



Akamai University

Dedicated to improving human and planetary health

2024 - 2027 ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Academic Council



Assurance of Academic Excellence

OFFICERS

Dr. Traian D. Stanculescu, Council Chair
Dr. Thibaud d'Oultresmont, Council Vice Chair
Dr. Mary Jo Bulbrook, Past Council Chair,
Council Secretary

MEMBERS

Dr. Man Bahadur Biswakarma
Dr. Carolyn Nesbitt
Dr. Medani Prasad Bhandari
Dr. Austin Mardon
Dr. Antonia Cardona
Dr. James Johnson
Dr. Vijay P. Gupta
Dr. Jim Morningstar
Dr. Sajjad Rizvi
Dr. Delphine Rossi
Dr. Christine Ross
Dr. Jamie Hicks
Dr. Rhonda Yates
Dr. Owen Ngozi Owunwanne

Non-voting Members

Dr. Gregory Pacific, Board President
Dr. Susan Newman, Alumnae
Student Representative – Linda Eldridge

PURPOSE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

The Academic Council has advisory responsibilities for the academic activities of the University including components of curriculum and instruction, research, and learning support.

The primary purpose and role of the Academic Council shall be the advisement of the University President and Board of Directors regarding academic policies and procedures, quality standards and guidelines, which impact the institution.

The Academic Council and the operation of Council Committee shall provide for exchange of information among the faculty.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL BIOGRAPHIES

Medani Prasad Bhandari, PhD

Dr. Bhandari is interested in teaching and mentoring in the field Community and Economic Development; Environmental Studies; Sustainability Studies; Peace, Diplomacy, and international relations. His main interest as a teacher and researcher centers on the intersection of local and global interests (trans-society/trans-border) capacities in addressing global political economy; green economy, natural resource management challenges, environmental sustainability, and the effects of climate change. He is also interested in risk analysis, public policies, and behaviors that contribute to the goal of catalyzing action across the global community, increase public awareness and change public attitudes on global climate change, natural resource governance issues, human rights abuse, sustainable development, and environmental degradation. His goal is to utilize scientific and cultural knowledge, research skills, and extensive experiences to help address the challenges of global environmental change, the green economy, and sustainability. He is also interested as well in assessing the economic, social, and environmental impacts on natural resources/ environmental sustainability. His ultimate objective is to cultivate and engage multidisciplinary knowledge-based networks to minimize the impact of climate change on marginalized societies and to reduce societal conflict over natural resources.

Prof. Medani P. Bhandari has been serving as Director of Sustainability Studies at Akamai University as well as a Professor and Advisor of the Chancellor – Gandaki University, Pokhara, Nepal; professor of inter-disciplinary Department of Natural Resource & Environment and Professor at the Department of Finance, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Sumy State University (SSU), Ukraine.

Dr. Bhandari is also serving as Editor in Chief of International Journal - The

Strategic Planning for Energy and the Environment (SPEE), Denmark, The Netherlands, USA- ISSN: 1546-0126 (Online Version), ISSN: 10484236 (Print Version)

<https://www.journal.riverpublishers.com/index.php/SPEE/about>

He is also serving as managing editor at the Asia Environment Daily, (the largest environmental journal of the world

<https://asiaenvdaily.com/index.php/editorials-2/2-uncategorised/29760-about-asia-environmental-daily>

He holds M.A. Anthropology (Tribhuvan University, Nepal), M.Sc. Environmental System Monitoring and Analysis (ITC-The University of Twente, the Netherlands), M.A. Sustainable International Development (Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA), M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology (Syracuse University, NY, USA).

Dr. Bhandari has spent most of his career focusing on the Social Innovation, Sociological Theories; Environmental Sustainability; Social Inclusion, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; Environmental Health Hazard; Environmental Management; Social Innovation; Developing along the way expertise in Global and International Environmental Politics, Environmental Institutions and Natural Resources Governance; Climate Change Policy and Implementation, Environmental Justice, Sustainable Development; Theory of Natural Resources Governance; Impact Evaluation of Rural Livelihood; International Organizations; Public/ Social Policy; The Non-Profit Sector; Low Carbon Mechanism; Good Governance; Climate Adaptation; REDD Plus; Carbon Financing; Green Economy and Renewable Energy; Nature, Culture and Power.

Dr. Bhandari's major teaching and research specialties include Sociological Theories and Practices. Environmental Health; Research Methods; Social and Environmental Innovation; Social and Environmental policies; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; International environmental governance; Green Economy; Sustainability and assessment of the economic, social, and environmental impacts on society and nature. In brief, Dr. Bhandari has sound theoretical and practical knowledge in social science and environment science. His field experience spans across Asia, Africa, the North America, Western Europe, Australia, Japan, and the Middle East. Dr. Bhandari has published several books, and scholarly papers in international scientific journals. His recent books are *Green Web-II: Standards and Perspectives from the IUCN (2018)*; *2nd Edition 2020*; *Getting the Climate Science Facts Right: The Role of the IPCC*; *Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach*; and *Educational Transformation*,

Economic Inequality – Trends, Traps and Trade-offs; Social Inequality as a Global Challenge, the Unbeatable Challenges of Inequality, Perspectives on Sociological Theories, Methodological Debates and Organizational Sociology. Additionally, in creative writing, Dr. Bhandari has published 100s of poems, essays and published two volumes of poetry with Prajita Bhandari.

Dr. Bhandari teaches and mentors in the field Community and Economic Development; Environmental Studies; Sustainability Studies; Peace, Diplomacy and International relations. His main interest as a teacher and researcher centers on the intersection of local and global interests (trans-society/trans-border) and capacities in addressing global political economy; green economy, natural resource management challenges, environmental sustainability, and the effects of climate change. He is also interested in risk analysis, public policies, and behaviors that contribute to the goal of catalyzing action across the global community, increase public awareness and change public attitudes on global climate change; natural resource governance issues, human rights abuse, sustainable development and environmental degradation.

His goal is to utilize scientific and cultural knowledge, research skills, and extensive experiences to help address the challenges of global environmental change, the green economy, and sustainability. He is also interested as well in assessing the economic, social and environmental impacts on natural resources/ environmental sustainability. His ultimate objective is to cultivate and engage multidisciplinary knowledge-based networks to minimize the impact of climate change on marginalized societies and to reduce societal conflict over natural resources.

Traian D. Stanculescu, PhD, Council Chair

Dr. Stanculescu, born in 1951 (Potlogi, Romania), has an interdisciplinary academic formation: architecture & philosophy and history faculty (psychology and sociology included). He has worked as an architect, as a lyceum professor, and finally as a university professor at the University of Iai. As a scientific researcher at National Inventics Institute (1993-2008), he auto-didactically studied biophotonics and its emergent implications in the field of human health optimization, having many original contributions, theoretical and practical (inventions) also. He has didactic abilities in the field of teaching "know how"? disciplines, such as semiotics, hermeneutics, creatology, persuasion strategies, etc. which he synergetically applied in teaching and research activity. He is involved in many social-cultural events, being an efficient leader, permanently involved in public relationships by conferences, courses, etc. He has abilities in creative fields such as: poetry,

music and painting, directly used for a personal "connection energy" preservation.

Dr. Owen Ngozi Owunwanne

Dr. Owen Owunwanne is a school teacher at Montgomery County Public Schools in the state of Maryland. He worked for Delta T Group, a Health Care Service Agency; Maxim Health Care Services as a Therapeutic Behavioral Aide; a school registrar for Washington District of Columbia Public Schools. He served on grading and reporting development committee for Middle School students. He served on school curriculum for students youth services in Washington District of Columbia. He served as Co-Director as well as a Policy Advisor, UNICEF-United Nations Association, global Classroom, DC area for over 1,900 teachers and students.

Dr. Owunwanne graduated from State University of New York at Buffalo with B.S. degree in Business Administration. He earned his MBA in 1982 at the University of Beverly Hills California, and earned his MA degree in psychology at Saybrook University in California. Dr. Owunwanne has a PhD degree in Applied Psychology, Health Psychology, Psychophysiology from Akamai University Hilo, Hawaii in 2011. Dr. Owunwanne has over 20 years of experience in business entrepreneurship.

Tricia W. Devin, Ed.D. Past Council Chair

Dr. Devin holds an EdD, MA, PA and BA from Pepperdine University, a Post-Doctorate Ph.D. from Polytechnic University, Berlin, and an RN in Critical Care from the University of Alberta, Canada. She completed her Fellowship Program in England. Dr. Devin served as Provost of Academic Affairs, Dean of Business and Management at the Graduate and Undergraduate levels, and Critical care and Trauma Specialist in California for fifteen years. She has taught online, on-ground, Flexnet and distance education for the past ten years. In 1981, she developed and implemented a specialized consulting business based in Los Angeles, California, with businesses in re-engineering and restructuring transitions. She has worked for corporations in United State, Canada, Europe, and Southeast Asia.

Austin Mardon, CM. MSc, Med, PhD, LLD, KCSS, FRSC, FRCGS
Professor Akamai University, Award December 14, 2021 Winner IIPL Peace Award as Researcher & Writer

Education: Dr. Mardon graduated in 1985 with a major in cultural geography from the University of Lethbridge. He became a graduate student at [South Dakota State University](#), where he also attended the Space Studies Program, and received a master's of science in 1988. He also received a master's

degree in education from [Texas A&M University](#) in 1990. After he was diagnosed with schizophrenia, he earned a Ph.D from [Greenwich University](#).

He has done work on other degrees from [Newman Theological College](#), [Kharkov National University](#), and the [University of South Africa](#). He received an honorary law degree (LL.D.) from the [University of Alberta](#) in 2011.

Career: While doing graduate work at the South Dakota State University in 1986, Dr. Mardon was invited to be a member of the 1986-87 [Antarctic meteorite](#) expedition for [NASA](#) and the [National Science Foundation](#). 170 miles from the [South Pole](#) station when his team found hundreds of meteorites. During his sojourn he suffered environmental exposure which damaged his lungs and gave him a permanent cough. He received the [Antarctica Service Medal](#) for his efforts and risk. One of his most significant contributions to astronomical science was a series of articles he wrote on the [Anglo-Saxon Chronicle](#). The Chronicle is a running commentary on different events in [England](#) during the medieval period. With the assistance of his father, a medieval scholar, Dr. Mardon found eleven cometary events mentioned in the Chronicle that are not mentioned anywhere else in astronomical literature, as well as two meteor showers recorded in the Chronicle.

In 1992, Dr. Mardon was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Following his diagnosis, Dr. Mardon began work as an activist for people with mental illnesses. Dr. Mardon has written multiple books on the subject of mental illness, and has been bestowed several honors and awards for his work as a mental health advocate. In 2011 the [Canadian Medical Association \(CMA\)](#) awarded Dr. Mardon the CMA Medal of Honour in recognition of, "[...] personal contributions to the advance of medical research and education." In regards to the awarding of the medal to Dr. Mardon, CMA president Jeff Turnbull said, "Dr. Mardon has worked tirelessly to help Canadians better understand the issues around mental illness. In courageously talking openly about his own experiences, he is truly making a difference in coaxing mental illness out of the shadows in this country." Dr. Mardon received his most prestigious honor in 2006, when he was awarded the [Order of Canada](#). As of February 2019, Austin has been serving on the University of Lethbridge senate.

Man Bahadur Bishwakarma (Man Bk) PhD, Prof. (Economics)

Dr. Man Bahadur Bishwakarma is a professor for economics and Academic Dean for Madhesh University in Nepal. He completed postdoc research on food security as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar (2016/17) at Brandeis

University, USA. He obtained PhD on Social Inclusion in Microfinance in 2012 from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He did postgraduate diploma in Social Studies from the ISS, Netherlands (2004), MA (Economics) in Rural and Cooperative Development (2002) and MBA (1991) in Financial management from Tribhuvan University, Diploma (1997) in Agro-Cooperative Management from Japan. His PhD dissertation is available at: <https://www.grin.com/document/1132021>

He has long working experience with different international development agencies such as GTZ, Save the Children, CWS UK, UNICEF, UNDP etc. He has profound experience on conflict, peace and constitutional building process. In 2010, he joined the government bureaucracy as a joint secretary and was promoted to the secretary for the Government of Nepal in 2020. He took retirement on April 2021 and associated with the Akamai University serving as a professor for Economics. Moreover, he developed new course on Green Growth and leading it as the program director. He is visiting professor for Tribhuvan University and Kathmandu University, and now joined Madhesh University as the Academic Dean. He has written a dozens of text books and several books on development issues including Social Inclusion, Microfinance, Eradicating Hunger, Green Growth etc. Some of his papers are available at <https://akamaiuniversity.academia.edu/ManBkPhD>

Prof. Bk introduced the community-owned microfinancing model through his PhD research for enhancing access to finance, recognized as the third generation microfinance which is being practiced by some of the MFIs. He initiated National Microfinance Summit in Nepal in 2008. He has conceptualized the ideas of Protective Liberalism, Liberal Socialism, Native Food Regime, Transformative Democracy, CORONOMICs, Green Growth etc. through the researches.

Prof. Bk is also the Sr. Thematic Expert for the Policy Research Institute of Nepal Government, member of Access to Justice Commission, Convener for Preparatory Committee for the proposed university for Native Arts and Culture, member of Fulbright Alumni Association of Nepal (FAAN) and president of Native Arts and Heritage Academy Nepal. He is serving as the chief-editor for the English quarterly bulletin 'Voiceless Voices' published by the US based organization, the Global Forum.

Vijay P Gupta, MD, PhD

Dr. Gupta earned his M.B.B.S. from Agra University in India, his D.F.M. in Forensic Medicine from Bangalore University, India, and his Ph.D. in Forensic Medicine and Toxicology from Greenwich University. Subsequently he did his American Board in Forensic Medicine from American College of Forensic Examiners International, Springfield, U.S.A. He was honoured with a D.Sc.

from Colombo for his contributions to Forensic Medicine and Medical Education. He had worked for The Ministry of Health Saudi Arabia for more than a decade as Director Emergency and Clinical Toxicology. He is member of many international and national academic bodies including the Executive Advisory Board of American College of Forensic Examiners International, Springfield, USA. He has 48 publications to his credit and most of them appeared in International Journals. He had supervised research work of 10 medical postgraduates leading to Ph.D. and Master's degrees. Presently, he is working as Professor of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at HIHT University, Dehradun, India.

**Jamie K. Hicks, PhD, Associate Professor,
Program Co-Director, Spiritual, Trans-Cultural & Faith Traditions,
School of Faith Traditions, Christian Studies**
DrJhicks83@gmail.com

Dr. Jamie K. Hicks holds a Bachelor of Science in Education through Northern Arizona University and has taught a variety of students, ranging from kindergarten to adults. Since 2008, she has taught on campus and transitioned to online teaching in 2016 with Mohave Community College. In May 2015 she graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Christian Counseling Psychology.

Dr. Hicks has been a professional counselor with her own private practice, A Season for All Counseling, LLC. since 2010. Dr. Hicks is an Advanced Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor and Clinical Supervisor – Diplomate, through the National Christian Counseling Association (N.C.C.A). Dr. Hicks has successfully helped other counselors become licensed to practice. She is approved as a N.C.C.A. Certified Academic Institution Center. Dr. Hicks is Board Certified in integrated Marriage and Family Therapy, Child and Adolescent Therapy, and Group Therapy.

**Jim Morningstar, PhD,
Director, School of Integrative Psychology**

The Director of Transformations Incorporated, Jim has held licensure as a clinical psychologist since 1973. He is a clinical supervisor, seminar leader and has pioneered in the integration of psychotherapy with such mind/body techniques as breathwork and bio-spiritual energetics. He founded the School of Spiritual Psychology in 1980 and the Transformations Breath worker Training Program in 1990 and has authored three books in the field of spiritual psychology. He is co-director of the International Breathwork

Training Alliance and founding partner of InWellness.
Email: jim@transformationsusa.com

Antonio Cardona, MPA, MA, CPM, CWDP, GCF

Mr. Cardona holds the Executive Master's in Public Administration from Rutgers University and Master of Arts in Community Counseling from The College of New Jersey. He has been actively involved in diversity and race relations, and the development of anti-discrimination programming for over 10 years. Mr. Cardona is a native speaking Spanish language communicator and has served as an EEO Investigator for the State of New Jersey, including placement within the Office of the Attorney General for assurance of compliance and diversity administration. He is a human resource professional with the New Jersey Department of Human Services and a Workforce Development Coordinator and Career Counselor. Mr. Cardona coordinates mediation scheduling and training for Union County and serves as a professional mediator with the court systems in Union and Somerset Counties. He is an Associate Professor of Psychology with Mercer County College, and an adjunct faculty member with the Human Resource Development Institute, Union County College.

Mr. Cardona serves the State of New Jersey as a diversity expert, holds government certifications in EEO/AA, Diversity Programming and Training, Mediation and Employment Dispute Issues, and holds workforce development credentials including Certified Job Counselor, Training-the-Trainer, and Managing Workplace Diversity. He is an active radio and television presenter, trainer and speaker and serves on a number of state boards and community advisor boards.

James Johnson, MD

Dr. James Johnson is a medical doctor, naturopath, and professor of online courses in Naturopathic Medicine that he has taught for over 10 years. Dr. Johnson developed an interest in Naturopathy since his grade school years. He studied Medicine at a traditional medical college. This medical college graciously permitted Dr. Johnson to study and receive credit for his Naturopathic Medicine electives (which he in part designed). Also, he is a professor of online courses in Nursing, Professional Speaking, Massage Therapy, Healthcare Informatics, and Forensic Sciences. He manages active in-school discussion forums for his students while emphasizing his motto, "Use the simplest remedy when caring for clients." He is said to be one of the most active and innovative users of online learning-management systems. Having worked with many types of holistic providers (e.g., massage therapists, chiropractors, nutritionists, and physicians), he

continues to be involved with the development and review of holistic programs, practices, education, and books.

Delphine Rossi, PhD

Accomplished intuitive wellness consultant, educator and licensed, ordained minister with specialization in spiritual healing - the integration of spirit, mind and body - in the creation of healing and wellness; experienced in identifying, assessing, and planning for personal and group health, wellness and spiritual needs; community health and wellness program planning; university undergraduate and graduate level curriculum and instruction. Her work includes: Intuitive Wellness Consultant - Spiritual Direction - Certified Grief Recovery Specialist® - Editor, Inspirit Wellness 10/2006 to present: Case Management, Lincoln County Community Services Block Grant FY 2019 and Lincoln and Sublette Counties FY 2020 and 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Spiritual Healing - Intuitive Wellness Consultant
- Master Certified Netherton Method of Clinical Hypnotherapy
- Certified Grief Recovery Specialist
- Spiritual Direction
- Editor for Spiritual Healing and Subtle Energy Medicine literature

Christina Ross, PhD, BCPP

Christina Ross, PhD, is a board-certified Polarity Practitioner (BCPP) practicing energy medicine for over a decade. She is also a Certified Energy Medicine Practitioner (CEMP). She earned bachelor's degrees in both psychology and physics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a PhD in Energy Medicine from Akamai University. Her dissertation involved research at the Wake Forest School of Medicine's Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM), studying the effect of pulsed electromagnetic field on cell signaling in an inflammatory response model. She currently works as a post-doctoral scientist at the WFIRM studying the effects of electromagnetic field on cell communication and signaling. She has published articles in internationally known medical journals, and is the author of *Etiology: How to Detect Disease in Your Energy Field Before it Manifests in Your Body*