



NERCCS2026

Northeast Regional Conference on Complex Systems (NERCCS 2026)

Program Booklet

Location: *Goergen Hall, University of Rochester, 275 Hutchison Rd, Rochester, NY 14620*

Dates: *March 11–13, 2026*

Day 1 (March 11, 2026)

Registration	12:00 - 4:00
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Opening Remarks	1:00 - 1:30
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Keynote	1:30-2:30
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Sloan Auditorium

Life Exists Beyond Biochemistry: Making Abiotic (Biochemistry-free) Life in the Computer and the Test-tube

Juan Perez-Mercader (Harvard University)

Break	2:30 - 2:45
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Parallel Sessions 1	2:45 - 3:45
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Sloan Auditorium (Goergen 101): Network Control, Measurement, and Bias

Session Chair: TBD

2:45 Distributed Self-Control of Dynamical Networks by Adaptive Link Weight Adjustments
Hiroki Sayama (Binghamton University, SUNY)

3:05 Estimating Uncertainty in Network Measures and Structures Arising from Noisy Data
James Hartz (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

- 3:25 A Diagnostic Framework for Sampling-Induced Distortion in Network Metrics**
 Srinivas Pandey (Binghamton University, SUNY)

Fantone Lecture Hall (Goergen 109): Adaptive Social Networks and Belief Dynamics

Session Chair: TBD

- 2:45 Bridging Simple and Complex Contagions in Belief Dynamics: A Voter Model Extension**
 João Franco (Vermont Complex Systems Institute, University of Vermont)

- 3:05 Identifying brain network features that drive opinion formation and changes in humans**
 Shweta Hatote (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

- 3:25 Why We Experience Society Differently: Intrinsic Dispositions as Drivers of Ideological Complexity in Adaptive Social Networks**
 Akshay Gangadhar (Binghamton University)

Break

3:45 - 4:00

Parallel Sessions 2

4:00 - 5:00

Sloan Auditorium (Goergen 101): Information, Entropy, and Behavioral Signals

- 4:00 On the Uniqueness of the Coupled Entropy and its Applications**
 Kenric P Nelson (Photrek, Inc)

- 4:20 A Network Perspective of the Stock Market Using Mutual Information and Transfer Entropy**
 Shangyi Bi (Binghamton University, SUNY)

- 4:40 Detecting Dynamic “Fingerprints” in Human Random Keystrokes**
 Jacqueline Blake (Binghamton University, SUNY)

Fantone Lecture Hall (Goergen 109): Media, Platforms, and Field Mapping

- 4:00 How News Connects: Mapping the Semantic Topology of a Digital Newspaper**
 Sofia Sciangula (Carlo Cattaneo University LIUC)
Remote

- 4:20 Tempo-Dependent Emergence in Platform-Mediated Collective Behavior**
 Shaunette T. Ferguson (Barnard College, Columbia University)

- 4:40 Interactive Visualization of the Updated Complex Systems Keyword Diagram**
 Hiroki Sayama (Binghamton University, SUNY)

Day 2 (March 12)

Keynote

9:15-10:15

Optimal Networks in Urban Transport Systems

Filippo Radicchi (Indiana University)

*Sloan Auditorium***Break**

10:15 - 10:30

Parallel Sessions 3**10:30 - 11:30**

Sloan Auditorium (Goergen 101): Social / Institutional Simulation and Innovation Dynamics

Session Chair: TBD

10:30 A Simulation Model for Historical Evolution of Geopolitical Entities

Andrea Agosta (Carlo Cattaneo University LIUC)

*Remote***10:50 Using Agent Based Modeling to explore long-term economic impacts of nurse turnover in health-care**

Kate J. O'Neill (Binghamton University, SUNY)

*Remote***11:10 Uncovering simultaneous breakthroughs with a robust measure of disruptiveness**

Sadamori Kojaku (Binghamton University, SUNY)

Fantone Lecture Hall (Goergen 109): Infrastructure, Risk, and Public/Health Networks

Session Chair: TBD

10:30 Graph-Based Analysis of Hurricane Stakeholder and Warning Networks: Structural Roles, Information Flow, and Optimization Diagnostics

Hayford Adjavor (Binghamton University, SUNY & CenterPoint Energy)

*Remote***10:50 Inaccessibility in Public Transit Networks**

Katherine Betz (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

11:10 Network-Driven Cohort Selection and Adverse Drug Reaction Detection in Epilepsy Social Media

Ziqi Guo (Binghamton University, SUNY)

*Remote***Lunch Break****11:30 - 1:30**

*Lunch on your own, see website for closeby options***Parallel Sessions 4****1:30 - 2:30**

Sloan Auditorium (Goergen 101): Graph Methods and Applied Dynamics

- 1:30 distanceclosure: A Python Package for Network Sparsification Based on Its Topology**
 Robert Palermo (Binghamton University, SUNY)

- 1:50 The Effective Graph improves prediction of network dynamics in biochemical models**
 Xuan Wang (Binghamton University, SUNY & Indiana University)

- 2:10 Robust Video Anomaly Detection under Partial Observation via Patch-Motion Graph Smoothing**
 Neda Amirirad (Binghamton University, SUNY)

Fantone Lecture Hall (Goergen 109): Computational Models and Algorithm Diagnostics

- 1:30 Diagnostic Evaluation of Conditional Generative Algorithms on Curated Single Cell Reference Data**
 Matthew Jehri (University of Rochester)

- 1:50 Spark: Modular Spiking Neural Networks**
 Mario Franco (Binghamton University, SUNY)

- 2:10 Scalability of Structure-Preserving Simulations in Plasma Physics**
 Sarthak Sharma (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

Break

2:30 - 2:45

Keynote

2:45 - 3:45

*Sloan Auditorium***Title TBA**

Adilson Motter (Northwestern University)

Break

3:45 - 4:00

Parallel Sessions 5

4:00 - 5:00

Sloan Auditorium (Goergen 101): Self-Organization, Robustness, and Epidemic Coupling

Session Chair: TBD

- 4:00 A Feedback-Driven Lyapunov Principle for Self-Organization in Open Stochastic Systems**
 Georgi Yordanov Georgiev (Assumption University & Worcester Polytechnic Institute)

- 4:20 Canalization drives Robustness in the Evolution of Collective Intelligence under Noise**
 Srikanth Iyer (Binghamton University, SUNY)

- 4:40 A symbiotic SIR process**
 Gerardo Palafox-Castillo (Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon)
Remote

Fantone Lecture Hall (Goergen 109): Collapse, Inequality, and Sustainability Dynamics

Session Chair: TBD

4:00 A Meta-Model of Endogenous Overcrowding-Driven Demographic Collapse

Federico Carucci (Carlo Cattaneo University LIUC)

*Online***4:20 Parasites become rich and drive inequality in approach to collapse in a model of evolving networks**

Atiyab Zafar (University of Delhi)

4:40 Artificial Agents and Ecological Collapse: an LLM-enhanced Agent-Based Model of a Sustainability Game

Francesco Bertolotti (Carlo Cattaneo University LIUC)

*Remote***Day 3 (March 13)****Keynote****9:15 - 10:15***Sloan Auditorium***Title TBA**

Krishnan Padmanabhan (University of Rochester)

Parallel Sessions 6**10:30 - 11:30****Sloan Auditorium (Goergen 101): LLM Learning, Optimization, and Alignment**

Session Chair: TBD

10:30 Prospect Learning in Large Language Models: Quantifying Risk Preferences and Adaptation Dynamics

Nency Dhameja (Binghamton University, SUNY)

*Remote***10:50 Evolutionary System-Prompt Optimization for LLM Agents in Competitive Market Simulations**

Ossama Zaroual (Carlo Cattaneo University LIUC)

*Remote***11:10 Cooperation or Defection? The Decay of Alignment Instructions in Complex LLM Systems**

Andrea Monoli (Carlo Cattaneo University LIUC)

*Remote***Fantone Lecture Hall (Goergen 109): LLM Agents in Social Systems**

Session Chair: TBD

10:30 Large Language Model Agents Partially Reproduce Real-World Segregation Patterns in the Schelling Model

Andreas Duus Pape (Binghamton University, SUNY)

10:50 Going for the Third: Cooperation between LLM Agents in a Three-Option Setting

Leonardo Mascagni (Carlo Cattaneo University LIUC)

Remote

11:10 An Extension of the Sugarscape Model with LLM-based Agents

Luca Moroni (Carlo Cattaneo University LIUC)

Remote

Closing Remarks**11:50 - 12:00**
