



KEAN

Fourth Kean University Faculty Research Conference

**Climbing Higher Together:
Building and Sharing Impactful
Faculty Research**

May 8, 2026

Liberty Hall Academic Center (LHAC)

kean.edu/research-conf



**SCAN TO
REGISTER**

Welcome to the **Fourth Kean University Faculty Research Conference (FRC4)**

This year's conference builds on the strong foundation established in previous years and reflects the continued growth and evolution of Kean University's research community. As a Carnegie R2 research institution, Kean continues to expand the scope, visibility and impact of faculty scholarship across disciplines.

We are especially proud to share that this year's conference received a record number of submissions, reflecting a vibrant and highly engaged community of scholars. We are also pleased to include contributions from colleagues at New Jersey City University, marking an important step as we come together as one institution. The participation of our colleagues from Wenzhou-Kean University further reflects the continued development of a shared research agenda across our global campuses. FRC4 brings together a diverse range of faculty-led contributions, underscoring our shared commitment to producing meaningful and impactful research.

We are especially honored to welcome our plenary speaker, **George Hobor**, Senior Program Officer at the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)**. RWJF is one of the nation's leading philanthropic organizations, committed to advancing health equity and transforming health systems through bold, evidence-driven initiatives. Working at the intersection of research, policy and community engagement, the Foundation advances a vision of a future where health is no longer a privilege, but a right. Mr. Hobor brings a uniquely impactful perspective shaped by experience across academia, research institutions and nonprofit organizations. His work spans critical areas such as urban economic development, climate resilience, community violence and justice system reform, with a strong emphasis on translating data and research into actionable public value. Central to his approach is the democratization of data and the use of research as a tool for equity and societal impact. His keynote, *From Data to Action: Advancing Equity and Public Value through Research and Philanthropic Partnerships*, will offer valuable insights into how research can drive meaningful change.

With the continued support of the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP), especially the Office of Science and Technology, FRC4 also reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen faculty research support and engagement. Throughout the conference, opportunities will be available for faculty to connect informally with colleagues and representatives from ORSP, including dedicated spaces for conversation around research development and funding.

To all presenters, attendees, organizers and staff, thank you for being part of this shared effort. We look forward to celebrating this moment with you.

— The Conference Committee

Program at a Glance

[LHAC] Liberty Hall Academic Center

8:15 a.m.	Registration / Breakfast Open		LHAC, Exhibition Hall
8:30 a.m.	Opening Address and Provost Remarks		
9:10 a.m.	A1	AI and Educational Technology	LHAC, Rm 203
	A2	Teaching and Learning Research	LHAC, Rm 204
	A3	Business and Financial Management (WKU)	LHAC, Rm 205
	A4	Interdisciplinary Research Session (WKU)	LHAC, Rm 206
10:10 a.m.	Break and ORSP		LHAC, Exhibition Hall
10:40 a.m.	B1	Language, Cognition and Learning	LHAC, Rm 203
	B2	Work and Markets in the Digital Economy	LHAC, Rm 204
	B3	Governance, Markets and Information Disclosure	LHAC, Rm 205
	B4	Clinical Assessment and Practice	LHAC, Rm 206
	B5	Creative Works Session <i>Works will be available to view all day. Creative works authors will be available for Q&A during this session.</i>	LHAC, Gallery
11:40 a.m.	Lunch Open / OST and Research Awards		LHAC, Exhibition Hall
12:30 p.m.	President and Guest Speaker		
1:40 p.m.	C1	Moral Psychology, Ethics and Decision-Making	LHAC, Rm 203
	C2	Mental Health and Well-Being	LHAC, Rm 204
	C3	Sciences and Mathematics	LHAC, Rm 205
	C4	History, Identity and Society	LHAC, Rm 206
3 p.m.	D1	Applied Machine Learning Across Domains	LHAC, Rm 203
	D2	Robust and Secure Intelligent Systems	LHAC, Rm 204
	D3	Biology and Physical Health	LHAC, Rm 205
	D4	Culture, Humanities and Lived Experience	LHAC, Rm 206
4 p.m.	Conference Close		LHAC, Exhibition Hall

Research Subjects and Presenters

Each presentation is 15 minutes, followed by a short Q&A session. Check page 2 for locations.

SESSION A • 9:10 – 10:10 A.M.	
A1	AI and Educational Technology
1	A Scoping Study of the Global State of AI Curricula in Early Childhood Education: Advancing a Developmentally Appropriate AI Curriculum Framework Presenter: Jennifer Chen / Co-author: Qiuju (Daisy) Tian
2	ChatGPT and Lesson Planning in Early Childhood Education: Insights from Early Childhood Educators in the U.S. Presenter: Saigeetha Jambunathan
3	Guided Self-Regulated Learning via LLMs Presenter: Iyadunni Adenuga
4	Innovations in Practice: Faculty Research Driving the Future of Educational Technology Presenter: Laura Zieger / Co-authors: Chris Shamburg, Dana Mason
A2	Teaching and Learning Research
1	Learning at the Intersection: An Activity Theory Review of Research Experiences for Teachers Presenter: Karen Woodruff
2	Examining the Transformation of In-Service Teachers' Intentions towards Teaching and Students' Incidental Learning about Dynamic Angles Presenter: Erell Germia
3	Investigation of Within- and Cross-Notation Neural Activation for Fractions, Percentages, and Whole Numbers Presenter: Lauren Schiller / Co-authors: Piper Rennerfeldt, Roberto Abreu-Mendoza, Jennifer Chen, Karen Woodruff, Clarissa Thompson, Miriam Rosenberg-Lee
4	Using Mobile Augmented Reality in Computer Science Programming Education: Learning Outcomes and Technology Acceptance Presenter: Lakshmi Devi Subramanian
A3	Business and Financial Management (WKU)
1	Boss's Sin, Subordinates' Stain: Stigma by Association and Employee Careers in the Aftermath of CFO Dismissals Presenter: Jiaying Ge
2	A Crafty Rabbit Has Three Burrows: Tax Enforcement Heterogeneity and the Strategic Reallocation of Tax Non-Compliance in Business Groups Presenter: Jingjing Xia
3	Navigating the Human-AI Synergy: Orchestrating Augmentation in Modern Business Operations Presenter: Xiaohu Qiao
4	The Attention Shakeout: Financial Analysts and the Concentration of Technology Narratives Presenter: Yujie Song
A4	Interdisciplinary Research Session (WKU)
1	Investigating the Impact of Academic Resources, Teaching Methods and Educational Assessment on Students' Views of Teaching Quality: The Undergraduate Students' Perspective from China Presenter: Amin Jan / Co-author: Gengle Zhang
2	A Primate-Specific Long Non-Coding RNA Gene That Regulates Glycemic Control Emerges as a Drug Target for Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity Treatment in a Nonhuman-Primate Model Presenter: Leonard Lipovich
3	Multilingual Repertoires Without Multilingual Selves: Scale and Polycentric Governance at a Chinese EMI University Presenter: Andrew Jocuns

4	An Exploration of the Relationship Between Undergraduate Majors and Students' Perceptions of Ethical GenAI Use Presenter: Michael Burri / Co-author: Marcella Caprario
SESSION B • 10:40 – 11:40 A.M.	
B1	Language, Cognition and Learning
1	Are You Really Bi-/Multilingual? Evaluating the Predictive Power of Self-Reports on Objective Proficiency Presenter: Anne Neveu
2	Linguistic Adaptation in Human-AI Interaction: Evidence from Voice Conversations with Artificially-Intelligent Chatbots Presenter: Iyad Ghanim
3	Temperament Predicts Vocabulary Development of Infants from Low-Income Families: A Longitudinal Structural Equation Model Analysis Presenter: Nicolas Zapparrata
4	Exploring Teacher and Teacher Educator Dyslexia Knowledge and Knowledge Sources Presenter: Susan Chambre
B2	Work and Markets in the Digital Economy
1	Measuring Dynamic Efficiency in Digital Markets: A Framework for Non-Price Competitive Harm Presenter: Kwanghyuk (David) Yoo
2	AI, Task Delegation, and the Future of Work in Emerging Markets Presenter: Aaron van Klyton
3	The Labor Market Impact of Generative AI: Employment, Inequality, and Productivity Evidence from US Occupations Presenter: Chen Meng
4	Common Shareholders Along Supply Chain and Suppliers' ESG Performance: Evidence from China Presenter: Yixun Zhou
B3	Governance, Markets and Information Disclosure
1	Do Governments Transparently Disclose Financial Distress in MD&A? Evidence from Large Language Model-Based Textual Analysis Presenter: Jinqiu Yan
2	The Informational Upside of Patent Litigation: Evidence from Stock Price Synchronicity Presenter: Bo Wang
3	Decoding CEO Interviews: The Forward-Looking Insights from Verbal and Non-Verbal Cues Presenter: Hanxin Hu
4	Social and Solidarity Economy, Public Policy, and Collaborative Governance in Southeast Asia: Pathways to Sustainable Development Presenter: Bok Gyo Jeong
B4	Clinical Assessment and Practice
1	Strategies for Success: Supporting Graduate Students in Clinical Placements Presenter: Darya Hinman / Co-author: Karen Villanueva
2	Validity of Speech-in-Noise Hearing Assessments for Bilingual Listeners Presenter: Alyssa Smith / Co-author: Iyad Ghanim
3	Information Systems Auditing of Psychiatric Diagnoses Using Context-Enriched QA-Based Language Models Presenter: Guanghua Wang
4	Beyond the Whole: Examining Task-Specific Self-Efficacy in Clinical Swallow Evaluation Simulation Presenter: Karen Villanueva

B5	Creative Works Session <i>Works will be available to view all day. Creative works authors will be available for Q&A during this session.</i>
1	In Threads: Frayed Infrastructures of Electrification Presenter: Laura del Pino
2	Designing Happiness: The Happiness Collaborative as a Model for Interdisciplinary Community-Engaged Research Presenter: Denise Anderson / Co-authors: Henry Stankiewicz, Daniela Shebitz, Stephanie Sang Delgado
3	Plug-In Neighborhood: Adaptive Modular Housing for Charlotte, NC Presenter: Camille Sherrod / Co-authors: Francisco Grimaldi, Richard Negron
SESSION C • 1:40 – 2:40 P.M.	
C1	Moral Psychology, Ethics and Decision-Making
1	Morally Invested: Attribution of Blame to Investors for Corporate Harm Presenter: Peter Kardos
2	Donations in the Dark Presenter: Nava Cohen
3	CEO Narcissism and Related Party Transactions Presenter: Bilal Al Dah / Co-authors: Mustafa Dah, Moataz El-Helaly
4	Who's Afraid of a Tainted Auditor? Evidence from the Evergrande–PwC Scandal Presenter: Shuo Yang
C2	Mental Health and Well-Being
1	Adverse Childhood Experiences and mHealth App Use in Women: The Mediating Roles of Depression and Anxiety Presenter: Fei Shen / Co-author: Estelle Mi
2	Fear of Missing Out as a Mental Health Signal: Digital Engagement, Loneliness, and AI Reliance in Urban Higher Education Presenter: Peri Yuksel / Co-author: Nicholas Zapparrata
3	Normative Environmental Stressors and Behavioral Phenotypes: The Impact of Local Weather on Physical Activity and Mental Health in an Urban Cohort Presenter: Wei Zhang
4	Psychological Flexibility Among LGBTQ+ People Presenter: Giacinta Talarico
C3	Sciences and Mathematics
1	Investigating Organic Toxins Produced by Harmful Algal Blooms in New Jersey Aquatic Environments Presenter: Shuting Liu Co-authors: Joshua Dovey, Mateo Gonzales, Elizabeth MacChioni, Dylan Suarez, Liliana Rodriguez, Jeant Javier, Kweku McDonald
2	Environmental Surveillance and Discovery of Novel Antimicrobial Compounds: A Dual Approach to Addressing Antibiotic Resistance Presenter: Meriem Bendaoud
3	Examining the Difference Between Physical and Virtual Linear Measurements on Human Skeletal Elements Presenter: Myrsini Voulgari
4	A Ladder of Generalized Topological Structures Presenter: Frederic Mynard
C4	History, Identity and Society
1	Unraveling Geneva: The Dismantling of Asylum and Refugee Protections Presenter: William Westerman

2	Decolonizing Wellness: Muslim Women's Faith-Informed Practices of Healing Presenter: Fatima Koura
3	Crafting and Trading Along the Banks of the Telica: Artisan Communities and Regional Interaction in Eastern Honduras and Beyond Presenter: Virginia Ochoa-Winemiller
4	20th-Century US Immigrant Dictionaries and Their Advertisements Presenter: Donna Farina / Co-authors: Marjeta Vrbinc, Alenka Vrbinc
SESSION D • 3 – 4 P.M.	
D1	Applied Machine Learning Across Domains
1	Enabling Auto-Correction on Soft Braille Keyboard Presenter: Yan Ma
2	Comparative Evaluation of Transformer-Based and Hybrid Speech Recognition Models Across Low- and High-Resource Languages Presenter: Navya Martin Kollapally
3	Breast Cancer Risk Prediction from Mammography Using Deep Learning Presenter: Meng Xu
D2	Robust and Secure Intelligent Systems
1	Cayley Hash Functions for Password Security in a Postquantum World Presenter: Eilidh McKemmie / Co-author: Amol Srivastava
2	Cybersecurity in Peace and Stability Operations: Preparing the Next Generation of Cyber Peacekeepers Presenter: Scott Fisher / Co-author: Kutub Thakur
3	Integrating Terrain Understanding of AI Models with Robust Control for Autonomous Rover Path Planning Presenter: Moitrayee Chatterjee
D3	Biology and Physical Health
1	Neurobiology of Psychedelics Presenter: Rana Zeine / Co-authors: Randy Colmenar, Jermic Aryee
2	Temporospatial Principal Components Analysis Reveal the Association Between Trait Positive Affect and Reward Positivity ERP in Young Children Presenter: Yu Sun Chung
3	Acute Effects of Circuit and Traditional Resistance Exercise on Sclerostin and Osteopontin in Young Adults Presenter: Pragya Sharma Ghimire / Co-author: Adam Eckart
D4	Culture, Humanities and Lived Experience
1	The Openness of the Meaning of Life in John Stuart Mill's Philosophy Presenter: Yuval Eytan
2	On Learning to Live and Write Through Long COVID: The Lessons of <i>Little Women</i> Presenter: Ann Wallace
3	Crafting the Design Ethos of Min-Century Acadiana: the Architecture of H.J. "Lefty" Lagroue, Hal Perkins, Dave Perkins, Robert Stephan, A. Hays Town Presenter: Jeffery McCullough
4	<i>Alpine Tundra</i> - a Short Documentary Film Presenter: Kathleen Rugh



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Committee

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