All presentations will take place in Hood Dining Room, Blaustein Humanities Center, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Faculty colleagues are invited and lunch is provided.

**FALL 2018**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

**TERRY-ANN CRAIGIE**  
Associate Professor of Economics

**Ban the Box, Convictions, and Public Employment**  
The civil rights organization, All of Us or None, led a campaign for fair-chance hiring or “Ban the Box” (BTB) policies, aimed at improving employment outcomes of those with convictions, primarily in the public sector. Under BTB policies, initial conviction inquiries and criminal background checks are deferred until later in the hiring process, giving individuals the opportunity to highlight their qualifications and contextualize criminal convictions. Despite the well-intentioned objectives of BTB policy reform, scholars argue that employers will engage in racial discrimination against young black men because they disproportionately comprise the correctional population. I will illustrate the nation-wide impact of BTB policies on the public employment of those with conviction records, while addressing the issue of racial discrimination.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018**

**SHEETAL CHHABRIA**  
Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Assistant Professor of History

**The Art of Governing Poverty**  
My research historicizes poverty and its relation to the power of capital in colonial India. Between 1750 and 1950, “India” went from being a sought after place of wealth to an underdeveloped national space. Poverty shifted from an attribute of people to an attribute of a country representable through abstract numerical indices. The latter permitted experts to order countries on a spectrum of underdeveloped to developed nations. This change had everything to do with the needs of colonial and Indian capital.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018**

**DOUGLAS M. THOMPSON**  
Associate Professor of Physics, Astronomy and Geophysics

**Can We Engineer Wildness in Rivers?**  
People hold many misconceptions about healthy rivers that can ultimately lead to poor management of these critical ecosystems. The Narraguagus River in Maine is an important spawning site for endangered Atlantic salmon that might appear pristine at first glance, but suffers from a legacy of timber harvest practices. Learn what is being done to restore aquatic habitat along the river in an effort to save one of the East Coast’s unique species.

**SPRING 2019**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

**KEN PRESTINIZI**  
Associate Professor of Theater

**The Playfulness of Strangers**  
Every stage play is a stranger that seeks new encounters. Every new encounter invites transformation. I will discuss today’s playwrights’ efforts to structure time, space and the interplay of strangers to change our perception of who we are and who we might become. We are experiencing the most divergent and form-bending era of theater-making in the United States. As playwrights observe and upturn expected notions of character, narrative, performance, pleasure and power in our lives, estrangement remains the playwright’s most generative and potent tool.

**MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019**

**MICHAEL SEIFERT**  
Assistant Professor of Physics

**Lorentz Symmetry and How to Break It**  
Lorentz symmetry is the fundamental symmetry between space and time that underlies Einstein’s theory of relativity. Since its inception in 1905, it has been verified in many experiments; but as our experiments become more sensitive, we may find that Lorentz symmetry is not a precise symmetry of nature. I will discuss how we can look for small violations of Lorentz symmetry, and how we can construct consistent mathematical models of this broken symmetry.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019**

**PURBA MUKERJI**  
Associate Professor of Economics

**Armington Elasticity and Technological Development**  
We model the role of countries’ technological capability in determining and changing the market power of the domestic varieties of products requiring sophisticated production technology, the “Armington elasticities.” Technology advancement allows the country to produce competitive varieties. Also, technology advancement accompanies higher incomes, leading to steadier demand for these products. Simulations yield the impact of income change on Armington elasticities, at different levels of economic development.