Nominee for Member-at-Large:

Amin Ghaziani  
Associate Professor  
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During the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association one year in Denver, I was a panelist on a professional development workshop entitled “LGBTQ Faculty Issues: Negotiating Public Identity, Professional Research, and Relationship with Colleagues.” Co-sponsored by the association’s LGBTQ Caucus, the Sexualities section, and the Sex and Gender section, three other faculty members and I discussed our experiences with sexual diversity in a university setting. We explored what it was like to be an out faculty member on campus, how sexuality affects the tenure and promotion process, the intersection of identities like race, class, gender, and sexuality, and how to work with a multicultural undergraduate and graduate student population. I chose to be involved with this workshop because I believe that a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion strengthens the character of our mind as well as our spirit.

I am invested in creating thoughtful conversations about these issues in a higher education context. My work gives voice to the lived experiences of sexual minorities in contexts that range from political organizing to individual residential decision-making in cities. I extend my work into the public realm as well by speaking about sexuality in non-academic settings, giving interviews to international media outlets, and publishing in literary magazines. In the classroom, one of the most important ways in which I can action these principles is to make an effort to come out in every class that I teach. I believe that it is vital for our students to encounter openly LGBTQ faculty members at all ranks, just as it is for them to take courses with faculty members who represent other aspects of diversity, including race, gender, and class.

There are many ways in which we can think about these complex issues, of course. The type of social change to which I have alluded in this statement works best when we create a partnership between individual and institutional levels. It would be a pleasure and privilege for me to bring the multifaceted understandings of diversity, equity, and inclusion that I have cultivated over the course of my career, and in my personal life more generally, to enhance to profile of the UBCFA.