

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Subject: Henry Russel Awards for 2021

I am pleased to inform you that the Henry Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Michael J. Solomon, met recently and selected four faculty members to receive Henry Russel Awards for 2021. This award, which recognizes both exceptional scholarship and conspicuous ability as a teacher, is one of the highest honors the University bestows upon junior faculty members. The awards will be presented on the occasion of the Henry Russel Lecture, to be delivered in the Winter Term of 2021.

The faculty members selected to receive this award are:

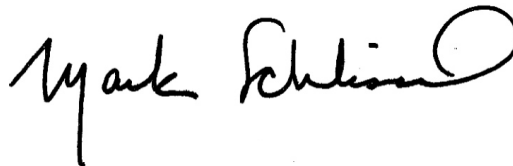
José Casas, Assistant Professor of Theatre, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Erin A. Cech, Assistant Professor of Sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research

Matthew A. Davis, Associate Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing and Associate Professor of Learning Health Sciences, Medical School

Johanna L. Mathieu, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Schlissel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mark S. Schlissel
President

July 2020
Attachment

José Casas

José Casas received his B.A (1992) degree in dramatic arts at the University of California, Santa Barbara, his M.A. (1997) degree in theatre arts from California State University, Los Angeles, and his M.F.A. (2003) degree in creative writing (playwriting) from Arizona State University. Before his appointment as assistant professor of theatre in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance (2016), he was a lecturer in playwriting, theater, and film at California State University, Los Angeles, the College of Charleston, and the University of Redlands, and had numerous guest artist residencies, including at the University of California, Riverside, New York University, Cornell University, University of Northern Colorado, and Indiana University.

Professor Casas is one of the leading voices in Latino theatre in the United States and a devoted advocate for children's theatre and the impact of storytelling on young actors and audiences. He has written and directed more than 25 plays and has been commissioned extensively by theaters throughout the country. Professor Casas is a pioneer in the creative use of ethnographic and documentary playwriting techniques to weave together powerful dramatizations of the lives of individuals and their communities. Committed to active community engagement, his creativity amplifies the voices and experience of the people around him and addresses issues of urgent and broad social impact. His recent commissioned work includes *Desvelado* for the Peppercorn Theatre in Winston-Salem, North Carolina (2019), *Pedro y El Lobo* for the Childplay Theatre Company in Tempe, Arizona and the Phoenix Symphony (2019), *jj's arcade* for ZACH Theatre in Austin, Texas (2015), and *antonia: a chicana hip-hop Antigone*, for Rising Youth Theatre in Phoenix, Arizona (2015). His play, *Flint—It's Not Just About the Water*, explores the implications of the water crisis through narratives inspired by the lives and stories of the people who endure the continued impact of this disaster. His work premiered in 2019 in the Arthur Miller Theatre and has been produced at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Currently, Professor Casas is being commissioned to create a Latinx bilingual adaptation of *Frankenstein* for Florida Studio Theatre as part of their National New Play Development Initiative. Professor Casas' work has been recognized with many awards, including the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) Distinguished Play Award for the most outstanding play for young people for *somebody's children* (2010) and *la ofrenda* (2007). In 2019 he published *Palabras del Cielo: An Exploration of Latina/o Theatre for Young Audiences*, one of the first collections of U.S. Latino plays, for which he was the recipient of the AATE's Distinguished Book Award.

Professor Casas is an exceptionally committed and inspiring teacher and mentor who is highly sought after by students. He teaches a wide variety of playwriting and theatre courses and developed a new Playwriting Minor in the Department of Theatre & Drama. His many students, lavish with praise for his teaching, encouragement, and support, regularly win Hopwood Awards and playwriting awards at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He also is a generous consultant and leader in national theatre organizations, serving as a board member of the Children's Theatre Foundation of America. In his creative work and teaching, Professor Casas is a powerfully effective advocate for the inclusion of diverse voices and experience. He inspires and empowers students to engage in making social change happen. In recognition of his impact on the lives of students, he received a 2019 North Campus Deans' MLK Spirit Award.

Professor Casas' accomplishments as an outstanding playwright, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the University of Michigan and the Department of Theatre & Drama, and make him exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.

Erin A. Cech

Erin A. Cech received her B.S. (2005) degrees in sociology and in electrical engineering from Montana State University, and her M.A. (2008) and her Ph.D. (2011) degrees in sociology from the University of California, San Diego. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford University, after which she was appointed assistant professor in sociology at Rice University in 2012. In 2016, she was appointed assistant professor of sociology at the University of Michigan.

Professor Cech's research spans the fields of social inequalities, cultural sociology, work and occupations, and the sociology of science and technology. She is making path-breaking contributions to understanding the persistence of gender-based and other inequalities, particularly in careers in STEM disciplines, even with the rise in legislation and other formal institutional initiatives that try to advance equality and inclusion. Her work reveals the power of cultural mechanisms that underlie formal institutional rules and practices, and how seemingly benign values, such as belief in meritocratic principles, self-expression, and scientific excellence, work to systematically disadvantage women, racial/ethnic minority groups, and LGBTQ individuals in STEM career advancement. Her innovative use of data and originality of argument place Professor Cech's research at the forefront of conversations about the persistence of inequality in STEM disciplines and beyond. Even at an early stage in her career, the impact of her work is shaping discussions in other fields. Not only has she established a strong and influential presence in sociology, her public-facing research has also attracted significant attention in engineering and other STEM disciplines. She is a prolific scholar whose high-impact work includes more than 27 frequently-cited articles published in leading peer-reviewed journals. A journal article on the impact of first-time parenthood on careers of men and women in STEM fields was selected in 2019 as one of the 10 most influential studies to appear in the prestigious *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Her path-breaking work on the "passion principle" establishes how patterns of occupational segregation and inequality are the result of individual passion-seeking that obscures persistent structural sources of inequality. The impact of her research has influenced other scholars to extend her insights into examinations of gender inequality in work and occupations more broadly. Professor Cech regularly gives invited talks at universities across the country and at conferences and meetings of the National Academies and other national organizations. The significance of her research has drawn the attention of national media, including *Science*, *Nature*, CNN, *TIME*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, and *The Atlantic*. She has received many awards and honors, including the 2019 Sterling Olmsted Award, which is the highest honor of the Liberal Education/Engineering and Society Division of the American Society of Engineering Education.

Professor Cech is an equally inspiring teacher and mentor of graduate students. She teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, including her department's core course on the logics of sociological research, and a course on professional writing. Graduate students seek her out as a mentor, and she currently is a chair of two dissertation committees and serving on nine others, a remarkable number for an assistant professor.

Professor Cech's accomplishments as an outstanding interdisciplinary researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the University of Michigan and the Department of Sociology and make her exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.

Matthew A. Davis

Matthew A. Davis received his B.A. (2000) degree in chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology from Colby College, and his Doctor of Chiropractic Care (2004) degree from New York Chiropractic College. He earned his M.P.H. (2010) degree from Dartmouth Medical School and his Ph.D. (2014) degree in quantitative biomedical sciences from Dartmouth College. He was an adjunct assistant professor of epidemiology at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and adjunct assistant professor of health policy at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice. In 2014 he came to the University of Michigan as an assistant professor of nursing. In 2018 he was promoted to associate professor of nursing, and in 2019 he was appointed as associate professor of learning health sciences at the Medical School. He is a faculty affiliate of the Institute for Social Research and the Michigan Institute for Data Science, and is an adjunct associate professor of epidemiology at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.

Professor Davis is a national leader in the use of data science to extract insights from disparate sources of large healthcare data to inform health policy. He has also developed innovative methods to use social media data to measure public opinion and social support for health services that have been adopted by public health scientists. His research is opening new insights that are having a significant impact on public health and health systems. Recently, Professor Davis examined national data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reveal dietary sources of arsenic exposure among children. This work helped lead to new FDA guidelines to control arsenic contamination in food. With regular support by grants from the NIH, his research on topics as diverse as end-of-life healthcare spending, the U.S. opioid epidemic, national availability of healthcare providers, and health disparities has had a similar national impact. He has been first author or senior author on 37 studies appearing in major refereed journals such as *Health Affairs*, *JAMA Internal Medicine*, *Social Science & Medicine*, and the *American Journal of Public Health*. Among his many additional publications, he has published 14 with his students. The public impact of his research can be seen by the regular and widespread attention his work attracts from the national media, including *Politico*, *USA Today*, *Forbes*, *The Atlantic*, *TIME*, *The Washington Post*, *Kaiser Health News*, *The Boston Globe*, NPR, ABC, and other national news outlets.

Professor Davis is an innovative and highly dedicated teacher and mentor of graduate students. His courses on statistics, epidemiology, and data analysis form the quantitative curriculum of several School of Nursing programs. He restructured these courses to make them responsive to student needs, and adapted his course on applied biostatistics for clinical practice, which has grown to include all of the school's clinical graduate programs, for delivery in a hybrid on-campus/online format. His course on the management and analysis of large U.S. health data is among the most comprehensive courses of its kind in the country and is open to all U-M graduate students. Professor Davis wrote his own textbook for the course which he makes freely available to students. He has co-chaired two dissertation committees and is serving on two more, and mentors graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from other health sciences programs. Affirming his excellence as both a teacher, his students and colleagues chose him to receive the School of Nursing's 2019 Mae Edna Doyle Teacher of the Year award.

Professor Davis' accomplishments as an outstanding researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the University of Michigan and the School of Nursing, and make him exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.

Johanna L. Mathieu

Johanna Mathieu received her S.B. (2004) degree in ocean engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and earned her M.S. (2008) degree and Ph.D. (2012) degree in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. She was a postdoctoral researcher in the Power Systems Laboratory at ETH Zurich from 2012 to 2013, and in 2014 she was appointed as an assistant professor in the University of Michigan's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Professor Mathieu is a national leader on research to reduce the environmental impact, cost, and inefficiency of electric power systems. The effectiveness and efficiency of new energy-related technologies depends on how they are coordinated and controlled across complex and large-scale power grids. Professor Mathieu develops theories, algorithms, and tools to implement new operational and control strategies that actively engage distributed flexible resources such as energy storage devices, electric loads such as household appliances, and small-scale renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind. Her research is making fundamental contributions to improving the efficiency and reliability of the power grid while integrating renewable energy and reducing economic cost. She uses methods from a variety of engineering fields to find new ways to optimize efficiency throughout power grids of increasing complexity by controlling and coordinating energy resources. Professor Mathieu's research collaborators include not only engineers but also economists, public policy experts, and environmental scientists. Her research is sponsored by many grants from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy, including a highly competitive ARPA-E grant for which she leads a team of collaborators from industry, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and UC Berkeley to test for stability and communication issues that might arise when load-balancing control strategies using distributed energy resources are networked and implemented at large scales. Professor Mathieu has published more than 32 papers in leading journals; is editor of *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, the premier journal in her field; and has given many talks at conferences and symposia in the United States and internationally. In recognition of her contributions, Professor Mathieu has received the prestigious NSF CAREER Award for early-career faculty, and was selected as one of 82 young engineers nationwide to participate in the National Academy of Engineering's 2019 U.S. Frontiers of Engineering Symposium.

Since arriving at the University of Michigan, Professor Mathieu has served on 20 dissertation committees, and directs a research group with six doctoral students and two postdoctoral researchers. She is a highly popular instructor whose courses attract students from across the College of Engineering, and her course on grid integration and alternative energy sources includes students from the School of Environment and Sustainability. She also has brought her research to a wider audience with "Grid 101," a short course held at the U-M Energy Institute open to industry and members of the Ann Arbor community. Professor Mathieu's goal is to enable students from wide-ranging backgrounds to understand the challenges and opportunities of moving towards a sustainable electricity supply that will improve grid reliability, public health, and environmental health.

Professor Mathieu's accomplishments as an outstanding engineering researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the University of Michigan and the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and make her exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.