Faculty with Research Interests in Health and Biomedical Research

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Dr. Richard Barke is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy. He received his BS in Physics from the Georgia Institute of Technology and his MA and PhD in Political Science from the University of Rochester. His research interests focus on the roles of politics within science, and of science within politics. Dr. Barke has written about topics such as the political behavior of scientific disciplines, the impact of university curricula on the organization and advancement of scientific knowledge, the politics of science budgeting in Congress, and how scientists translate scientific findings into policy recommendations. Currently (2004-2005), he is focusing on the decision making processes by which science and ethics are reconciled in the regulation of research, particularly research involving human subjects.

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Dr. Roberta M. Berry is Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy and Director, Law, Science & Technology Program. Her research focuses on the legal, ethical, and policy implications of life sciences research and biotechnologies. In 2001, Prof. Berry was named Outstanding Faculty Member by the Georgia Tech Student Government Association. In 2004, she received the Ivan Allen Jr. Faculty Legacy Award and in 2005 she received the Class of 1940 W. Howard Ector Outstanding Teacher Award.

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Dr. Tibor Besedes is an Assistant Professor in the School of Economics. He received his BSc in Economics from Texas Christian University, his MA and PhD in Economics from Rutgers University. Previously he was an Assistant Professor in the School of Economics at Louisiana State University. His research interests encompass International trade, decision making, experimental economics, social networks, and industrial organization. In addition to English, Professor Besedes also speaks Croatian and German.

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Dr. Michael L. Best is Assistant Professor with the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech and Adjunct Assistant Professor with their College of Computing where he also is core faculty with the GVU center. In addition he is a Fellow of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard. Michael is co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of Information Technologies and International Development published by the MIT Press. He serves as a frequent consultant to the World Bank, ITU, and USAID. He holds a Ph.D. from MIT and has served as Director of Media Lab Asia in India and head of the eDevelopment group at the MIT Media Lab. His research focuses on the role of computers and communication in social, economic, and political development. In particular, he studies the Internet and Internet enabled services, mobile telephony, and other communication and IT services in low-income countries of Africa and South Asia. His current projects include studies of terrestrial wireless infrastructure, human/ computer interaction in Africa and Asia, and new approaches in monitoring and evaluation. He is also studying the role of the Internet in post-conflict settings and as a tool for peace,
reconciliation, security, and democratization. His work encompasses the engineering of new technologies, public policy interventions, as well as social and economic assessments.

Michelle Dion, mdion@gatech.edu
Dr. Michelle Dion arrived at Georgia Tech as an Assistant Professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs in 2002. She specializes in the political economy of social policy in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs. Her research has been published in Latin American Politics and Society, Mexican Studies, Estudios Sociológicos, Foro Internacional, and Política y Gobierno. She is currently finishing a book on the political development of welfare in Mexico since the Mexican Revolution. She has completed over three years of research in Mexico funded by the Social Science Research Council and the Fulbright program. She was recently a Visiting García Robles-Fulbright Professor at the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Latin American politics, international political economy, and research methodology.

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Dr. Michael Hoffmann is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy. His research focuses on the role of diagrammatic representations as mediating tools in conflict resolution processes. Based on the observation that resolving conflicts is mainly hindered by opposing interpretations of what is going on in a conflict, and by different habits of thinking, the question is: How to change thinking processes and interpretations? Using Charles S. Peirce's concept of "diagrammatic reasoning" to answer this question, his central thesis is that the only rational way to change thinking is by reflecting on possible representations of this thinking. In this way, different perspectives on a conflict can become an object of exploration in jointly conducted negotiation processes.

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Dr. Angela Labarca was hired as Full Professor (1991) to create the Spanish LBAT program. At present, she directs the Madrid portion and the Valencia programs in Spain. Dr. Labarca is GT's only Hispanic female Full Professor. She has several articles, chapters in volumes, and two co-edited volumes on the psycholinguistics of second language acquisition, reading and testing. She also has written or co-authored more than 18 textbooks for Spanish and English teaching as well as standardized Rasch-analyzed language tests. She teaches Scientific and Business Spanish, Hispanic Culture through Literature, and US Spanish: Language and Cultures. She has taught at the Universities of Rome, Seville and Sofia, and has trained instructors in the US, Argentina, Bulgaria, Germany, and Italy.

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Dr. Ann Pollock is an Assistant Professor in the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture. She received her PhD in the history and social study of science from MIT. She joins Georgia Tech after spending a year as a guest lecturer with the Rice University department of anthropology. The working title of her current book manuscript is “Medicating Race: Heart Disease and Durable Preoccupations with Difference.” Pollock’s research focuses on biomedicine and culture, with a special interest in how pharmaceuticals and heart disease categories have intersected with racial and gender identities in the United States since World War II.

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Dr. John Lawrence Tone came to the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1990 as a Professor in the School of History, Technology, and Society. He specializes in European and military history in the School of History, Technology, and Society. He is also the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies effective January 1, 2008. He has written several articles and books on Spanish and Cuban history, including *The Fatal Knot: The Guerrilla War in Navarre and the Defeat of Napoleon in Spain* (1995), *La guerrilla española* (1999), and *War and Genocide in Cuba* (2006). His current research is on the history of yellow fever. He has received grants from the Fulbright Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Philosophical Society. He has taught undergraduate courses on Europe since the Renaissance, Nineteenth-Century Europe, Twentieth-Century Europe, Columbus and the Conquest of America, The French Revolution and Napoleon, The Enlightenment, Intellectual History, Modern Spain, Modern Cuba, and Research Methods, and graduate seminars on Comparative Revolutions and The Comparative History of Labor, Industrialization, and Technology. The Fatal Knot was a selection of the History Book Club and received the Literary Prize of the International Napoleonic Society in 1999. He was inducted as a Fellow of the International Napoleonic Society in that same year.

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Dr. Ruth O. Uwaifo Oyelere received her Ph.D. in Agriculture and Resource Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. She joined the Georgia Tech faculty as an Assistant Professor of Economics in fall 2006. Her research interests are in Development Economic, Education, Labor, and Health Economics. Her present work in development economics has centered on trying to precisely estimate returns to education in an African country while also trying to understand recent low returns to education in many African countries. She is presently also evaluating the impact on the US of the diversity visa lottery immigration program and possible alternatives to this program.