl**, and Assistant Professor **Miso Kim**, both faculty in the Experience Design program, were invited to the Experience and Principles of Design, an international working conference. They attended the session at Tongji University in Shanghai in May of 2019 – and were among a small group of internationally regarded design experts invited to participate.

The goal of the summit was to explore how to discuss principles and human experience and their influence on professional practice and design education. The three-day event challenged the invited design experts to reflect on the variety of principles in the Experience Design field, and provide an in-depth expression of the nature of principles and their implications for design practice in the new technological and economic environment of our time.

The conference was a confluence of diverse beliefs and values in the design and arts community. The ultimate outcome is expected to be a book of position papers that promote further discussion in the design professions and in education generally. The goal of this publication is to help professionals and students think clearly about how values and principles guide decision-making in the creation of new products in business and industry. [N](#)

IMPLICATIONS FOR DESIGN PRACTICE

A confluence of diverse beliefs and values in the design and arts community.

MFA Thesis Projects Take Center Stage in Dezeen Showcase

Thesis projects of CAMD's Art + Design students in the Experience Design and Information Design and Data Visualization Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programs were featured in Dezeen, the world's most influential architecture, interiors and design magazine. The projects – which are stunning, meaningful, and explore a wide range of topics – were showcased in Dezeen's Virtual Design Festival. The CAMD showcase launched on June 3, 2020 and remains available for online viewing. Congratulations to the students: **Anni Xu, Arushi Singh, Estefania Ciliotta Chehade, Houjiang Liu, Libby Thomas, Todd Linker, Yinan Dong, Yuan Hua, and Yuqing Liu**.

Students in these programs undergo a comprehensive, multi-phase thesis process. They work closely with their faculty advisors to scope their work focus and execute their own research. They develop a design project informed by this research, and critically discuss and document their work in the context of existing research, design work, and literature in the form of a thesis book.



Ames Noble and Hayley Cashman
Department of Theatre

Production: Mary Stuart
Photo by Lauren Scornavacca

CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Center for the Arts / Gallery 360 / Department of Art + Design

Helina Metaferia Debuts Solo Exhibition in Gallery 360

Interdisciplinary artist and educator Helina Metaferia made her debut solo exhibition in Boston at Northeastern’s Gallery 360, which opened on January 29, 2020. *Against a Sharp White Background* pays homage to a quote from

novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston: “I feel most colored when I am thrown against a sharp white background.”

Metaferia’s work is devoted to asserting the Black body

in sites of systemic oppression, including institutional spaces, art history, gentrified communities, or those landmarked by historic trauma. She uses performance, video, installation, photography, and mixed media collage – mostly based on her own body – to engage directly with urgent issues. She also invites community members to interact and respond, through workshops and participatory elements in her exhibitions.

The Northeastern exhibition offered an expansion of Metaferia’s *Refiguring the Canon* series, which interrogates notions of western exceptionalism in art history through performative interventions into iconic works of modern art.

“Although I use my own subjectivity a lot through performative documentation within the exhibition, I’m more interested in facilitating a conversation that has less to do with me, and more with rethinking institutional spaces and the narratives told within them,” Metaferia explained.



“The social and interactive components of the exhibition are about finding ways to share the platform I’ve been given, and give voice to those in the Northeastern and Boston community.”

Metaferia’s *Against a Sharp White Background* was an exciting and meaningful exhibition for CAMD’s Amy Halliday, Director of the Center for the Arts (CfA) and Curator of Gallery 360.

“As the first project curated in my new role at Northeastern, I was delighted to be working with Helina Metaferia, whose work is so resonant in our institutional setting, and also in relation to current movements to decolonize museums, and to rethink whose stories are told or valorized, and how, and why,” said Halliday.



This exhibition challenged visitors to question their own privilege and power in community spaces, through five self-reflective questions mounted on the walls in vinyl.



“It’s a pleasure to create a living and evolving exhibition in conjunction with the community, and social engagement and performance add life into the work, particularly work that cites those who are no longer living,” Metaferia explained.



Metaferia was excited to return to Boston as an alumna of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) at Tufts University. “I left Boston right after graduating, so this is a homecoming of sorts,” she said. [N](#)

Center for Design / Center for the Arts / Department of Art + Design / Global

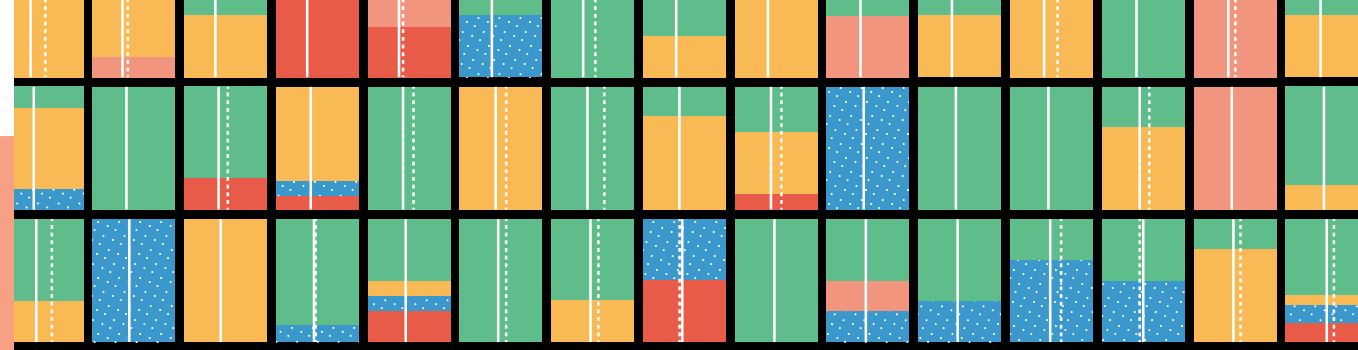
Da Vinci Takes Center Stage in First U.S. Presentation of Codex Atlanticus Data Visualization Interactive Project

In the fall of 2019, Northeastern hosted the debut U.S. presentation of a first-of-its-kind interactive digital installation of the famous Codex Atlanticus – the most extensive existing collection of drawings and text by Renaissance artist, Leonardo da Vinci. The masterpiece follows his works around the subjects of math, science, art, engineering, and the humanities from 1478 to 1519, though these subjects would have been complementary rather than more formally distinct areas of inquiry in the period. Students, faculty, and the general public had the opportunity to access and participate with one of the world’s greatest sets of texts in high resolution by leveraging the software’s extensive metadata framework.

The Codex, especially in its digitized format, unlocks a sense of who Leonardo da Vinci was and what areas he was interested in throughout his life. The installation gave people an up-close look at how Leonardo would work on the same subject over and over again with a focus on experimentation, iteration, and observation: part of the artistic and scientific process simultaneously.

In the application, viewers are able to look through unbound pages in any order, creating a unique perspective and a new learning experience. The installation was organized by Northeastern University, Professor **Paolo Ciuccarelli**, and CAMD’s Center for Design and Center for the Arts, with sponsorship from the Italian Consulate and the Office of the Provost, and the original application was developed by a partnership between the Biblioteca Ambrosiana and the Milan-based design firm The Visual Agency.

The Codex Atlanticus website has won several awards and official prizes. It was named Site of the Day at the FWA Awards and the CSS Design Awards; recognized as Best UI Design, Best UX Design, and Best Innovation at the Awwwards; and has been included in the longlist of the renowned Information Is Beautiful Awards. It was also recognized in the Design of the Year and the Digital Arts and Graphic Design categories at the Novum Design Awards, and was named the “Best Data Visualization” at the Webby Awards, which is “the internet’s highest honor” according to *The New York Times*. [N](#)



Center for Design / Center for the Arts / Department of Art + Design / Global

Interdisciplinary Panel Underscores Creative Practice as Research

After the unveiling of the digital installation of the Codex Atlanticus, on November 20, 2019, an interdisciplinary panel allowed attendees to reflect and expand on the discussion, underscoring how CAMD catalyzes both the discussion and manifestation of creative practice as research. The panelists were: **Matteo Bonera**, Creative Director of The Visual Agency and professor at Politecnico di Milano; **Rev. Prof. Francesco Braschi** of the Biblioteca Ambrosiana; **Cammy Brothers**, Associate Professor of Art + Design and Architecture in the College of Arts, Media and Design; **Paolo Ciuccarelli**, Professor of Design in the College of Arts, Media and Design, and Director of the Center for Design; and **Amy Halliday** (Moderator), Director of the Center for the Arts.

“Leonardo da Vinci is a fascinating figure in part because he made his living as a painter but today we tend to think of him, at least in popular culture, primarily as an inventor and scientist,” said Professor Cammy Brothers. “In the Renaissance, the distinction between art and science didn’t exist, they were both parts of the practice of observation.”

“The Codex Atlanticus application opens new possibilities to explore the complexity of such deep content,” added Matteo Bonera, of the Visual Agency. “The design of the application has opened a new paradigm to data visualization: the general overview offers a unique representation of the evolution of Leonardo da Vinci’s thought; while providing easy access to his work to people with no previous literacy.”

Mons. Francesco Braschi of the Biblioteca Ambrosiana added, “by means of the software developed by The Visual Agency, such an extremely sophisticated tool – and yet simple for the users’ experience – today we can look deeper inside the mind of Leonardo, learning his leading interests in the various times of his life, and even detecting the goals he was not able to achieve. Indeed, a thorough examination of all the desires, projects, plans conceived by him shows how many of his presumptive inventions and discoveries were... just a draft.”

And who knows where these “drafts” may take us next? The installation was set up in Northeastern’s Interdisciplinary Science & Engineering Complex (ISEC) atrium, allowing for direct engagement. [N](#)



Department of Music / Research / Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Leading Center for Curiosity-Driven Research, IAS, Accepts Professor of Musicology

Deirdre Loughridge, Assistant Professor of Musicology, was accepted to the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), one of the world's leading centers for curiosity-driven basic research, as a visiting member for the 2019-2020 academic year. The Institute – which brings together scholars from historical studies, mathematics, natural sciences, and social science – provides a collaborative backdrop for research and creative study. Since 1930, it has served as a model for protecting and promoting independent inquiry and highlighting the importance of academic freedom around the world.

Loughridge is the first scholar from Northeastern who has been invited to the Institute as a Member in the School of Historical Studies. Her membership will allow her to continue exploring how music has been used to define the nature of, and the relationships between, humans and machines from the 18th century to today.

“There are many examples of viewing humans and machines as inherently oppositional and binary,” said Loughridge. “Historically, machines have been seen as threatening to humans in the context of music, but we are now seeing more examples of the two intertwining and collaborating. This sense of collaboration is becoming the more prominent paradigm, and there is now more often a harmonious view that machines can contribute to human expressivity or creativity.” [N](#)

A MORE PROMINENT PARADIGM

Music defines the nature of humans and machines from the 18th century to today.

Department of Theatre

Teaching, Learning & Performing in a Digital World

While many aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been challenging and uncertain, in the spring of 2020, the CAMD community embraced the opportunity to shift online and continue to come together, remain engaged, and move forward in positive and productive ways. The Department of Theatre proved that even the most hands-on and performance-based classes can be implemented online; when dedicated faculty and students come together, creative spaces can be created anywhere.

One example of a hands-on course that pivoted online that spring is called Viewpoints, taught by **Jonathan Carr**, Associate Teaching Professor. Viewpoints is an improvisational movement technique and training, where groups of students react to each other in real-time and space and create physical choreography together. While the course is grounded in in-person interactions, “we had to come to terms with the fact we were going to give it a try” online, as Professor Carr explained – and the result exceeded expectations.

Another Department of Theatre course, Movement for the Actor – taught by **Jesse Hinson**, Associate Teaching Professor – took a new shape. For the final projects, students (who would normally perform in a studio space on-campus) were filmed in their backyards, from their living rooms, or anywhere else they could find space during the nationwide lockdown. Under Professor Hinson’s direction, the students embraced the opportunity to push creative boundaries, and the final projects concluded the course in a meaningful way.

This flexibility, and ability to adapt quickly, is at the heart of CAMD. From Viewpoints to Movement for the Actor, and other classes and initiatives in between, the Department of Theatre has played a central role in showcasing how creative engagement does not stop online. [N](#)

Design for Emergency: Understanding Hopes, Challenges & Fears Surrounding COVID-19

The Design for Emergency project is an open design platform aimed at helping the global community face the COVID-19 health emergency together. The project underscores the power of design in improving the experiences of people confined to their homes during the pandemic.

Paolo Ciuccarelli and **Sara Colombo**, of the CfD, used tools available to them to create the first iteration of the Design for Emergency platform, focusing on Italy, in the spring of 2020. They created and disseminated a survey to understand the fears, challenges, and hopes of those living there. The response was overwhelming; they analyzed them, along with a team of volunteers, to create visualizations and summarize the responses.

The survey results and visualizations were used to inform the design phase, which is ongoing.

“The network we have created is very committed, and it could be a solid base for future initiatives” said Ciuccarelli and Colombo.

Christelle Girimana
Department of Theatre

Production: Mary Stuart
Photo by Lauren Scornavacca

Center for the Arts / School of Architecture / Department of Music / Department of Theatre / Gallery 360 / Global / Research

Meet the Center for the Arts (CfA) Fellows

The Center for the Arts Research Fellows is a group of CAMD faculty engaged in research, scholarship and creative activity over the 2019/20 year. This year, the group—**Amanda Reeser Lawrence** (Architecture), **Rebekah E. Moore** (Music) and **Antonio Ocampo-Guzman** (Theatre)—working in collaboration with **Amy Halliday**, Director of the Center for the Arts, focused their research on the intersection of Creative Critical Practice and Ethical Inquiry. Catalyzed by the Gallery 360 exhibition *Against*

a Sharp White Background, (curated by Halliday) in which artist Helina Metaferia interrogates the canonical narratives and exclusionary practices of the art world and academia, the Fellows developed and hosted a day-long February convening with colleagues across departments and campuses (including the New College of the Humanities, London) called “Interrupting the Canon.” Bringing together staff and faculty ranging from religion to law, sociology to student affairs,

philosophy to health sciences, they explored how both systems of knowledge and forms of professional practice and hierarchy in academia participate in persistent, structural inequity, and considered how we might think differently, in and through the arts. The day culminated in a feminist production of Schiller’s *Mary Stuart* directed by Ocampo-Guzman.

This convening helped foster a successful Tier 1 grant proposal, led by the Center for the Arts Fellows and including collaborators in the School of Law, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, and College of Social Sciences and Humanities, focusing on the intersection of racial justice, public health, and arts provision in the City of Boston. Moreover, the work of the research fellows has also instigated ongoing efforts in the Music, Theatre and Architecture departments to decolonize and decanonize the curriculum, the classroom, and these industries/fields more broadly. The second component of the fellowship, rescheduled due to Covid-19, will focus on a co-production with the acclaimed Company One, of a new play by local author David Valdés. *Downtown Crossing*, which tells the story of immigrants in Boston, will be a virtual performance featuring students from the Department of Theatre working as producers, designers, actors, designers and dramaturgy.

Research Fellows are faculty members across the College of Arts, Media and Design who are engaged in research, scholarship and creative activity in critical strategic areas for the College. Fellows are appointed for one-year terms and placed in interdisciplinary teams, where they develop and expand their research agendas and work toward securing external funding. Fellows engage with the CAMD community and the larger university environment through organized research events and informal discussions. They also serve as an informal advisory board to the Center for the Arts. [N](#)

Faculty Publications Spotlight

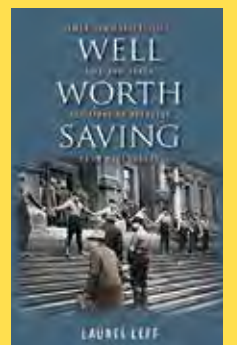
Our faculty write a broad range of publications that explore relevant, complex topics – and challenge readers to view the world in new ways.



Brooke Foucault Welles



Jonathan Kaufman



Laurel Leff

School of Journalism / Department of Art + Design / Media Advocacy / Video Storytelling / Global / Gallery 360

Award-Winning Video Storytelling Projects Showcase Cuba's Culture, People, and Truths

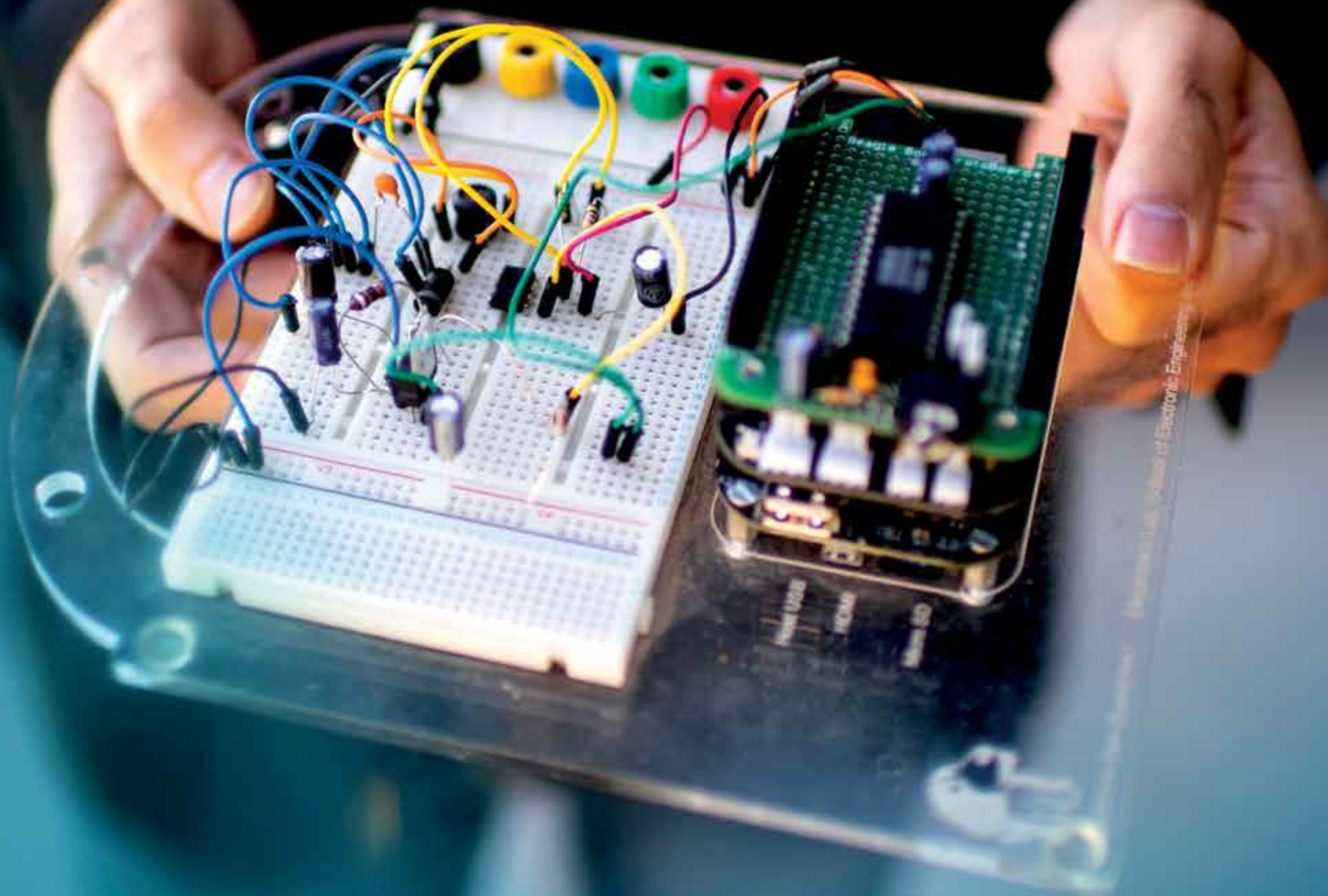
Video storytelling projects by Journalism students were recognized with Boston/New England Emmy Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in May of 2020. Both winning projects were produced during the 2019 spring break trip to Cuba led by Professor **Carlene Hempel**. In the College/University Magazine Program category, *Cuba: Behind the Blockade* – featuring stories by **Jonathan Mejia**, **Daniel Hentz**, and **Seamus McAvoy** – earned top recognition.

Jonathan Mejia – who was a recipient of support from The Joe Thomas Explore the World Fund, which helps make it possible for Journalism students to have international experiences – explored a new 3G network and how it is evolving Cuban communication. “The reason I wanted to pursue journalism was to meet people and tell their stories and their truths, so it was incredibly special to get to meet these residents in Cuba and hear what’s going on,” he said. Daniel Hentz focused on Cuban coral reefs and the country’s surprisingly sophisticated storm resiliency. “This trip to Cuba was a chance to do what I came to Northeastern for: craft stories that require me to immerse myself into an environment in a way that is personal and meaningful,” said Hentz. Seamus McAvoy, who was also a recipient of support from The Joe Thomas Explore the World Fund, examined the country’s age-old reliance on traditional medicines. “Completing an embedded course like this, where we were on the ground reporting, has been the single most valuable learning experience in my journalism career so far – both academic and professional,” he said.

In the Arts & Entertainment/Cultural Affairs category, *Hip Hop in Cuba* – produced by **Collyn Stephens** – took top place. Her project introduces viewers to some of the young hip hop performers who claim they are “architects” of Cuba’s newest musical genre. For the trip, Collyn was also a recipient of support from The Joe Thomas Explore the World Fund. These award-winning projects are both part of *Detrás del Bloqueo* (Behind the Embargo), a School of Journalism production that highlights all of the reporting from the 2019 spring break in Cuba.

This student work was showcased in a Gallery 360 exhibition entitled *Cuba: Detrás del Bloqueo/Behind the Blockade*. The exhibition highlighted work from academic programs led in 2018 and 2019 by CAMD professors **Luis Brens** (Department of Art + Design) and **Carlene Hempel** (School of Journalism) that brought students to Cuba. [N](#)





Victor Zappi
Department of Music

Professor Zappi's research focuses on the exploration of virtual reality technologies as a means of musical expression; physiology of perception and interaction; immersive virtual musical interfaces.

Photo by Matthew Mодоono/
Northeastern University

RADICALLY RELEVANT RESEARCH

Department of Music / Research

Grammy Museum Grant Funds Research on Musical Anhedonia

Assistant Professor **Psyche Loui**, Department of Music, has been researching musical anhedonia, a neurological condition that causes about five percent of people to not enjoy music. Considering the close link between music and social behavior (think mixtapes, live performances, or shared headphones), Professor Psyche Loui (along with her colleague Ajay Satpute of the College of Science) is asking if the phenomenon that makes music undesirable could also be what impairs social bonding, something associated with autism spectrum disorders.

Loui received a grant from the GRAMMY Museum to fund this research on musical anhedonia; the GRAMMY Museum Grant Program awarded \$200,000 in grants to 15 recipients in the United States to help facilitate a range of research on a variety of subjects, as well as support a number of archiving and preservation programs. Professor Loui, who studies music's effect on cognitive health and the brain, will be working on her project that will identify the incidence and neural



substrates of musical anhedonia. It will test the relationship between musical reward sensitivity and difficulties with social bonding, which is characteristic in people with autism spectrum disorders.

As part of her ongoing research, Loui is working with Brain.fm to create music that optimizes the brain's efficiency, even in the short term. This music contains energy at specific frequencies; your neurons, when you're focused on something, fire at a similar rate. And through a phenomenon called entrainment, the music can then trigger your brain to modulate at that rate, which can help you focus.

To further explore the deep, visceral potential of music, Loui has also begun to study the effects of music therapy on mild cognitive impairments, which can be an early sign of dementia. The researchers—who include Suzanne Hanser of Berklee College of Music and Dr. Maiya Geddes of Brigham and Women's Hospital—hope to coax participants into deepened states of relaxation by asking them to listen to curated playlists, a process that Loui says could help participants recover certain faculties that were compromised by memory loss. [N](#)



THE VISCERAL
POTENTIAL OF MUSIC

Testing relationships
between musical reward
sensitivity and difficulties
with social bonding, a
characteristic of autism
spectrum disorders.

Above: Photo by Ruby Wallau/Northeastern University
Opposite: Photo by Matthew Modoono/Northeastern University

CAMD Sponsors New Awards at RISE

Known as RISE, Northeastern’s Research, Innovation and Scholarship Expo highlights faculty and student research. Each year, there are hundreds of presenters who have been nominated and vetted to be part of the expo, and share their breadth and depth of research, entrepreneurship, and scholarship with guests and judges. In spring of 2020, CAMD sponsored three new RISE Focus Awards: the Data and Digital Storytelling Awards, the Design Awards, and the Health Communication Awards.

“Launching these awards was a terrific opportunity for us to showcase some of the exciting student work taking place at CAMD, and to emphasize the reach and importance of our disciplines,” said Katherine Calzada, CAMD’s Assistant Dean for Research Development. “Our Focus Awards were open to students from all colleges, and we reviewed excellent submissions from across the university. Design, storytelling, and communication are critical tools in the world today, and CAMD is a frontrunner in pushing the boundaries of these disciplines.”

The Data and Digital Storytelling Awards recognize one undergraduate and one graduate student or team whose RISE presentation deftly applies tools of design, data visualization, text mining or mapping, journalistic investigation, or creative storytelling to draw attention to an important idea, problem, or challenge. The award is jointly sponsored by CAMD and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH). This year’s winners: Undergraduate students **Zachary Bennett-Engler** (Khoury College of Computer

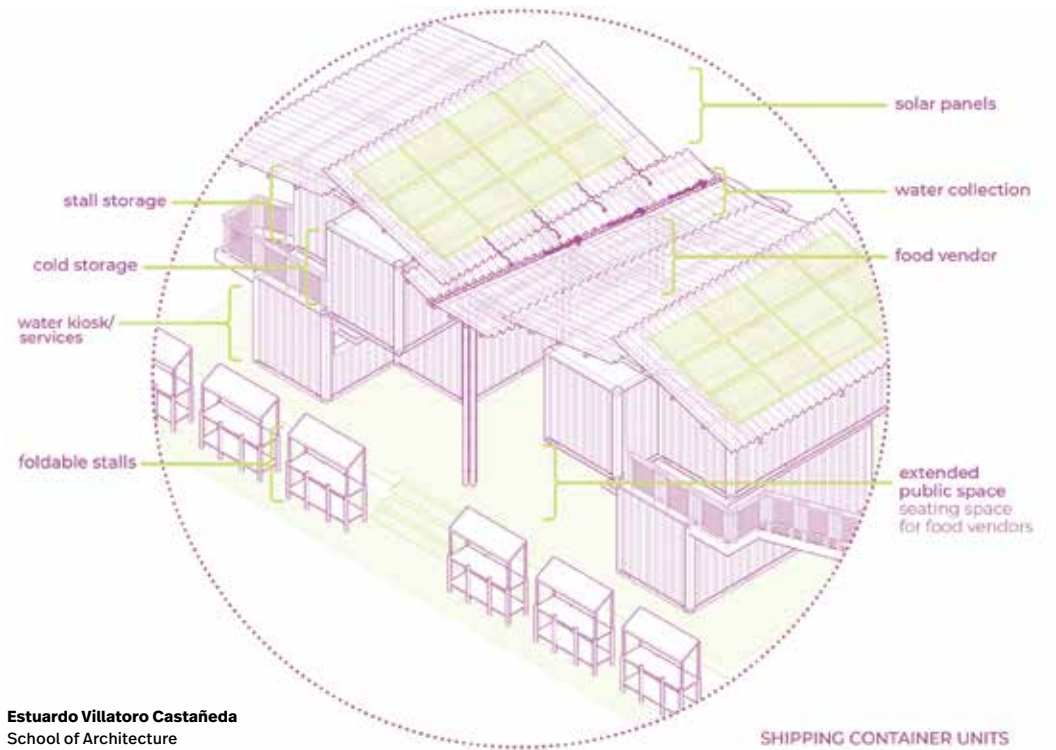
Sciences), **Jillian Arkin-Burns** (Khoury College of Computer Sciences), **Kiley Choi** (D’Amore McKim School of Business), and **Rucha Khanolkar** (Khoury College of Computer Sciences) for their project *Curious Boston: How does public data flow through the city?* The faculty advisor on this project was **Mark Sivak**, Associate Teaching Professorin CAMD and the College of Engineering. The graduate student winner was **Jordan Clark** (CSSH) for the project *Building Multimodal Human Perception AI to Quantify Lifelong Learning*.

The Design Awards, sponsored by CAMD, recognize projects that best exemplify how design principles and the design process conceive of and shape innovative ideas and solutions to challenging, multi-disciplinary problems. Design, an interdisciplinary and integrative discipline at the core of CAMD, has the capacity to map the complex dynamics of an issue, foresee its evolution, and shape tangible and intangible interfaces, experiences, services and systems – and it can empower the network between and across disciplines. This year’s winners are undergraduate student **Vidhan Bhaiya** (College of Engineering) for the project (also advised by Professor Sivak) *Dr. Brinsley: Diabetics don’t need to choose between looking good and saving their foot* and graduate student **Estuardo Villatoro Castaneda** (CAMD, School of Architecture) for the project *Women: Heart and Head of the Haitian Economy*.

Third, the Health Communication Awards, sponsored jointly by CAMD and Bouvé College of Health Sciences, recognizes projects that

examine contemporary health communication challenges that are paired with viable solutions. Communication is a critical tool in the health sciences; it includes crafting messages about health, developing strategies for promoting health-care services, and specific applications such as disease awareness and prevention. This

year’s winners, two undergraduate students, are **Maria Paz** (Bouvé) for the project *How to be an Ally: Evaluating an LGBTQ+ Healthcare Competency Intervention* and **Sarah Rathje** (CAMD, Department of Communication Studies) for the project *Evaluating a State-Wide Opioid Campaign Using the Health Belief Model and the Transtheoretical Model*. [↗](#)



Estuardo Villatoro Castañeda
School of Architecture
Women: Head and Heart of the Haitian Economy
Framework to redevelop the City of Arcahaie Market Area

Architecture Students Sweep RISE Awards, Spring 2020

CAMD students, especially from our School of Architecture, have always been well-prepared and positioned for success at RISE; their dedication and time in studio, at critiques, and in developing large scale, thoroughly researched projects have helped them develop the skill set for independent research and innovative thinking.

The team project that earned the RISE Award in Research, entitled *Invasive Infrastructure*, is a research-based system to utilize existing ecology as green infrastructure for resilience and public health. The group of Architecture students – **Anastasia Leopold** (undergraduate), **Alex Bondi** (undergraduate), and **Kalpana Bhandari** (graduate) – proposed a series of discrete interventions utilizing *Phragmites australis* to restore and strengthen marshland while addressing multiple contaminant types across various timescales and threats.

Elizabeth Farrell, a graduate student in the School of Architecture, earned the Outstanding Research Award in Humanities and Arts for her project *An Everyday Utopia: Water, Energy, Waste in Haiti*. Her project proposes a utopian vision for Haiti – a country replete with culture, life, and vibrancy – in the form of a living, working, and learning utopia that integrates all three of these infrastructural challenges within a unified framework. Elizabeth proposes an integrated and self-sustaining approach to development that makes use of renewable power sources, local water systems and an informal approach to waste management.

Architecture graduate student **Estuardo Viallato Castaneda** was recognized with the RISE Design Award (sponsored by CAMD). Entitled *Women: Head and Heart of the Haitian Economy*, his project proposes a set of essential services and complementary programs geared towards the empowerment of Haitian women, tied to the spaces and sites where they work and interact on a daily basis, to relieve some of the daily pressures they face to perform their economic activities. Through a combination of spatial and social interventions within Arcahaie's central market and its surrounding areas, the project aims to provide a platform to improve the current working conditions of informal vendors. The proposal builds upon frameworks, such as the Sirleaf Market Women's Fund in Liberia and the Fonkoze Foundation in Haiti, to identify the needs of women working around the marketplace, with the aim of bringing greater visibility to the hidden labor of women that forms an essential component of Haitian society.

Last, a team of graduate students – **George Hajar**, **Natalie Clark**, **Lin Xu**, **Noah Yu**, **Justin Chiovitti** – were recognized with the Interdisciplinary Topics, Centers and Institutes Award for their project *Disaster Relief Planning Organization (DRPO)*. According to their project, preemptive action and community engagement yield effective plans that are locally specific and feasible to implement, while also teaching skills to develop more sustainable communities in the future. [N](#)



Elizabeth Farrell
School of Architecture

Everyday Utopia
A means to bring clean water, clean energy, and waste management strategies to Arcahaie



Department of Communication Studies,
Television studio in Shillman Hall.
Photo by Brandon Farrell

Faculty Across Disciplines Explore Some of Today's Most Relevant Research Topics

Northeastern's TIER 1 Awards provide support for interdisciplinary research, seeking to stimulate exciting and innovative directions and increase the competitiveness of external proposals. Of the five CAMD projects awarded in the spring of 2020, three feature CAMD faculty members as Contact Principal Investigators, exploring relevant topics such as the relationship between racial and health equity and the arts, the influence of today's new media ecosystems, and the effects of a sensory stimulation intervention, delivered via music and lights, on brain and cognitive function.

Advancing Racial and Health Equity through the Arts: A Community-Engaged Research Study in the City of Boston is a community-engaged exploratory project to investigate inclusive arts participation as an effective strategy to advance racial and health equity by building community identity, solidarity, and empowerment. The CAMD faculty members on the project are **Rebekah Moore** (Music, Contact Principal Investigator), **Amanda Reeser Lawrence** (Architecture), and **Antonio Ocampo-Guzman** (Theatre). They were the Center for the Arts Research Fellows for 2019-2020. They are working in collaboration with faculty from the College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) and Bouvé College of Health Sciences.

Information Filtering in Social Media and Formation of Misbeliefs addresses an overarching question

of how information filtering systems in social media operate, and how they affect the formation of misbeliefs or misperception. The CAMD faculty include **Myojung Chung** (Journalism, Contact Principal Investigator), **John Wihbey** (Journalism), and **Sara Colombo** (Center for Design), who are working in collaboration with faculty from the New College of the Humanities.

Multimodal Brain Stimulation for Healthy Neurocognitive Aging will test the effects of a sensory stimulation intervention, delivered via music and lights, that are frequency-tuned to individual brain network dynamics, on brain and cognitive function among older adults. The project lead is CAMD's **Psyche Loui** (Music, Contact Principal Investigator), working with College of Science's **Arthur Kramer** (Psychology).

In addition to these three CAMD-led projects, CAMD faculty are also working on two projects alongside Contact Principal Investigators from other Northeastern colleges: *Understanding Compliance with AI Advice for the Design of Better Human-Machine Hybrids* – led by D'Amore McKim's **Yael Karlinsky Shichor** (Marketing), along with **Casper Hartevelde** (Art + Design) – and *Community Resilience in Extreme Temperatures* led by the College of Engineering's **Michael Kane** (Civil and Environmental Engineering), alongside CAMD's **Michelle Laboy** (Architecture) and **David Fannon** (Architecture/Civil and Environmental Engineering). [↗](#)

Research Spotlights

A sampling of the faculty-driven creative practice happening in CAMD

SARA JENSEN CARR

Professor **Sara Jensen Carr** was a leading voice in the conversations surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, sharing her insight from a design perspective. She was featured in international news outlets such as *CNN*, *The New York Times*, *Fast Company*, and *The Guardian*. As the virus spread, and cities around the world shut down, many architecture and design experts explored the relationship between disease and public space – and the potential value of physical spaces, like public parks, during an epidemic.

Carr's upcoming book, *The Topography of Wellness: Health and the American Urban Landscape* (University of Virginia Press), dives into a similar topic, examining landscape responses to six historical urban epidemics and the implication for current and future practice. She has been able to apply this research – as well as her broader research about the connections between landscape, human health, urban ecology, and design – to the discussions that took place as the world responded to, and found ways to prevent the increased spread of, coronavirus.

MYOJUNG CHUNG

An article by Professor **Myojung Chung**, *Effects of Media Frame and Onset Controllability on Support for Postpartum Depression Policy* (August 2019), explores how media framing and onset controllability (whether the cause is perceived as controllable) influence support for policies that help postpartum depression patients. While postpartum depression – which can have a wide range of symptoms – constitutes a serious public health concern, it often remains undetected and untreated. At the same time, we know that media coverage can exert meaningful influence on public attitudes and have an impact on the establishment of relevant policies to prevent and solve public health problems. Professor Chung's article, published in the *Journal of Health Communication*, explores how these two concepts are woven together, and how and why media frames determine public attitudes toward postpartum depression policies.

Research Spotlights

RYAN ELLIS

A new book by Professor **Ryan Ellis** provides an examination of how post-9/11 security concerns have transformed the public view and governance of infrastructure. *Letters, Power Lines, and Other Dangerous Things: The Politics of Infrastructure Security* offers new insights into the political origins of critical infrastructure vulnerability, and argues that decades of deregulation resulted in infrastructures that were increasingly vulnerable to attacks and failures. Post-9/11 security changes, however, in some cases began to allow public supervision and accountability to be restored to these infrastructures; Professor Ellis argues that it has been a “stunning transformation.” The book, published through MIT Press in March 2020, took on a new relevance and applications in the midst of the current COVID-19 pandemic.



CASPER HARTEVELD

The ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, which was supposed to take place from April 25–30, 2020 in Honolulu but was adapted in various digital ways due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is a place where researchers and practitioners with highly diverse backgrounds gather from around the world to discuss the latest trends, findings, and ideas in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI). Before being cancelled, the 2020 conference accepted multiple papers by the research group led by Professor **Casper Hartevelde**; two of the papers were recognized with prestigious awards. The papers were published and are available online, along with the accompanying presentations.

The paper entitled *Exploring How Game Genre in Student-Designed Games Influences Computational Thinking Development* was recognized with an ACM CHI Best Paper Award. The paper entitled *Introducing Gamettes: A Playful Approach for Capturing Decision-Making for Informing Behavioral Models* was recognized with an ACM CHI Honorable Mention Award. The other two papers published at the conference were: *And This, Kids, Is How I Met Your Mother: Consumerist, Mundane, and Uncanny Futures with Sex Robots* and *LBW317: Learning from Gamettes: Imitating Human Behavior in Supply Chain Decisions Authors*.

More recently, his team is conducting a gamified story completion method study that challenges participants to imagine what the world will look like post-COVID.

Research Spotlights

BOBETTE BUSTER

A documentary entitled *Making Waves: The Art of Cinematic Sound*, written and produced by CAMD faculty member **Bobette Buster** attracted national attention and accolades. *Making Waves*, which made its international premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2019 and had its world premiere at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival in the spring of 2019, explores the impact of movie sound through insight from cinema’s biggest directors and their go-to sonic collaborators – **Walter Murch, Ben Burt, Gary Rydstrom, George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Barbra Streisand, Ryan Coogler**. It was screened at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. *Making Waves* was reviewed by the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Economist*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Guardian*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, and *The New York Times*, which also named the film a “NYT Critic’s Pick.”

SUSAN MELLO

Professor **Susan Mello** contributed to a study entitled *Trends in the Prevalence of Exposure to e-Cigarette Aerosol in Public Places Among US Middle and High School Students, 2015 to 2018* (August 2019), that examines the prevalence of exposure to e-cigarette aerosol in public places, particularly among middle and high school students in the United States. She collaborated with researchers from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the University of Illinois Urbana, and Michigan State University to produce the study, which was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

DAVID FANNON

David Fannon is on a team of three Northeastern professors that was awarded a Department of Energy Grant in April of 2020. The US Department of Energy awarded the professors \$2.2 million to create an open dataset characterizing occupant-centric control of grid-interactive efficient buildings. The team is led by **Michael Kane**, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, who will serve as principal investigator. Professor Kane will be joined by co-investigators David Fannon, as well as **Misha Pavel**, ECE affiliated faculty & Professor of Practice of Computer Science and Health Sciences.

The team is looking to design smarter occupant-centric building control algorithms that learn user behavior, are easy to use, and can correctly predict HVAC performance and power draw. The project takes a novel approach to cost-effectively produce and share a large dataset on characterizing grid-interactive efficient buildings and occupant behavior.



EXPLORING THE TRANSGENDER
EXPERIENCE IN SPACE

Sojourner 2020 has an
unprecedented collection of
international artists,
in order to democratize
access to space.

Photo by Ruby Wallau/Northeastern University



Photo by Adriana Knouf

Department of Art + Design / Research

Sojourner 2020 Features CAMD Faculty Artwork

Through the MIT Media Lab Space Exploration Initiative, Professor **Adriana Knouf**, Department of Art + Design, was one of the nine artist groups whose work was on board Sojourner 2020, an international art payload to the ISS. Sojourner 2020 highlights the ways in which the arts can contribute to new means of encountering space. While access to space is becoming more possible due to commercial launch providers, those sending projects often remain scientific or engineering researchers. Sojourner 2020 broadens this to include an unprecedented collection of international artists, thereby both democratizing access to space as well as opening space exploration to transdisciplinary perspectives. By including projects from indigenous peoples and gender minorities, the project additionally enacts key values of human dignity and equality.

Professor Knouf's piece is called TX-1, and explores the transgender experience in space. As she describes: "TX-1 launches bits of my hormone replacement medications, marking the first-known time that elements of the transgender experience orbit the earth. TX-1 includes a fragment of my spironolactone pill, a slice of my estradiol patch, and a miniature handmade paper sculpture, included to gesture towards the absent-yet-present xenoentities of the cosmos. A symbolic exodus to an orbit high above, the eventual return of TX-1 to Earth is also a sign of resilience, of not being disposed, of coming back to thrive once again."

Sojourner 2020 was launched into low earth orbit for about a month. It featured a three-layer telescoping structure which creates three different "gravities": zero gravity, lunar gravity, and Martian gravity. Each layer of the structure rotated independently. [N](#)

Co-op of a Lifetime: Ruhani Nigam Works at NASA's Johnson Space Center

Northeastern student **Ruhani Nigam**, Communications Studies, completed a co-op at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas in the spring of 2020. She was part of the communications team for NASA's Orion program; Orion is the only spacecraft designed for long-duration, human deep space exploration. On this team, Ruhani's key responsibilities included writing an event plan for Orion executives and employees, representing the Orion program at a STEM conference for high school teachers, and working on a children's story book about Orion. Her co-op ended up transitioning to a digital position due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"My advice would be to not be deterred from working in STEM fields as a communications major," said Ruhani. "I find it challenging and rewarding to be able to learn about technical topics such as spacecraft technologies and planetary sciences and convey them in a more concise and generally understandable way. And on the other side, the minds behind these scientific findings are extremely appreciative of communications teams conveying their hard-earned findings to different audiences."

Media Studios Organization / New Technologies / AR/VR / Immersive Media

Integrating Media & Technology at CAMD

CAMD's Media Studios Organization (MSO) provides tools and technical resources to support exploration and innovation in communication, design, and the arts. The group promotes the integration of media and technology into student and faculty work by providing entry-level trainings and advanced-level workshops.

The MSO's New Technologies Labs are state-of-the-art resources for AR/VR, biometrics, user testing research, and teaching. The labs encompass high-end technology that fosters an environment of development and learning, drives independent and collaborative projects pursued by faculty and students, and supports experiential course work. Current work in the labs include: biometrics-driven research with eye-tracking glasses, Shimmer and iMotion software; design research and digital storytelling with tools such as 360 VR cameras, Magic Leap, HoloLens and Oculus Go; user testing with a one-way mirror environment, camera setups and high-end computing.

Other MSO Labs include: Experiential Technologies Lab, Game Design Lab, Immersive Media Labs, and Physical Computing Lab. The MSO staff also oversees CAMD's Makerspaces, Production Studios, and Computer Lab. [N](#)

Teo Boley and Nicolette Tovstashy
Both CAMD and Khoury students

Image stills from a student-made VR experience titled *CyberPyramid*, an escape room themed around Egyptian cyberpunk featuring color-puzzle keys that explore the scenic sections of the build.



WHY DOES VR MATTER?

Virtual realities can be designed for specific human interactions and experiences that are not otherwise possible.

VR technology has the potential to revolutionize healthcare, education, theatre and film, and more.

THE YEAR OF DISRUPTION

The 2019-2020 academic year began with many highlights, innovations, and accomplishments.

We embarked on new research ventures, invested in the latest new technologies, collaborated with partners around the world, launched our Center for Design, placed the first CAMD-curated show in Gallery 360, and opened the new CAMD Media Hub – an interdisciplinary collaboration space primarily for students and faculty – among countless newsworthy items, many of which have been represented in this showcase. As we were settling into a productive spring semester, we could have never anticipated the disruption the year 2020 would bring to our college, the country, and the world. In March, the coronavirus pandemic challenged our community to pivot, innovate, and stay creative in unprecedented ways and under the most unexpected circumstances.

Leading this type of innovation is at the heart of CAMD – and our faculty, staff, and students quickly proved that creative engagement could meet the challenges courageously.

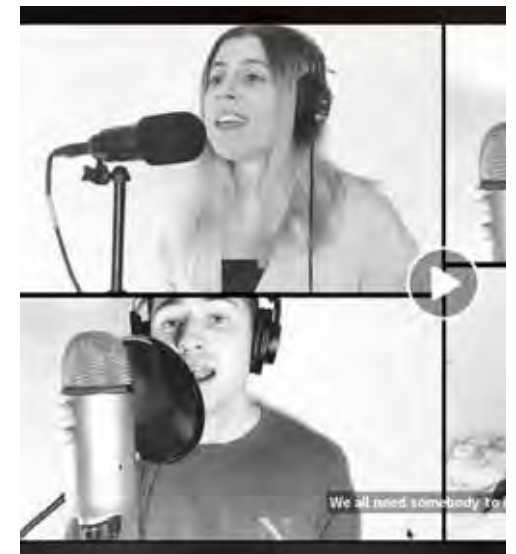
Our faculty pivoted to remote teaching, while continuing to prioritize experiential learning. In many cases, Zoom became the new classroom, and though this was not what anyone would have chosen, through the guidance and leadership of our professors and the flexibility and commitment of our students, we continued to discover new ways of engaging productively. Department of Theatre's **Jesse Hinson** encouraged students to use this new digital learning environment as a way to push creative boundaries. In his *Movement for the Actor* class, students filmed their final projects in their backyards, from their living rooms, or anywhere else they could find space during the nationwide lockdown. In the School of Journalism, **Carlene Hempel**'s students adapted to cover the COVID-19 pandemic, learning an important lesson about being able to switch gears quickly and seamlessly as a journalist. We witnessed incredible examples of adapting to online teaching



and learning environments – and successfully accommodating various time-zones and staying connected at a distance – across all of CAMD's departments.

Research in CAMD also continued, and in many cases, the projects took on new relevance and meaning. A team led by Professor **Casper Hartevelde** in Art and Design began examining envisionings of a post-COVID society through a story completion game, while Professor **Jeff Howe** in Journalism applied his research on resiliency and problem-solving to mutual aid work, which has been at the center of the volunteer efforts happening in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Professor **Paolo Ciuccarelli** and **Sara Colombo** of CAMD's Center for Design (CfD) launched the Design for Emergency project, an open design platform aimed at helping the global community face the current health emergency together; and Professor **Sara Jensen Carr** of the School of Architecture became a leading voice in the conversations surrounding disease and public space – and the potential value of physical spaces, like public parks, during an epidemic.



Sydney DellaRatta and Jake Poulos
Department of Music

Department of Music students recorded a rendition of *Lean on Me* by Bill Withers to celebrate their graduation. It was incorporated into the digital Class of 2020 graduation ceremony.

OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The goal is to ensure CAMD is a place where our core values can function and thrive – in a context in which all community members feel safe, protected, and equally valued.



Photos for this story by Ruby Wallau/Northeastern University

As the academic semester concluded, CAMD hosted its first-ever digital graduation ceremony; it was a bittersweet opportunity, finding a new way to celebrate our graduating seniors while also bringing our community together to acknowledge the overwhelming challenges, change, and perseverance the last several months had brought us.

By this time, our students on co-op had adjusted to working from home, proving that experiential learning would not be sacrificed in the face of COVID-19. As the students and their employers transitioned to completely online working arrangements, we were reminded of the flexibility, professional nature, and commitment of both our students and our co-op partners – from *The Boston Globe* to Wayfair, from NASA to Universal Pictures.

The CAMD Media Studios Organization (MSO) team also met the challenge of COVID-19 creatively, finding myriad ways to allow students to continue to engage with the hands-on creative engagement of the Media Studios, even with the campus officially shut down. And they even went further, stepping into action to safely utilize our on-campus Maker Space to produce personal protective equipment for emergency responders working on the frontlines, making and distributing thousands of items.

As we settled into the “new normal” of digital learning, the year continued to challenge us as the country – and indeed the world – watched footage of the cruel and senseless death of George Floyd, the latest of many Black lives senselessly lost in our nation’s troubled history. Our community was angry, exhausted, stressed,

and frightened. We focused on reflection and action, with the goal to ensure CAMD is a place where our core values of creativity, communication, and collaboration can function and thrive – in a context in which all community members feel safe, protected, and equally valued. We spent weeks engaging in a difficult dialogue with our community in order to bring about meaningful change, and we received valuable feedback, personal stories, and suggestions that are informing action in the coming year and beyond.

In addition to opening up these lines of communication, CAMD created a new appointment in its Dean’s Office to spearhead diversity and inclusion efforts, the Special Assistant to the Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, supported in turn by a new Dean’s Racial and Social Justice Advisory Board. We look forward to the positive changes that the newly appointed Special Assistant, **Margarita Barrios Ponce**, Assistant Teaching Professor in Art + Design, together with the faculty, staff, and students on the Advisory Board, will help us push for, as we explore new programming and appointments, and spearhead new research around racial and social injustice across all of CAMD’s departments and schools this year.

This is just the beginning of a long path ahead, one that requires everyone’s dedication and participation. Progress will thrive when we work together, support each other, share our experiences and feedback, and commit to a future where all members of our community are treated with kindness, compassion, and equality. ✎

Academic Year
Fall 2019 –
Spring 2020

ADMINISTRATION

Elizabeth Hudson
Dean

Jane Amidon
Senior Associate Dean
of Graduate Studies and
Strategic Initiatives

Thomas Michael
Associate Dean for
Administration and Finance

Hilary Poriss
Associate Dean for Academic
Affairs, Faculty and Research

Andrea Raynor
Associate Dean for
Undergraduate Programs

Katherine Calzada
Assistant Dean for Research

Adam Smith
Assistant Dean for Academic
Programs

Jon Bernstein
Senior Director of Student
Enrollment, Undergraduate

Cathy Bright
Graduate Student
Enrollment Manager

Molly Chase
Senior Marketing and
Communications Manager

Paolo Ciuccarelli
Director of Center for Design

Richard Coren
Director of Marketing
and Communications

Mary Corluka
Director of Administration
and Finance

Nadia Elysse
Special Assistant and
Project Manager

Brandon Farrell
Web Assistant

Amy Halliday
Director of Center for the
Arts, Curator of Gallery360

Christopher Kelley
Development Officer

Carla Kindt
Interim Director of
Development

Trish Leavitt
Associate Creative Director

Brittani LeBel
Marketing Coordinator

Anjelica Montemayor
Events Specialist

Julie Newmeyer
Personnel Administration
Manager

Jennifer O'Connor
Development Associate

Nora Räsänen
Senior Reporting and
Budget Analyst

Ariel Rodriguez
Graduate Admissions
Coordinator

Andy Scott
IT Services

Moki Smith
Graduate Student Services
Manager

Tammi Westgate
Senior Grants Administrator

Roseanna Yip
Administrative Coordinator

Kelly Zona
Director of Media Services
Department

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Dan Adams
Director, Architecture

Ed Andrews
Interim Chair, Art + Design

Dan Godfrey
Chair, Music

Dale Herbeck
Chair, Communication Studies

Jonathan Kaufman
Director, Journalism

Antonio Ocampo-Guzman
Chair, Theatre



School of Architecture
Study model

The College of Arts, Media and Design is a vibrant community of scholars, practitioners, and entrepreneurs focused on understanding and shaping human experience in the age of artificial intelligence. Powered by Northeastern's renowned experience-driven learning model, faculty and students explore uncharted spaces between disciplines, from game and environmental design to augmented reality and other new forms of data-driven communication and artistic expression. The college is at the forefront of the university's humanics curriculum, integrating data and technological literacies with literacies that are uniquely human, from creativity, collaboration and communication to cultural agility.

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