

LAS Executive Committee Spring 2024 Election Candidate Biographical Information

Group II: English, African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and Latina/Latino Studies

Robert Markley, English

[Robert Markley | Department of English | Illinois](#)

Robert Markley is Department Head and W. D. and Sara E. Trowbridge Professor of English at the University of Illinois and editor of *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*. The author of more than eighty articles in eighteenth-century studies, science studies, and digital media, his books include *Two-Edg'd Weapons: Style and Ideology in the Comedies of Etherege, Wycherley, and Congreve* (Oxford UP, 1988); *Fallen Languages: Crises of Representation in Newtonian England* (Cornell UP, 1993); *Dying Planet: Mars in Science and the Imagination* (Duke UP, 2005); *The Far East and the English Imagination, 1600-1730* (Cambridge UP, 2006), and a volume in the Masters of Science Fiction Series, *Kim Stanley Robinson* (U of Illinois P, 2019). He has coedited with Peter Kitson *Writing China: Essays on the Amherst Embassy (1816) and Sino-British Cultural Relations* (Boydell and Brewer, 2016). His current book project examines the emergence of understandings of global climate between 1500 and 1850.

Group IV: Anthropology, Communication, Political Science and Sociology (2 Candidates)

Ned O'Gorman, Communication

[Ned O'Gorman | Department of Communication | UIUC \(illinois.edu\)](#)

Ned O'Gorman is Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he writes and teaches about the history of rhetoric, media studies, and political culture. O'Gorman has also published in political theory, rhetorical theory, and media studies. He is currently the editor of the *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*, published by Penn State University Press and the American Society for the History of Rhetoric. In 2023 he was named an Associate at the University of Illinois's Center for Advanced Study, and he has been the recipient of a number of other grants and fellowships from both within and without the University of Illinois, the latter including the University of Virginia and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Reuben May, Sociology

[Directory Profile | Department of Sociology | UIUC \(illinois.edu\)](#)

Professor Reuben A. Buford May, Ph.D. is the *Florian Znaniecki Professorial Scholar*, Professor of Sociology, and Department Head. He is also a Center for Social and Behavioral Science affiliate. He has been a fellow at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University and a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. visiting professor at MIT. May received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago and works in the areas of Community and Urban Sociology, Racial and Ethnic Minorities, and Race Gender and Class. May is the winner of numerous Undergraduate teaching awards and was most recently named a Finalist for the [Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching](#)—

a national teaching award that honors outstanding professors with proven records as extraordinary teachers with positive, inspiring, and long-lasting effects on students, along with records of distinguished scholarship. In addition to his awards, books and other scholarly publications, May has been featured on radio and television and in print media for sociological insights in his music under the performance name [Reginald S. Stuckey](#).

Group VI: School of Integrative Biology, School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Brian Freeman, Cell and Developmental Biology

[Brian C. Freeman | School of Molecular & Cellular Biology | UIUC \(illinois.edu\)](#)

Dr. Freeman is a Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology. He has served on multiple college and university committees including the LAS College Nominations (2020-2022), Academic Standards (2017-2019), Faculty Awards (2014-2016), Faculty Appeals (2013-2015 (Chair 2014-2015); 2021-2023), and CDB Department Head Review (2013) as well as the University Senate (2004-2006). In addition, Dr. Freeman has chaired subcommittees for national institutions, organized numerous national and international conferences, and served on national grant review panels for the National Institutes of Health. He is a fellow of the Cell Stress Society International and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Group VIII: Astronomy, Mathematics and Statistics (3 Candidates)

Steve Culpepper, Statistics

[Directory Profile | Department of Statistics | UIUC \(illinois.edu\)](#)

Dr. Steven Andrew Culpepper is a Professor and Data Science Founder Professorial Scholar in the Department of Statistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He earned a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and joined UIUC as an assistant professor in 2012. Dr. Culpepper's research examines issues related to psychometric models, Bayesian statistics, and computing. His recent research focuses on restricted latent class models for applications involving diagnostic assessments and the fine-grained evaluation of learning interventions. To date, he coauthored over 60 methodology papers, and he received support for several psychometric projects from the Spencer Foundation, the American Educational Research Association, and the National Science Foundation. Professor Culpepper is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics. His professional service includes membership on the Board of Trustees of the Psychometric Society, the Grants Program Governing Board of the American Educational Research Association, the Technical Review Panel of the National Indian Education Study, the Design and Analysis Committee for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. He was recently elected 2025-2026 President of the Psychometric Society. Professor Culpepper collaborates on interdisciplinary teams of scholars, advises undergraduate and doctoral students, and works to broaden participation of under-represented and first-generation college students in the mathematical and data sciences.

Marius Junge, Mathematics

[Directory Profile](#) | [Department of Mathematics](#) | [UIUC \(illinois.edu\)](#)

Professor Junge joined the math department at the UI in 1999. Since then, his research transitioned from pure math to a broader range including quantum information theory. The research has been rewarded with continuous NSF funding, a research lab at the ICMAT Madrid (2014-2018) and an election to the fellows of American Mathematical Society. He has held joint grants with researchers in ECE and physics, and hence is familiar with interdisciplinary work. He is also a member of IQUIST, the Illinois Quantum Information Science and Technology Center.

Professor Junge is a long-term member of the Senate budget committee, has served on Campus Budget Oversight Committee for several years, and is a member of the Senate Student Discipline Committee. He considered self-governance as an important aspect of academic activity, in particular for mathematicians.

Leslie Looney, Astronomy

[Leslie W Looney](#) | [Department of Astronomy](#) | [Illinois](#)

Leslie Looney is a Professor of Astronomy. He served as the Chair of the Astronomy Department (2017-2023) and served on many college and campus committees including the Bachelor of Liberal Science Review Committee (2022-current), LAS Strategic Advisory Review Team (2018-2022), LAS General Education Board (2015-2017), and the General Education Board (2009-2012, co-Chair 2012 academic year). He organized the Astronomy Department and LAS Advancement event for the 2017 solar eclipse in southern Illinois, one of the largest alumni events. He was a Helen Corley Petit Scholar (2009-2010) and is often on the List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by Their Students. He developed the popular online course Introduction to Astronomy (ASTR 100) in 2014 and the online version of Extraterrestrial Life (ASTR 330), which he often teaches for the Campus Honors Program. He researches the earliest stages of star formation focusing on the formation and evolution of the circumstellar disk that surrounds young deeply embedded protostars. The youngest disks (only ~100,000 years old) set the initial conditions for planet formation and understanding their formation and evolution addresses the diversity seen in exoplanets. His research is funded by NSF and NASA.