

# TARA PEARSON

315.430.1386 • [TMP84@CORNELL.EDU](mailto:TMP84@CORNELL.EDU)

## EDUCATION

### Cornell University | in progress

Ph.D. Student, 2024–present  
Human Behavior & Design

### Syracuse University | 2020

Master of Architecture  
Future Professoriate Program,  
Certificate in University Teaching

### Georgetown University | 2007

M.S. Biohazardous Threat Agents &  
Emerging Infectious Diseases

### Syracuse University | 2005

B.A. Double Major in Biology  
and Women's Studies;  
Minor in Political Science

## HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

### Graduate Summer Archival Research Fellowship

College of Human Ecology, Cornell University, 2025

### Honorable Mention, Graduate Dean's Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Work

Syracuse University, Graduate School, 2021

### Henry Adams Medal & Certificate of Merit for Highest Academic Ranking

American Institute of Architects, 2020

### Citation for Excellence in Thesis Design

School of Architecture (SOA), 2020

### Alfred L. Kaskel Scholarship

SOA / 2019, 2020

## SERVICE

### Selection Committee, Dean's Summer Graduate Archival Research Fellowship

College of Human Ecology, Cornell University  
Member, 2026–present

### Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse, NY

Board of Trustees Member, 2021–present

### Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Student Committee, SOA, 2018, 2020

### Graduate Students of Architecture

President, 2019–2020

### Reappointment, Promotion, & Tenure

Student Committee, SOA, Grad Chair / 2018–19

## CONFERENCES

### Environmental Design Research Association

(EDRA) 57 | Amherst, MA | May 27, 2026

*forthcoming poster presentation*

### Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq)

Ithaca, NY | May 11, 2026

*forthcoming poster presentation*

### Interior Design Educators Conference

Chicago, IL | March 2026

*Poster Title: Designing for Delight: Real vs. Fantasy  
Virtual Nature Aesthetics*

### Syracuse Symposium 2023–24 Event Series

Speaker's Panel, co-hosted with Distinguished  
Professor Lori Brown (Architecture)

*Session Title: "The Landscape of Women's Bodily  
Autonomy: Collaboration Toward Greater Access to  
Reproductive Freedom and Care in the U.S."*

## ASSISTANTSHIPS | CORNELL UNIVERSITY

### COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

#### HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN | FALL 2024–PRESENT

#### Teaching Assistant, Design Graphics Visualization (Prof. So-Yeon Yoon) | Spring 2026

#### Making a Different by Design (Prof. So-Yeon Yoon) | Fall 2025

*Develop group exercises centered on graphic design standards and brand identity*

*Offer constructive feedback and **insight on design strategies** to students during in-class design sessions.*

*Provide thoughtful suggestions and **critical feedback on student submissions** to assist in grading sessions.*

*Accompany students on site visits; **guide them in space documentation** to better prepare them for creating successful design proposals.*

#### Graduate Student Lecturer, Principles of Design Computing (Sr. Lecturer Eddy Man Kim)

#### Academic Year 2024–2025

*Developed and delivered instruction for DEA-student workshops focusing on completing design assignments; these tutorials included content on **key concepts in architectural design** and **technical platform knowledge**.*

*Provided **hands-on engagement** to students to ensure their understanding of new concepts, and helped them **troubleshoot issues** faced in learning tools like Photoshop, Illustrator, AutoCAD, Rhino3D, and Revit.*

*Reviewed and graded student progress work and design submissions; I provided both **encouragement and constructive feedback** to support their intellectual and creative growth.*

# APPOINTMENTS | BOSTON + SYRACUSE

## BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE | JANUARY 2023–MAY 2024

**Instructor, Architecture and Landscape Design Studio** | Masters of Architecture Program  
Intermediate Level Remote Section | Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

## SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

S.I. NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATION | JULY 2019–MAY 2024

**Instructor, Graphic Design Fundamentals**, Undergraduate + Graduate Levels

VIS 207, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024 | VIS 607, Summer 2021 (Summers 2019 + 2020 as an Assistant)

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE PROGRAM | Office of Academic Affairs

**Lead Instructor**, SEM100/FYS 101 Seminar, Fall Semester Course 2020, 2022, 2023

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE | JANUARY 2021–MAY 2023

**Design Studio Instructor**, Jan. 2021–May 2023

**Seminar Instructor**, Spring 2022

**Professional Elective**, "Infectious Architecture: Designing Against Contagion," Spring 2022

*I developed this course in response to the recent pandemic. It examines infamous pandemics, beginning with the 14th c. Black Death through the COVID crisis.*

# ASSISTANTSHIPS | SYRACUSE

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE | SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

**Design Studio**, ARC 108 & ARC 107, 2020 | **Research Intern** for Prof. Britt Eversole, January 2018–December 2019

**Building and Information Modeling**, ARC 555 & ARC 558, 2019 | **Architectural Graphic Media**, ARC 681, 2018

S.I. NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS | SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

**Graphic Design Fundamentals**, VIS 607, Summers 2019/2020

# PUBLIC-SECTOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE | D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (ODNI)

National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) | Directorate of Intelligence (DI)

**Counterterrorism Analyst**, October 2013–July 2014

Performed in-depth analysis of complex and pressing national security, counterterrorism (CT) cooperation, and CT threat issues in the Middle East

Prepared a variety of products, including shorter analytic pieces and long-term studies to support critical US national security and foreign policy objectives and help shape Intelligence Community (IC) analysis and priorities

Provided a range of briefings and written assessments to key internal and external IC customers and policymakers—from the President and his staff, to Cabinet-level policymakers, and state and local law enforcement officers

Demonstrated command of research, writing, briefing, and editing skills; mentored new analysts and helped develop their analytic toolkit

**Executive Assistant to the NCTC Director of Intelligence**, April–October 2013

*This position was a six-month opportunity to broaden corporate responsibilities.*

**Counterterrorism Analyst**, March 2010–April 2013