



Virginia Conference on Race

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Wortmann Ballroom

# Keynote Lecture

6 p.m.

**Professor Renée Cummings, a VentureBeat AI Innovator Award winner, is an artificial intelligence (AI), data and tech ethicist who was named the first Data Activist-in-Residence at the University of Virginia's School of Data Science, where she was named Professor of Practice in Data Science.**

**Professor Cummings is listed among the world's top 100 women in AI ethics, among World Summit AI's Top 50 AI Innovators and among Inspired Minds AI Brains Hall of Fame. She is also a criminologist, criminal psychologist and a therapeutic jurisprudence specialist.**

**A thought leader, motivational speaker and mentor, she has given a multitude of talks to conferences, groups and policymakers, including in the U.S. Senate, and is a recognized expert who lectures nationally and internationally on ethical data science and ethical AI and offers expert analysis on national and international television. She has mastered the art of creative storytelling, science communication and deconstructing complex topics into critical everyday conversations that inform and inspire.**





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# Panel 1: Race & Health

9:40 -  
10:40 a.m.



**Dr. Kimberly Garza is an Assistant Professor of Public Health. Her research interests center around adolescence, health inequities, the intersection of play and health, and the impacts of stress and social support on health outcomes. Dr. Garza is the director of the Innovation in Qualitative Research Lab and a Co-Director of the newly established PlayLab. She teaches the public health core courses including social determinants of health, epidemiology, and social justice.**

**Donovan Hill is a 2021 Roanoke graduate, they hold a Bachelor's in Political Science with a minor in Communication. While a student for Roanoke, they worked as a Community Health Educator, advocating for public health causes including suicide prevention and support for survivors of sexual assault. Currently, they work as the Coordinator of Wellness Operations for Roanoke College where they oversee the logistical efforts of Student Health & Counseling and their wellness programming.**



**Arienne (Ari) Jones is the Senior Program Manager for Justice and Equity at the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions. She has previously served as a Senior Policy Advisor at the Cook County Illinois State's Attorney's Office, working on mass incarceration-related social justice issues. Ari was also an attorney at the Southern Poverty Law Center; a federal judicial law clerk; and a housing discrimination investigator.**

**Cedric Wilson is a Roanoke College alumnus. He is the Founder/Owner of Seeking Wellness Counseling Services and has been a seasoned Licensed Professional Counselor since 2013. He works with adults who have ongoing challenges with depression, anxiety, and trauma. His particular area of expertise is racial trauma. He previously served as the Director of Shenandoah University's Counseling Center.**





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## Panel 2: Community Building

10:50 -  
11:50 a.m.



Jordan Bell is the Director of Programs at Apple Ridge Farm. He is a mentor and role model to youth of the Roanoke Valley in his current Apple Ridge Farm position and former roles at the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest VA and Garden City Elementary School. He founded Gainsboro Revisited, giving tours of the historical Black neighborhood, and serves as the President of Black Millennials of Roanoke.

Xavier Tramaine Duckett is a community leader, artist, entrepreneur, and mentor in the Roanoke Valley. His nonprofit, Humble Hustle Co., provides empowerment programs for Roanoke Valley youth. He also serves as the founder and CEO of Imagine Me Mentoring, which offers school-based community mentoring programming, seeking to inspire minds by initiating and nurturing excellence.



Dr. Nadia Martinez-Carrillo is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Roanoke College. Her research focuses on global media studies and mediated representations of identity in popular media and across cultures. She teaches courses such as Intercultural Communication, Race and Media, Ethics in Communication, and Identity Quest. Her most recent publication examines the intersections of incarceration, motherhood, and trauma on the TV series *Wentworth*.

Dr. Stella Xu is the John R. Turbyfill Professor of History and Coordinator for the East Asian Studies Concentration at Roanoke College. In 2016, Xu published her book *Reconstructing Ancient Korean History: The Formation of Korean-ness in the Shadow of History*. Dr. Xu frequently takes students on research trips to South Korea, and speaks to international audiences, including at Yale and the Library of Congress recently, as an East Asian history expert.







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# Student Poster/Creative Presentations 12 - 1 p.m.

- **C. H. Angleberger**
- **Seanice Bowser**
- **Esther Darko**
- **Rebecca Goldstein**
- **Zoe Jones**
- **Elizabeth Kaminski**
- **Lauren Keel**
- **Jasmine McFadden**
- **Lavender Oman**
- **Lizzy Pighini**
- **Taylor Poole**
- **Madison Smith**