Speaker Bios

Innovation. Resilience. Change.

November 4, 2022
London, United Kingdom

Diane Bailey, Director of the Cornell Institute for Digital Agriculture (CIDA) and Geri Gay Professor of Communication, Department of Communication

Diane Bailey's research examines technology, work, and organization, with recent interests in artificial intelligence, computational and visualization technologies, digitized artifacts, and data modeling. With an expertise in organizational ethnography, she conducts large-scale, team-based empirical studies. Currently, she leads a team spanning Cornell, Stanford, and the University of California at Santa Barbara in understanding how large-scale data and sophisticated data models are transforming work on dairy farms, the role of dairy farmers, and relationships in the dairy industry. Her ten-year study of engineers and their use of emerging computational and graphical technologies resulted in the MIT Press book, *Technology Choices, Why Occupations Differ in Their Embrace of New Technology.*

She serves on the editorial boards of Academy of Management Discoveries, Organization Science, and Production and Operations Management. Diane has won teaching awards at three universities, a National Science Foundation CAREER award, and best paper awards in communication, management, engineering, and library studies. Prior to joining Cornell, Diane served on the faculty of the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin and on the engineering faculties at Stanford University and the University of Southern California. She holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from the University of California at Berkeley.

Jamie Cross, Chair and Professor of Social & Economic Anthropology; Director, Edinburgh Earth Initiative

Jamie Cross has 25 years' experience in international development research, with a focus on the application of qualitative research methods to address the social impact of climate mitigation and adaptation in contexts of chronic global poverty. He is the author of over 50 academic articles and is the joint winner of a 2020 iF Design Award for Solar What!? – a solar powered lighting system built to minimise electronic waste. He has collaborated with the International

Labour Organisation, the UN High Commission for Refugees, international charities, and bi-lateral development agencies. He has a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Sussex.

A. Aldo Faisal, Professor of AI & Neuroscience, Imperial College, London
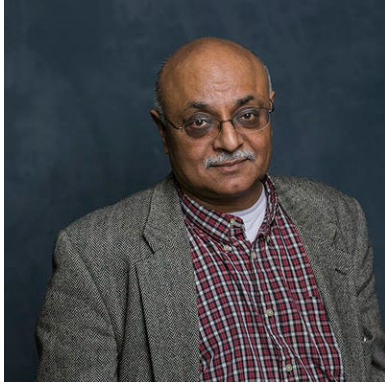
Aldo Faisal is Professor of AI & Neuroscience at Imperial College London. He is Founding Director of the £20Mio UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in AI for Healthcare at Imperial College London. He is also Chair in Digital Health at the University of Bayreuth. His own research labs are the Behaviour Analytics Lab at the Data Science Institute and the Brain & Behaviour Lab at the Dept. of Bioengineering and Dept. of Computing. He is Associate Editor for Nature Scientific Data and PLOS Computational Neuroscience and acted as program chair/area chair in key conferences (e.g.KDD, Neurotechnix, NIPS, IEEE Body Sensor Networks). He was elected in 2016 to the Global Futures Council of the World Economic Forum (Davos), named Associate Group Head @MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences and made an honorary senior fellow of Oxford University's Nuffield Department of Clinical Neuroscience.
Dr Faisal's expertise lies in combining data-driven methods, machine learning and human behaviour and neuroscience to develop novel human-aware AI technology that helps people in health and disease.

Steve Israel, Director of the Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy Institute of Politics and Global Affairs, Professor of Government and Former Congressman

Steve Israel served in the U.S. Congress between 2001–2017, including four years as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (2011–2015). He left Washington - unindicted and undefeated - to pursue new passions. In 2021 he opened a small independent bookshop, Theodore's Books, in his historic hometown of Oyster Bay, fulfilling a lifelong dream. He also directs the nonpartisan Institute of Politics and Global Affairs at the Brooks School of Public Policy at Cornell University, which serves as a platform for civic engagement and bipartisan dialogue. He has published two critically acclaimed satires of Washington: *The Global War on Morris* (2014) and *Big Guns* (2018).

 In Congress he created the House Center Aisle Caucus and was recognized as a leader on national security issues and the Middle East. Israel's commentary has been featured on CNN and MSNBC, well as *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic* magazine, the *Washington Post*, and *Wall Street Journal*. He was profiled on HBO's Last Week Tonight with John Oliver and has appeared on CBS's Sixty Minutes. He lives with his wife Cara in Oyster Bay, Long Island. He has two daughters and two grandchildren.

Ravi Kanbur, T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics, and Professor of Economics

Ravi Kanbur researches and teaches in development economics, public economics and economic theory. He is well known for his role in policy analysis and engagement in international development. He has served on the senior staff of the World Bank including as Chief Economist for Africa. He has also published in the leading economics journals, including *Journal of Political Economy, American Economic Review, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Economic Theory and Economic Journal.*

He is the Co-Chair of the Food Systems Economics Commission. His past positions have included: President of the Human Development and Capabilities Association, Chair of the Board of United Nations University-World Institute for Development Economics Research, Co-Chair of the Scientific Council of the International Panel on Social Progress, member of the OECD High Level Expert Group on the Measurement of Economic Performance, President of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, member of the High Level Advisory Council of the Climate Justice Dialogue, and member of the Core Group of the Commission on Global Poverty.

Gunisha Kaur, '06, '10, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Founding Director of the Human Rights Impact Lab, and Co-Medical Director of the Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights, Faculty Fellow, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies

Dr. Gunisha Kaur's family came to the United States as refugees in the 1980s, and she has dedicated her career as a physician-scientist to advancing the health of forcibly displaced and traumatized people such as refugees and asylum seekers. Dr. Kaur has used her extensive background in neuroscience research as an analytical framework to pioneer the study of human rights through scientific methodology. Her research has been supported by several funders including the National Institutes of Health, the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research, and Cornell University.

 Dr. Kaur's landmark studies have been published by the highest impact medical journals including *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet,* and *Nature Medicine.* She has translated her medical and scientific expertise in two books and for mainstream outlets including *TIME*, *CNN*, and *NBC News*. A dynamic speaker, Dr. Kaur has given over 100 national and international keynote presentations and talks, including with global leaders, twice together with Pope Francis, at the United Nations, and for the White House.

Dr. Kaur is a Quadruple Red Cornellian who earned her B.S. from Cornell University in 2006, graduated with an M.D. from Weill Cornell Medical College in 2010, and completed her Anesthesiology Residency

training and Fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York Presbyterian Hospital in 2014. She earned a master's degree in Medical Anthropology from Harvard University in 2015.

Martha Pollack, President, Cornell University

Martha Pollack is the fourteenth president of Cornell University and professor of computer science, information science, and linguistics. She took office on April 17, 2017.

As the only land-grant university in the Ivy League, Cornell combines the highest standards of teaching and research with a public mission to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge. President Pollack is committed to building upon Cornell's academic distinction and unique strengths, investing in the creativity and experience of our exceptional faculty while also enhancing our culture of "educational verve" through new, evidence-based approaches to teaching and learning. She sees Cornell's foundational commitment to diversity and equity as central to our identity and success and has engaged the entire university in the work of building an open, inclusive community whose members communicate effectively across difference. In her leadership of Cornell's many units and campuses, she works to cultivate productive and meaningful synergies across disciplines and geographies, realizing a vision of "One Cornell" that capitalizes on the complementary strengths of our urban and rural identities.

An expert in artificial intelligence with a research focus on natural-language processing, automated planning, and the design of assistive technology for people with cognitive impairment, President Pollack earned a bachelor's degree in linguistics at Dartmouth College and an M.S. and Ph.D. in computer and information science at the University of Pennsylvania. She was previously provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan, where she was also professor of computer science and information.

Paul Polman, Business Leader, Campaigner, Author, Chair of IMAGINE, former CEO and Chairman, Unilever UK Limited

Business leader, campaigner, Co-Author of "Net Positive: how courageous companies thrive by giving more than they take", recently published October 2021.

Paul Polman works to accelerate action by business to tackle climate change and inequality. A leading proponent that business should be a force for good, Paul has been described by the Financial Times as "a standout CEO of the past decade".

As CEO of Unilever (2009-2019), he demonstrated that a long-term, multi-stakeholder model goes hand-in-hand with excellent financial performance. Paul was a member of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel which developed the Sustainable Development Goals and which he continues to champion, working with global organizations and across industry to advance the 2030 development agenda.

Paul's new book, "Net Positive", is a call to arms to courageous business leaders, setting out how to build net positive companies which profit by fixing the world's problems rather than creating them. He Chairs IMAGINE, a social venture dedicated to systems change, and Saïd Business School, and he is Vice-Chair of the UN Global Compact as well as a B Team Leader. Paul is Honorary Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce, which he led for two years.

Eswar Prasad, the Nandlal P. Tolani Senior Professor of International Trade Policy and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute

Prasad's latest book is *The Future of Money: How the Digital Revolution is Transforming Currencies and Finance* (Harvard University Press, 2021). He is also the author of *Gaining Currency: The Rise of the Renminbi* (Oxford, 2016) and *The Dollar Trap: How the U.S. Dollar Tightened Its Grip on Global Finance* (Princeton, 2014). Prasad has testified before the Senate Finance Committee, the House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services, and the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. He is the creator of the Brookings-Financial Times world economy index (*TIGER: Tracking Indices for the Global Economic Recovery*). His op-ed articles have appeared in the *Financial Times, Foreign Policy, Harvard Business Review, International Herald Tribune, New York Times, Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*.

Eswar Prasad is also a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, where he holds the New Century Chair in International Economics, and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He was previously chief of the Financial Studies Division in the IMF's Research Department and, before that, was the head of the IMF's China Division.

Mert Sabuncu, Associate Professor, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and School of Biomedical Engineering

Mert Sabuncu received a PhD degree in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University, where his dissertation work focused on the image processing problem of establishing spatial correspondence across multiple clinical scans. Mert then moved to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to do a post-doc at the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab (CSAIL), where he worked with Polina Golland on biomedical image analysis.

Before joining Cornell's School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mert was a faculty member at the A.A Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging (Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School). In 2021, Mert moved to Cornell Tech and Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City.

Mert is a co-founder and executive editor of MELBA (*The Journal of Machine Learning for Biomedical Imaging*), a web-based journal devoted to the free and unrestricted access of high quality articles in the broad field that bridges machine learning and biomedical imaging. He also co-launched the Machine Learning in Medicine initiative, which is a Cornell-wide inter-campus collaborative with the goal of bringing together researchers with common interests and complimentary expertise. MLIM also runs a webinar series, which is freely available to all.

Barry Sheerman, Member of Parliament for Huddersfield at House of Commons

Barry Sheerman is a British Labour and Co-operative politician who has served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Huddersfield (previously Huddersfield East) since 1979. He is Labour's longest continuously serving MP in the current parliament.

Sheerman was the Labour spokesperson on education and employment from 1983-88; for Home Affairs (as Shadow Deputy Home Secretary) from 1988-92; and for Disabled People's Rights from 1992-4. He has previous served as the Chair of the House of Commons Education and Skills Select Committee between 2001 and 2010. He is a keen social enterpriser and has started over fifty social enterprises in his career.

Rachel Beatty Riedl, Director, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies John S. Knight Professor of International Studies Professor, Department of Government and Brooks School of Public Policy

Rachel Beatty Riedl is the Einaudi Center's director and John S. Knight Professor of International Studies and professor in the Department of Government.

Her research interests include institutional development in new democracies, local governance and decentralization policy, authoritarian regime legacies, and religion and politics, with a regional focus in Sub-Saharan Africa. Previously, she was an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, Faculty Fellow in the Institute for Policy Research, and Director of the Program of African Studies at Northwestern University. She has also been a visiting fellow at the Yale Program on Democracy, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. She was a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and served as Chair of the Democracy and Autocracy section of the American Political Science Association. Riedl is co-host of the podcast Ufahamu Africa, featuring weekly episodes of news highlights and interviews about life and politics on the African continent. PhD Princeton University.

Wendy Wolford, Vice Provost for International Affairs; the Robert A. and Ruth E. Polson Professor of Global Development

As vice provost, Wendy Wolford is responsible for strengthening the university's global connections and worldwide interdisciplinary initiatives. Her research focuses on international development, land use and distribution, social mobilization, and agrarian societies with a regional concentration in Latin America—particularly Brazil. For 20 years, she has worked with one of the most important grassroots social movements in Latin American history: the *Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra* (MST), or the Movement of Rural Landless Workers. Part of Cornell's faculty since 2010, Wolford served as the faculty director of economic development at the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, where she co-led CARE-Cornell and Oxfam-Cornell collaborations.

Before joining Cornell, she was a faculty member in geography at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill. She spent 2016–17 as a Fulbright scholar in Mozambique and Portugal. She is currently working on a book on the politics of inequality and rural development in Brazil and Mozambique. Wolford's *This Land is Ours Now* (2010, Duke University Press) was a groundbreaking book that presented an original framework for understanding social mobilizations. Wolford holds a PhD in geography from the University of California, Berkeley, and a BA in economics and international development from McGill University.

Tina Woods '85, Founder and CEO of Collider Health and Healthy Longevity Champion for the UK National Centre for Ageing.

Tina Woods is a mission-driven social entrepreneur and system architect bringing diverse stakeholders together in shared endeavors to improve health across the lifecourse in her role as Healthy Longevity Champion for the UK National Innovation Centre for Ageing. She is Founder and CEO of Collider Health and also Co-Founder and CEO of Business for Health, a business-led social venture, bringing in 'Health' into 'ESG' mandates to support long-term sustainable innovation and investment in preventative health and care. Tina's book, '*Live Longer with AI: How artificial intelligence is helping us extend our healthspans and live better too*' was published in October 2020. Tina sits on various advisory groups, including the BSI standards group for AI in health and care, and the Ada Lovelace Advisory Board on Health Inequalities. She is also a trustee for the British Society for Research on Ageing. She studied genetics at Cornell University and has an MBA from Bayes Business School (formerly Cass/City).

J. Meejin Yoon '95, the Gale and Ira Drukier Dean of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning

J. Meejin Yoon is the Gale and Ira Drukier Dean of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning (AAP) at Cornell University, and co-founding partner of Höweler + Yoon. An architect, designer, and educator, Yoon is committed to advancing creative and critical practices and pedagogies, scholarship, and research that address the many urgent environmental and social challenges we face in our cities and communities.

Yoon's own work and research examines intersections between architecture, urbanism, technology, and the public realm. Her professional projects include cultural buildings and public spaces including the Institute of Democracy and the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at the University of Virginia, the MIT Museum at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Living Village at the Yale Divinity School.

Recent honors include the 2022 World Cultural Council Leonardo da Vinci World Award of Arts, and in 2021, Yoon was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in the field of architecture, the highest recognition of artistic merit in the United States.