



UW–MADISON ABET READINESS REVIEW AND DEPARTMENTAL REVIEWERS AND FACULTY MENTORING

In the spring of 2024, six teams of representatives from UW–Madison will be providing external review of the six social science and humanities departments at Nazarbayev University School of Sciences and Humanities (NU SSH)—Economics; Kazakh Language and Turkic Studies (KazLT); History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies (HPRS); Languages, Linguistics, and Literature (LLL); Political Science and International Relations; and Sociology and Anthropology. Additionally, four teams of UW–Madison representatives will be providing feedback to NU SSH’s STEM departments—Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math—as they make preparation for ABET accreditation.

The work of the SSH departmental and ABET readiness review teams is led by [Professor James H. Sweet](#) and [Dr. Laura Grossenbacher](#), respectively, and brief bios for each of the reviewers has been included below, along with areas of potential collaboration. On the UW-side, this work is being coordinated by the [International Projects Office team](#).

For general questions regarding this work, contact Professor James Sweet (jhsweet@wisc.edu) or Dr. Virginia Martin (vmartin2@wisc.edu). For questions regarding the ABET-portion of this work, contact Dr. Laura Grossenbacher (lrgrossenbac@wisc.edu).

REVIEW SITE VISIT TIMELINE * When the different review teams will be at NU. *



For more information on the history of the Nazarbayev University Partnership with UW–Madison, see the [partnership background](#) page at nuinfo.wisc.edu or the chapter in “Wisconsin in the World: Internationalization at the University of Wisconsin–Madison” (Ahn, 2023) on “The UW–Madison Partnership with Nazarbayev University” by Virginia Martin and David McDonald ([downloadable from here](#)).

PARTNERSHIP SERVICE PRINCIPALS (UW)

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENTAL REVIEWS



Dr. James H. Sweet—Interim faculty director, UW–Madison Partnership with NU, and Vilas-Jartz Distinguished Professor, History

Interest areas for potential collaboration: *Faculty mentor for NU HPRS Department faculty.*

ABET READINESS REPORT REVIEWS



Dr. Laura Grossenbacher—UW-NU Partnership ABET-services principal, and Director, Undergraduate Program Review (Engineering).

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Applied ethics in the STEM disciplines; engineering communication.

REVIEW OPERATIONS, LOGISTICS, AND REPORTING



Dr. Elise S. Ahn—Partnership manager, UW–Madison Partnership with NU, and Director, International Projects Office

Interest areas for potential collaboration: The intersection of migration and the changing dynamics of socioeconomic stratification (including language, ethnicity, SES) in Kazakhstan and its impact on access to K–16 education.



Dr. Virginia Martin—Partnership coordinator, UW–Madison Partnership with NU, and Partnership Manager, International Projects Office

Interest areas for potential collaboration: 18th-19th century Kazakh history



J. Pasha Prem—Business Operations Manager, International Projects Office

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENTAL REVIEWERS (UW) * arranged by NU department *

ECONOMICS



Dr. Paul Dower—Associate Professor, Agricultural & Applied Economics

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Expanding two projects that are being conducted in Kyrgyzstan to Kazakhstan—one on kinship ties in business and the other on decollectivization



Dr. Marek Weretka¹—Stuart & Brenda McCroskey Professor, Economics

Interest areas for potential collaboration: *Faculty mentor for NU Economics Department faculty.*

KAZAKH LANGUAGE AND TURKIC STUDIES



Dr. Jacee Cho—Vilas Associate Professor, English Language and Linguistics

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Currently developing a project on multilingual acquisition focusing on Kazakh-Russian bilingual speakers' acquisition of English as their third language (funded by a UW Vilas Associates Competition award for 2023–2025). This is a four to five year project. Exploring collaborations with researchers at NU and would also like to provide NU students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience in experimental linguistic & psycholinguistic research.



Dr. Dianna Murphy—Director, Language Institute, and Co-Director, Russian Flagship Program

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Exploring collaboration with faculty who are native or near-native speakers of Russian and scholars of the history and culture of Kazakhstan or of different aspects of contemporary society, for a curriculum development project for U.S. students of Russian. Also interested in meeting with faculty with expertise in researching attitudes and beliefs who might be

¹ Also a UW faculty mentor for the NU SSH Economics Department.

interested in collaborating on a study on Kazakhstani student attitudes related to international students coming to Kazakhstan to study Russian language.

HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Dr. Judd Kinzley—Professor, History

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Cross-border ties between Central Asia and China.



Dr. Michael Titelbaum—Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, Philosophy

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Exploring further collaborations with NU SSH Philosophy faculty (Capraru, Noonan, Hutchinson, Heeney, and Parent) around rationality in relation to epistemology, metaethics, ethics, decision theory, political philosophy, logic, and the philosophy of science.

LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS, AND LITERATURE



Dr. Rajiv Rao—Director, Spanish Language Program, Director, Language Sciences Program, and Professor, Spanish and Portuguese

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Heritage languages and languages in contact (or in the fields of bilingualism and multilingualism).



Dr. Andrew Reynolds²—Associate Professor, German, Nordic, and Slavic +

Interest areas for potential collaboration: *Faculty mentor for NU LLL Department faculty.* Exploring joint publications, collaborative translation(s), and conference engagement.

² Also a UW faculty mentor

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Dr. Nadav Shelef—Harvey M. Meyerhoff Professor, Israel Studies, and Professor, Political Science



Dr. Daniel Kapust—Professor, Judith Hicks Stiehm Chair, Political Theory

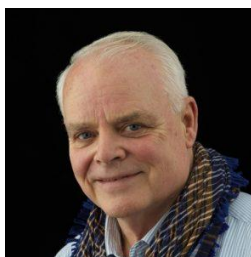
Interest areas for potential collaboration: To observe and learn from NU's liberal arts educational model as chair of UW's Department of Integrated Liberal Studies.

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



Dr. Eric Grodsky—Professor and Chair, Sociology

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Interested in facilitating connections between UW and NU sociology faculty and students.



Dr. Jonathon Mark Kenoyer—George F. Dales Jr. and Barbara A. Dales Professor, Anthropology, Associate Chair, and Undergraduate Advisor

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Expand and strengthen existing ties with UW units and centers.

ABET READINESS REVIEW REVIEWERS (UW) * arranged by NU department *

BIOLOGY



Dr. Janet Batzli—Emeritus teaching faculty and associate director, Biocore

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Establishing a UW Visiting International Student Program biology themed program for NU students interested in traveling to UW and taking classes in Biocore (UW's honors biology program) and exploring teaching the process of science and scientific writing.



Dr. Krishnapuram (KG) Karthikyan—Professor,
Biological Systems Engineering

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Exploring research partnerships related to water treatment, wastewater reuse, nutrient recovery from animal/human waste, and environmental fate of emerging contaminants (including microplastics).

PHYSICS



Dr. Kevin Black—Professor, Associate Chair for Graduate Programs, Physics



Dr. Arganthaël Berson—Assistant Teaching Professor,
Mechanical Engineering

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Multiphase flow, energy systems, and curriculum development around solar energy and sustainability.

CHEMISTRY



Dr. John Chan—Associate Research Professor, Global Health Institute

Interest areas for potential collaboration: One Health models.



Dr. Karen High³—Professor, Engineering and Science Education

Interest areas for potential collaboration: *Exploring faculty development opportunities.*

³ Primary affiliation: Clemson University (US)

MATH



Sara Hagen—Academic Planner and Data Analyst,
College of Engineering

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Exploring opportunities around research collaboration on the topics of academic planning, assessment, continuous improvement, data use, and ABET accreditation.



Dr. Tonghai Yang—Professor, Mathematics

Interest areas for potential collaboration: Exploring a joint Visiting International Student Program-MA program in Math.

FACULTY MENTORS (UW)

In addition to the departmental and ABET readiness report review work, UW–Madison faculty have also been engaging in faculty mentoring work at NU SSH. The AY2024–2025 faculty mentors’ bios have been included below.

NB: Professors Andrew Reynolds, James Sweet, and Marek Waretka’s bios are included earlier in this briefing packet. They are mentoring faculty in LLL, HPRS, and Economics, respectively.



Dr. Russell Shafer-Landau—Professor, Philosophy

Faculty mentor for: *Faculty mentor for NU SSH HPRS Department faculty.*



Dr. Maria Lepowsky—Professor, Anthropology

Faculty mentor for: *Faculty mentor for NU SSH Sociology and Anthropology faculty.*



Dr. Ed Schatz—Director, Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, and Professor, Political Science (University of Toronto)

Faculty mentor for: *Faculty mentor for NU SSH PSIR faculty.*