The PI Academy program will pair Courtney Brannon Donoghue, Ph.D., an assistant professor of cinema studies at OU, with Miranda Banks, Ph.D., an associate professor of visual and media arts at Emerson College.

Dr. Gittelsohn integrates qualitative and quantitative approaches to better understand culture-based beliefs and behaviors regarding dietary patterns, and how these factors influence the success or failure of dietary and lifestyle modification strategies. He applies these methods and interventions for the prevention of obesity and diabetes among different indigenous and ethnic groups, to nutrient deficiencies of Nepalese children and women, and to improve infant feeding in diverse settings, including The Gambia; Hartford, Conn.; and Peru.

He is currently working on chronic disease interventions among the White Mountain and San Carlos Apache (obesity prevention), the Ojibwa-Cree (diabetes prevention), African American church-going women (cardiovascular disease prevention) and children and adults in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (obesity and undernutrition prevention).

"Dr. Gittelsohn is a renowned expert in nutrition research, particularly in improving the food environment to promote positive dietary choices," Reznar said. "I am fortunate to have the ear of such a prolific researcher who has over 250 publications and whose insight and advice will undoubtedly be invaluable. I look forward to hearing more about his work, and I am eager to work with him on this project."
On Monday, March 19 and Tuesday, March 20, the PI Academy program will pair Courtney Brannon Donoghue, Ph.D., an assistant professor of cinema studies at OU, with Miranda Banks, Ph.D., an associate professor of visual and media arts at Emerson College.

According to the Emerson College website, Dr. Banks’ primary area of research is the American film and television industries. Her work focuses on creative and craft guilds and unions, with specific focus on power dynamics and creative production.


Dr. Banks is also a principal investigator at the Emerson Engagement Lab. Her work at the lab has focused on engagement games around collaborative labor and tensions between individual gain and team building. Her current game is *Room at the Top*, a game that challenges ideas about bias in media production. Previously, she worked on *The Boda-Boda Game*, a partnership with the Red Cross in Uganda.

In addition to their roles as mentors, Dr. Gittelsohn and Dr. Banks will also be presenting special seminars during their visit.

From 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14 in room 5037 in the Human Health Building, Dr. Gittelsohn will present “Improving the Low-Income Urban Food Environment: Experiences of the Healthy Stores Studies.” He will be discussing his research interventions with corner stores in inner-city Baltimore to improve healthy food access among residents. Dr. Gittelsohn will also touch on similar obesity prevention programs in Native American and Pacific Islander residents.

Also, Dr. Banks will present “The Writers: A History of American Screenwriters & Their Guild” from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. on Monday, March 19 in room 202C in O’Dowd Hall. The seminar will examine five watershed moments that changed the industry and the profession of writing: the advent of sound, World War II, the blacklist, ascension of television, the American New Wave, the rise and fall of VHS and DVD, and the boom of streaming media.

The lectures are open to OU faculty, staff and students, as well as the general public.

More information about the events, as well as the PI Academy, is available on the Research Office website at oakland.edu/research/pi-academy.

**About the PI Academy for Research and Engagement**

The PI Academy provides professional development in research and engagement to a cohort of 30 non-tenured, tenure-track faculty members from across campus. The program includes training sessions, workshops, and other activities intended to enhance their abilities as principal investigators. Academy participants are also matched with an external mentor to further develop their skill set and career network. The PI Academy offers a great opportunity for interdisciplinary connections to be made between faculty of all disciplines. The program helps attract, support, and retain productive and engaged faculty, and grows research at OU.