The University of Michigan
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Item for information

Subject: Henry Russel Lecturer for 2025

Background: The Henry Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Michael J. Solomon, met recently and upon their recommendation I am pleased to confirm that Ruth Behar, the James W. Fernandez Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology and Professor of Anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, will be the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2025. Professor Behar will deliver the Russel Lecture in the Winter Term of 2025.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Santa J. Ono
President

June 2024
Attachment

Ruth Behar

Ruth Behar, James W. Fernandez Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology whose work focuses on Cuba, as well as Spain and Mexico, has spent decades building bridges across political and cultural chasms. A cultural anthropologist, as well as a writer, poet, and filmmaker, her research centers the lives of women as actors in society and is defined by a deep sense of empathy that has made her a profound thinker about the vulnerability we all share. As a researcher, Professor Behar has helped to define socially-aware approaches to fieldwork and ethnography and pioneered the concept of a "vulnerable observer" in discussions of ethical fieldwork. Her groundbreaking work in *The Vulnerable Observer* has traveled to other disciplines ranging from education studies to nursing, social work, rhetoric, and even management studies. Readers say the notion of "the vulnerable observer" put a label on something many scholars had been grappling with: how to describe the practice of thinking through and laying bare one's subjectivity and personal connection to research. Beyond academic circles, the book caught the attention of journalists, poets, writers, and casual readers. It is on a traveler's list of "the best books that capture the complexities of writing about the real world." Professor Behar's contributions include five books of anthropology that she has written and another four that she edited or co-edited, more than sixty published articles, and an award-winning ethnographic film.

In a broader sense, her life's work has been to create bridges between the academy and general audiences. Throughout her career, she has made her work accessible to the broadest possible public by writing essays for popular publications, giving newspaper and magazine interviews, writing and co-editing a blog, doing podcast interviews, and by giving talks to civic groups and schools across the country and around the world. She edited the pioneering anthology, *Bridges to Cuba*, now a blog run as a joint project with the poet Richard Blanco, that continues to perform and advocate for the work of deep thinking about Cuba and its diasporas and the search for understanding of the meaning of home. With her research in Cuba and about Cubans in diaspora around the world, she has forged intellectual, artistic, and cultural connections with and between Cuban artists and writers both on and off the island. More recently, she has begun to create bridges of understanding to an even wider audience by writing novels for young readers and producing picture books that address issues of cultural heritage, identity, and coexistence between communities of different ethnicities, religions, and cultures. These books are an inspiration to young readers and are now taught widely in American schools and have been translated into several languages, sharing the insights of anthropology into the lives and cultures of diverse peoples with students of all ages and backgrounds.

In recognition of her achievements, Professor Behar has received the most distinguished awards in her field. She was the first Latina to receive a MacArthur Genius Award in 1988. She was elected in 2021 to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and received the Pura Belpré Author Award in 2018 from the American Library Association for her fiction. For her numerous contributions to American life as an anthropologist and author, she was named a "Great

Immigrant" by the Carnegie Corporation. Her many additional honors include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, two Fulbright Senior Fellowships, a Rockefeller Residence Fellowship, an honorary doctorate from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and a Distinguished Alumna Award from Wesleyan University. The University of Michigan has recognized her work and service by naming her a Distinguished University Professor as well as awarding her the Sarah Goddard Power Award for her leadership in women's studies.

The empathy that defines her research is evident as well in her teaching and service. She is a valued mentor to junior faculty, and is especially active in graduate admissions, helping to cultivate diverse incoming classes. Her courses on Cuba, the concept of home, and blurred genres regularly receive glowing reviews from students, many of whom say her class was their favorite at Michigan. She teaches a legendary course on ethnographic writing, which has served as a foundational seminar and writing workshop for graduate students and future ethnographers in anthropology and related fields. Her mentorship has fostered the voices of emerging women scholars of many diverse backgrounds, and her work speaks to many first-generation scholars and others who came to the academy from working class and minority communities, addressing the need to do research and writing that looks at the world with emotional depth. As a faculty graduate advisor, she has worked with more than 35 women students in anthropology and interdisciplinary fields, from education and social work to creative writing. She has received several teaching and service awards at the University of Michigan, including the Circle Award from La Celebración Latina, the D'Arms Faculty Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities, a Michigan Humanities Award, and the Excellence in Education Award.

Professor Behar earned her B.A. (1977) from Wesleyan University and her M.A. (1980) and Ph.D. (1983) from Princeton University, the latter with distinction. Before joining the faculty at the University of Michigan she held postdoctoral fellowships at Johns Hopkins University and with the Michigan Society of Fellows. She joined the department of anthropology in 1989, with affiliations in women's studies, Latino/Latina studies, Judaic studies, and Latin American and Caribbean studies. She was appointed James W. Fernandez Distinguished University Professor in 2021. From 2010-2014 she was the founder and director of the University of Michigan Semester Study Abroad Program in Havana, Cuba.

As a groundbreaking researcher who has built bridges within and beyond the academy, Professor Behar's many contributions have brought distinction to the University of Michigan, and she is an exceptionally worthy selection as the 2025 Henry Russel Lecturer.

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Subject: Henry Russel Awards for 2025

Background: The Henry Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Michael J. Solomon, met recently and upon their recommendation I am pleased to confirm the selection of four faculty members to receive Henry Russel Awards for 2025. 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 2025.

The faculty members selected to receive this award are:

Robin Brewer, Assistant Professor of Information, School of Information

Roya Ensafi, Morris Wellman Faculty Development Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering

Marc Hannaford, Assistant Professor of Music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Wenjing Wang, William R Roush Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Research Assistant Professor, Life Sciences Institute, and Assistant Professor of Chemistry, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Respectfully submitted,

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Santa J. Ono
President

June 2024
Attachment

Robin Brewer

Robin Brewer earned her B.S. (2011) in computer science from the University of Maryland, College Park, her M.S. (2012) in human-centered computing from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and her Ph.D. (2017) in technology and social behavior from Northwestern University. She was a presidential postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan before joining the faculty at Michigan as assistant professor in the School of Information in 2019.

Professor Brewer's research explores voice tools and voiced-based interfaces that enable improved digital access for aging and disability to shift the design of computing devices to better meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, especially blind or low vision people. Inherent in this work is user-driven research and design, and she recruits and engages advisory boards of older adults through these processes. Her findings contribute a nuanced discussion to the computing and accessibility communities about age-related ethical and privacy concerns related to interactions with technology and have resulted in design recommendations as well as community impact. For example, she developed xPress, an asynchronous tele-community that allows people without computer access or who face challenges using traditional computing devices (screens, mice, keyboards) the opportunity to blog using a landline or non-smartphone. In collaboration with colleagues in the School of Public Health, the School of Social Work, and Detroit-based community organizations she helped design and implement a synchronous tele-community for older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic, "The Silver Center." Professor Brewer has published papers in top publication outlets in her fields, several of which have received honors and awards, as well as presented papers at other prestigious venues in her field. She is the Principal Investigator on three research grants, including an NSF CAREER Award and awards from the National Institute on Aging. She has served as Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on grants from the Retirement Research Foundation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and a visiting faculty researcher at Google.

Professor Brewer's commitment to inclusive community is evident in her teaching and service. She served as diversity co-chair for the organizing committee for the Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), where she fundraised to support a scholarship program for minorized students and organized a virtual mentorship program for students of color. Through grassroots efforts, she reinvigorated the CHI Mentoring (or CHIMe) workshop, which provided mentorship to 75 historically underrepresented students through the workshop during her two years at the helm. She also actively co-organizes virtual writing groups and retreats for Black women in computing around the country. At the University of Michigan, Professor Brewer works to recruit and retain students from diverse backgrounds by sharing her research and career with minoritized first year students interested in research in the Michigan Research and Discovery Scholars (MRADS) program and to senior doctoral students and postdoctoral research fellows through the NextProf program intended to diversify academia. While advising or co-advising 11 doctoral students, she contributed to efforts in her program to assess removing the GRE requirement for the PhD program and to develop virtual recruitment programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Brewer's accomplishments as an exceptional researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the School of Information and the University of Michigan and make her exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.

Roya Ensafi

Roya Ensafi earned her B.S. (2006) in computer engineering from Ferdowsi University in Mashad, Iran, followed by her M.S. (2011) in computer science and engineering and her Ph.D. (2014) in computer science from the University of New Mexico. She held positions at the International Computer Science Institute at the University of California, Berkeley and Princeton University before joining the faculty at the University of Michigan as a research assistant professor in the department of electrical engineering and computer science in 2017. She was promoted to assistant professor in 2019 and associate professor in 2023.

Professor Ensafi works to protect internet users from oppressive network interference, such as pervasive monitoring, government censorship, and server-side geographic discrimination. Her research crosses disciplines to call attention to censorship online, exposing bad actors, and designing tools to thwart internet censorship and help maintain online privacy. As a specialist in network security, she develops techniques to measure the internet and its operations to determine whether—and how—countries around the globe control, or attempt to control, communications. Shining a light on state-sponsored behavior that governments would rather keep hidden from scrutiny and engaging in matters with such significant geopolitical stakes reflects a great deal of personal courage. Her Censored Planet flagship project serves as a global observatory system used by over 100 organizations for research and advocacy. Her own research group used it to expose aggressive censorship actions by the governments of Kazakhstan and Russia. She routinely collaborates with important players in the cybersecurity field, including researchers at the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto, the Open Technology Fund (on whose advisory board she sits), and Google Jigsaw. She also leverages her network of journalists, activists, and end-users to bring attention to online censorship and other anti-democratic behavior that she uncovers in her research. She has published in leading forums in her field, and her contributions to internet security have been covered in *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Ars Technica*, *Foreign Policy*, and *Consumer Reports*. She won the Internet Defense Prize at the USENIX Security Conference and has been awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. Her work has been funded by the Department of State, an NSF CAREER award, and industry partners such as Google and *Consumer Reports*. In service to her research community, she co-chaired the ACM CoNEXT Workshop on Big Data, Machine Learning, and Artificial Intelligence for Data Communication Networks and has twice co-chaired the USENIX Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet. In 2021, she was invited by The White House to participate as a cybersecurity panelist during President Biden's Summit for Democracy.

Professor Ensafi's teaching and service likewise work to create opportunity and contribute to widening participation in computer science. She has been faculty adviser to WolvSec and the Women in Security Research (WISER) student group and participates in outreach events, such as Explore Grad Studies in CS, Discover CS, Girls Encoded, Explore CS Research, and CS Kickstart. At the university level, she was an organizing member of the Dissonance Committee, which focuses on the legal issues surrounding technology and policies related to it. Past students have found careers in the networking industry, where they have helped to diversify the male-dominated field.

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

Marc Hannaford

Marc Hannaford earned his bachelor of music diploma (2003) and a graduate diploma (2004) with honors in composition from the Australian National University, followed by his master of music in performance and research (2012) from the University of Melbourne, and a M.A. (2015) and Ph.D. (2019) in music theory from Columbia University. He was a lecturer at Columbia University before joining the faculty at the University of Michigan as assistant professor of music theory in 2020.

Professor Hannaford's work in twentieth-century African American music theory is a model for public-facing and engaged scholarship in today's academy. His research focuses on African American voices within the predominantly Eurocentric discourses of U.S. music theory by building a genealogy of African American music theory using largely untapped archival and historical sources, meta-theoretical analysis, and practice-led methods. His scholarship offers an unprecedented examination and analysis of the role of music theory in racial-political projects and public forums, and he advocates for the role of these findings to work toward creating equitable spaces for musical study within and beyond the academy. In addition to a renowned scholar, he is a virtuoso pianist in jazz and improvised music as well as new classical music, and the impact of his work extends beyond the field of music theory and into mainstream jazz circles. He is co-founder and co-organizer of the Engaged Music Theory Working Group, which curates a comprehensive bibliography of diverse music theoretical works and facilitates the publication of peer-edited blog posts dedicated to critical issues in the field authored by a spectrum of music theorists. He was awarded the Society for Music Theory's Emerging Scholar Award for journal articles in 2023, which represents the Society's most prestigious recognition for a journal article by a junior scholar. He also received the Steve Larson Award for Jazz Scholarship at the 2019 annual meeting for the Society for Music Theory, and the DEI program at the School of Music, Theater and Dance underlined the impact of his research in 2023 with a faculty award. Professor Hannaford has published extensively in the field's premier journals, including *Music Theory Spectrum*, *Music Theory Online*, and the *Journal of the Society for American Music*, and was invited to contribute to the *Oxford Handbook of Public Music Theory*. He has been invited to present his research at numerous universities and prestigious events in the U.S., Australia, Italy, and Germany.

Professor Hannaford's commitment to an inclusivity of voices is evident in his teaching and service work. At the University level, he actively contributed to the development of application and assessment guidelines for the undergraduate course requirement on Race and Ethnicity. His courses offer students a diverse repertoire and perspectives; he frequently bridges the divide between theory and practice by arranging visits from acclaimed musicians and scholars to his classroom. He encourages students to integrate their own musical practice as a means of researching and understanding musical structure, facilitating hands-on compositional and improvisational explorations that lead to profound musical theoretical insights. His mentorship of graduate students is particularly attentive to the dynamics of their lived experiences in an overwhelmingly white and cis-man-dominated field. As part of a mentorship program as part of the Engaged Music Theory Working Group, he supports marginalized music theorists in publishing new scholarship.

Professor Hannaford's accomplishments as an exceptional researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the School of Music, Theater and Dance and the University of Michigan and make him exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.

Wenjing Wang

Wenjing Wang earned her B.S. (2006) in chemistry at Xiamen University in Fujian, China, followed by her Ph.D. (2012) in chemistry at Michigan State University. She held postdoctoral fellowships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University before joining the faculty at the University of Michigan as research assistant professor in the Life Sciences Institute and as William R. Roush assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry. She was promoted to associate professor in 2024.

Professor Wang's ambitious research in chemical biology focuses on designing molecular tools to study complex brain signaling and neurological disorders. Her lab develops such tools as protein-based fluorescent sensors for detecting neuromodulators in the brain (e.g. opioids, epinephrine, and dopamine), chemical-activated protein switches, which can be used to modulate the brain's opioid receptors, and nanobodies—fragments of single domain antibodies—that can be made to selectively bind to disordered proteins in the brain and thus help to slow the development of the pathology of Parkinson's Disease. Testing these new molecular tools in mammalian cell culture, neuronal culture and animal models, Professor Wang has developed innovative tools that will enable unprecedented study of neuromodulation—the way neurons use chemicals to modulate other neurons—and facilitate our understanding of neurological disorders such as Parkinson's Disease, leading to the design of novel medications. Professor Wang has received numerous external recognitions for her groundbreaking work, including the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, which supports exceptional early career scientists pursuing highly innovative approaches to major challenges in biomedical and behavioral research, and an NSF CAREER Award. She was also one of only 23 chemists to receive the 2024 Sloan Research Fellowship, which recognizes and rewards "outstanding early-career faculty who have the potential to revolutionize their fields of study." Additionally, Professor Wang was awarded a Rising Star in Measurement Science, selected by ACS Measure Au editors, and a Scialog Award. She has been invited to contribute review and protocol papers and has been invited to give seminars at many universities and national conferences, and to serve as a discussion leader and session chair at national conferences, including the Bioorganic Chemistry Gordon Conference, Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, and Biophysical Society Meeting.

Professor Wang has a demonstrated commitment to the next generation of scientists. Her graduate students have been honored with individual research awards and have secured positions in both industry and academia. In the department of chemistry and at the Life Sciences Institute, she has contributed to curricular development to create a more stimulating learning environment for graduate and undergraduate students. Funded by her NSF CAREER award, she is collaborating with the Museum of Natural History to perform science outreach and communication with local middle schools and the public and through the Science Communication Fellows Program, to promote research opportunities for high school and college students. Based on her highly impactful research program and her commitment to education, Professor Wang was awarded Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, which supports the research and teaching careers of talented early career faculty in the chemical sciences.

Professor Wang's accomplishments as an exceptional researcher, teacher, and mentor bring distinction to the Department of Chemistry and the Life Sciences Institute and the University of Michigan and make her exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.