Barbara Sirotnik, Ph.D

School of Cyber and Decision Sciences/Professor Emerita

Dr. Barbara Sirotnik has been a Professor of Statistics, Business Analytics, and Supply Chain Management at California State University, San Bernardino since 1980. She holds a Ph.D. in statistics from the University of California, Riverside, and her additional areas of expertise include operations research, information management, data driven decision making, computer programming, and research methods. She has won her college's "Faculty of the Year" award or "Excellence in Teaching" award five times, and has been nominated for the university's Outstanding Professor award four times. She has taught mega-sections of undergraduate introductory statistics; upper division classes in supply chain management, quality management, and computer programming; and graduate classes in data driven decision making and quality management.

Most of Dr. Sirotnik's professional work has been in the area of applied research (as opposed to "basic" research).

She co-founded the campus's Institute of Applied Research in 1985, and as Director she has conducted hundreds of applied research and consulting projects for public agencies, business organizations, and individuals within the university's service area and beyond. Those services include: economic forecasting, polling, strategic planning, health needs assessments, marketing research, and a lot more. To cite just a few examples of studies in the Inland Empire: she has conducted quality of life surveys for the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, for the City of Riverside, and the City of Hemet. The Institute has been involved in the mandatory three-year community health needs assessment for Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. At the state level, she is currently involved in a project through the California Governor's Office (GO-Biz) to map the defense supply chain in California. She has conducted a nationwide study in information sharing in the military for the Department of Defense.

Based on projects such as those listed above, she has co-authored applied research articles on a variety of diverse topics including: the aging workforce, the toxic triangle in academia, challenges and rewards of being a family caregiver, attributes related to attitudes toward people with disabilities, effect of question format on survey findings, ethnic differences in students' approaches to learning, and training modalities for bioterrorism preparedness. In addition, she has authored and co-authored theoretical articles in the areas of paired comparisons and contingency table analysis.

Finally, Dr. Sirotnik has served on a variety of committees at the department, college, and university levels including Curriculum, Assurance of Learning, Strategic Planning, Faculty Evaluation, Recruitment, and more.

Essia Hamouda, Ph.D

School of Cyber and Decision Sciences

Dr. Essia Hamouda is an Assistant Professor of Information and Decision Sciences and the SAP coordinator at the JHBC. She received a BSc. and a MS. degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the Ohio State University and the University of Florida, respectively. Since graduating with her Ph.D. in Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California Riverside, she has been a postdoctoral researcher at INRIA France, on the faculty of the Anderson Graduate School of Management at University of California-Riverside, and on the faculty of the College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at CSU-Chico.

Dr. Hamouda has taught numerous graduate and undergraduate courses in Information Systems and Technology and Supply Chain Management at CSUSB. Her great passion towards empowering and attracting women to the technical field led her to founding the Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) chapter at CSUSB in 2018. She is the recipient of the 2020 JHBC Dean's Outstanding Service Award and the 2021 JHBC Dean's Outstanding Teaching Award.

Dr. Hamouda's research interests include resource optimization in sensor networks, network performance evaluation, and data science/analytics. She is also conducting research on network security and exploration of data on the Internet of Things. Dr. Hamouda has authored many articles in prestigious journals such as the European Journal of Operational Research, the Journal of Stochastic Analysis and Applications and the International Journal of Communication Systems. She has served in Editorial Boards of a number of journals as a member and as a reviewer. She has presented her research in national and international conferences and has been member of steering and program committees of many international conferences. Dr. Hamouda enjoys reading, hiking, and travelling around the world.

Lewis Njualem, Ph.D

School of Cyber and Decision Sciences

Dr. Lewis Njualem is an Assistant Professor in the department of Information and Decision Sciences at California State University, San Bernardino. He earned his Ph.D. in Systems and Engineering Management from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Prior to joining California State University San Bernardino, Dr. Njualem served as Assistant Professor of Production and Operations Management at University of Minnesota Duluth.

He also brings over 16 years of industry experience. Prior to joining academia, Dr. Njualem worked as an enterprise resource planning systems consultant in areas of materials management, production planning and plant maintenance. Dr. Njualem is an APICS ASCM Certified Supply Chain Professional and an SAP Certified Application Associate in planning and manufacturing with SAP ERP 6.0.

Nima Molavi, Ph.D

School of Cyber and Decision Sciences

Dr. Nima Molavi earned his Ph.D. degree in Manufacturing and Technology Management, with a specialization in Operations and Supply Chain Management, from the John B. and Lillian E. Neff College of Business and Innovation at the University of Toledo, and an M.S. in Engineering Management. He joins CSUSB after 2 years of experience as the Assistant Professor of Management and AACSB Coordinator at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU).

His key research interests are in the areas of operations and supply chain management, technology adoption, and business analytics. Believing that the key to growth is in the connection between academia and industry, Dr. Molavi aims to build connections with industry through collaborative sponsored research projects and provide hands-on experience for students using experiential learning projects.

Francisca Afua Opoku-Boateng, Ph.D

School of Cyber and Decision Sciences

Francisca Afua Opoku-Boateng, PhD, (she/her) is an Assistant Professor in Cybersecurity at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). She holds a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Cyber Defense from Dakota State University, South-Dakota. She also holds a Master of Science in Computer Science and Information Systems from the University of Michigan. Prior to joining CSUSB, she served as a Senior Cybersecurity Consultant specializing in Cyber-threat Intelligence, Vulnerability Management and Operational Technology.

Opoku-Boateng's extensive research portfolio encompasses areas such as Black girls in STEM, Dark Web, Open-source Intelligence (OSINT) investigations, Cyber Threat Awareness and Intelligence, Privacy and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

She a current New America Share the Mic in Cyber Fellow when she currently combines her passion for OSINT with her expertise in cyber forensics investigation to examine the intersection between AI, OSINT, and Cyber Investigations particularly in relation to individuals' privacy considerations. Opoku-Boateng's research aims to provide a framework that will provide valuable insights into the ethical utilization of OSINT in investigations while it addresses impact on individuals' rights to privacy and contributes to the education of investigators in this rapidly evolving field.

Dr. Opoku-Boateng actively contributes to underrepresented communities, including mentorship, ambassadorship, and participation as a speaker and presenter at numerous events. She also serves as a committee and board member, highlighting her dedication to fostering inclusivity and diversity.

Sepideh Alavi, Ph.D

School of Cyber and Decision Sciences

Dr. Sepideh Alavi is an Assistant Professor in the Information and Decision Sciences Department of California State University San Bernardino. She received her Ph.D. in Supply Chain and Operations Management from Lubar School of Business at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2020.
Dr. Alavi teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Supply Chain Management, Business Statistics, Data-Driven Decision Making, and Project Management in the Jack H. Brown College of Business at CSUSB.

She has more than nine years of experience in teaching supply chain, logistics and business analytics courses, and scholar work, in addition to multiple years of professional experience in industry.

Dr. Alavi's research areas include the application of optimization models in supply chain and operations management, transportation problems, as well as corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. Her research has been published in several journals such as Journal of Business Analytics, Sustainability, and International Journal of Logistics Systems and Management. She has presented her research achievements in conferences such as INFORMS, Decision Sciences, and Computers and Industrial Engineering.

She has been the recipient of multiple teaching and research awards during the years of her scholar activities including Sheldon B. Lubar Doctoral Scholarship, Roger L. Fitzsimonds Doctoral Scholarship, Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award, and 2023-2024 Outstanding Teaching Award at CSUSB JHBC. Dr. Alavi is currently the director of the Master's program in Logistics and E-Commerce in the Jack H. Brown College of Business at CSUSB.