



Biography

Nerissa Russell, Professor of Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences, joined the Cornell faculty in 1998. She is also a member of the Archaeology Program and the Cornell Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies and of the Human Biology Program and the Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies graduate field. She has chaired the Anthropology Department and has served on numerous committees at Cornell, notably eight years on the University Library Board, the last two as chair. She is currently a member of the A&S Educational Policy Committee. She has conducted field research in the Balkans, Russia, Turkey, Pakistan, and the United States. Her research focuses on the prehistory of human-animal relationships: how people used animals and meat to construct social relations, and the intersections of human-animal relations with gender and inequality. These issues are synthesized in her book *Social Zooarchaeology*, and are explored in many articles and book chapters. Since coming to Cornell, she has used the resources of the Lab of Ornithology and the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates to develop expertise in the identification of archaeological bird remains and to explore the place of birds in early societies. She participated in the Mellon Humanities Faculty Seminar “History Across the Disciplines” in 2009-2010 at the Society for the Humanities.

Statement

As Dean of Faculty, I will seek to represent the interests of the diverse constituencies of the Cornell faculty to the administration and trustees. Cornell is a remarkably and wonderfully diverse university. My own research sits at the intersection of the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities, so that I have developed a particular appreciation for strengths and resources of Cornell’s faculty in all these areas. One of the most rewarding aspects of serving on the University Library Board was the opportunity to learn how different scholars conduct research and the varying goals and constraints in Cornell’s many colleges. As a strong believer in shared governance, I will strive to ensure that the faculty is consulted at an early stage so that they can effectively participate in decision-making on academic matters. The Dean of Faculty serves as liaison between the faculty and the administration. These groups work best together when they maintain open communication and cooperation; my goal will be to foster productive partnership while advocating for the faculty role in governance.