

Marji Karish, PhD

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Marji is a distinguished professional and lifelong learner with a PhD in Organizational Communication and 30+ years of leadership, community engagement, product development, and marketing expertise. As a university faculty member and executive consultant, Marji helps leaders build trust and foster inclusive connection in times of disruption. Her research explores how executive leaders engage stakeholders with credibility, compassion, and character during moments of social and organizational complexity. As a university professor, Marji has had the privilege of teaching leadership, management, marketing, and communication with graduate and undergraduate students for more than six years.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) *Spring 2025*
University of Denver, Denver, CO, Department of Communication Studies

Masters of Business Administration (MBA) *Winter 1994*
University of Colorado, Denver, CO

Bachelor of Science (BS) *Summer 1984*
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, Business Technology

RESEARCH

Dissertation

How Executive Leaders Build Trust: Navigating Organizational Disruption During the COVID-19 Mega-Crisis

COURSES TAUGHT

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Daniels College of Business, University of Denver, *2020 – present*

BUS3000 Strategic Business Communications	COMN2040 Inclusive Community: Cross-Cultural Collaboration in Action
COMN1001 Practicing Communication	COMN1002 Theorizing Communication
COMN1100 Communications in Personal Relationships	COMN1550 Communications in the Workplace
COMN2300 Fundamentals of Argumentation	COMN2700 Community Engaged Learning Course: Building Unity Through Communications: Establishing Cross-Cultural Connections
MKTG2800 Introduction to Marketing	MKTG2910 Consumer Behavior
WLLC2014 Community and Social Wellness	<u>Visit DU bulletin for course descriptions</u>

WORK EXPERIENCE

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor
University of Denver, Denver, Colorado

2025– Present

Adjunct Faculty/Graduate Teaching Instructor

University of Denver, Denver, Colorado *2019 - 2024*
Principal Investigator *2022 – Present*
Community + Values Graduate Fellow *2022 - 2023*
DU Dialogues Facilitator *2019 - 2020*
Utilization of diverse skill set that includes marketing communications, branding, messaging, social media, strategic development, community outreach, community engagement, collateral, and graphic design, press relations, event planning, video production, technical expertise, project planning, curriculum development, and instruction.

Owner

The Karish Marketing Group, Littleton, Colorado *2006 - 2018*
Business Development supporting Individuals and SMB with strategy, marketing communication, product development, technology, and inclusive practices.
Development of several Community Groups with over 1000 members. Organized executive planning sessions, managed hundreds of volunteers, website development, graphic design, collateral development, and product development.

Senior Product Line Manager

Quantum Corporation, Colorado Springs, Colorado *2001 - 2006*
A global leader in tape automation hardware.
Responsible for product strategy, branding, positioning, and launch of \$300M product line.

Vice President, Worldwide Channel Development, Senior Director, Product Marketing

Commvault Systems, Tinton Falls, New Jersey *1997 - 2001*
A global leader in storage management software.
Responsible for strategy, product design specifications, branding, and launch.
Awarded patent for product architect of new product line in pre-IPO company.
Developed an indirect channel for sales and distribution.
Defined strategy for new software architecture. Product design based upon input from customer advisory board(s), market research, and competitive positioning.

Product Line Manager

Oracle, (previously StorageTek), Broomfield, Colorado *1993 - 1997*
A global leader in tape automation hardware.
Responsible for opening new markets for existing product line. Developed product channel, design, specifications, strategy, branding, positioning, and launch.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Launched two year relationship with Five Points Business Improvement District Board of Directors *2024 - 2026*
Creator of Inclusive Community – Langar@DU *2021 – 2025*
Co-Founder Annual Interfaith Community Langar-in-the-Park *2016 – 2019*
Interfaith Alliance of Colorado - Public Policy Commission *2016*
Jefferson County (Jeffco) Interfaith Alliance - Founding member *2016*
Board of Trustees, Mile Hi Church, President *2010 - 2013*
Certified Spiritual Counselor (RScP) *2008 - 2018*
Scouting of America (BSA) Leader *2007 - 2014*

AWARDS, GRANTS & PATENTS

Presidential Commendation Colorado State Senate *March 2025*
Uberoi Foundation Grant *January 2023, January 2024*
Graduate Education Dissertation Fellowship, University of Denver *Spring 2024*
Community + Values Fellowship *August 2023*
Doctoral Fellowship for Inclusive Engagement *September 2020, September 2021, September 2022*
Lorenzini Endowment Scholarship
September 2020, September 2021, September 2022, September 2023
Donna and Gilbert Vocate Endowed Scholarship
September 2021, September 2022
Awarded Patent #6,542,972: Managing Storage and Data from the Logical v. Physical View
Hefferlin Foundation Grant

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS

Documentary Film Premiere

SikhLens Film Festival, California

Rhymes with Hunger

November 2024

Conference Presentation

Uberoi Foundation Board of Trustees

Annual Uberoi Conference, Berkeley, California

Students Learn to Build Community In Intercultural Langar Course

August 2024

Panel Speaker, with Provost Mary Clark, Dr. Chase McNamee, Mr. Dilpreet Jammu, and Dr. Gautum Srivastava *August 2023*

Parliament of World Religions, Chicago, IL

Topic: Learn How University Students Advance Human Rights Through Intercultural Langar Course

Panel Speaker, Multi-Faith Roundtable *April 2022*

Institute for Religious Tolerance, Peace, and Justice, Los Angeles, CA

Topic: Cultivating Community through Intercultural Langar-in-the-Park

Presenter: Intercultural Communications Interest Group *February 2022*

Western States Communication Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR

Topic: Creating Space: Cultivating Community through Intercultural Langar-in-the-Park

Orientation Discussion Facilitator

Fall 2019

University of Denver, Sturm College of Law

Topic: Inclusiveness and Professionalism

Co-Facilitator: Interfaith Dialogues *Fall 2019*

Fall 2019

University of Denver, Department of Inclusion and Equity Education

CERTIFICATIONS

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) (CITI) Certification *April 2024*

April 2024

Adjunct Teaching Excellence Certification *April 2023*

April 2023

University of Denver, Office of Teaching and Learning

Course Design Institute *January 2023*

January 2023

<i>University of Denver</i> , Office of Teaching and Learning Faculty Institute for Inclusive Teaching	<i>January 2023</i>
<i>University of Denver</i> , Office of Teaching and Learning Authentic Dialogues across Race and Ethnicity Nonviolent Communication Academy	<i>Spring 2021</i>
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Certification Certified DU DialogUes Facilitator	<i>October 2020</i> <i>January 2020</i>
<i>University of Denver</i> , Department of Inclusion and Equity Education Community Engaged Learning	<i>December 2019</i>
<i>University of Denver</i> , Center for Community Engagement Trained Facilitator: Radical Forgiveness and Radical Imagination	<i>March 2019</i>
<i>University of Denver</i> : Dr. Amber Johnson and the Justice Fleet	

PUBLISHED BOOKS & ARTICLES

<u>Student Learns to Build Community through University Course- via Sikhnet.com -</u>	<i>2024</i>
<u>How Did Langar Become the Basis for a University Course? – via Sikhnet.com -</u>	<i>2022</i>
<u>'This Thing Called You' for Kids & Teens, CreateSpace Publishing</u>	<i>2015</i>
<u>The 8 Secrets to Happiness for Kids & Teens, CreateSpace Publishing,</u>	<i>2015</i>
<u>An Interfaith Program for Kids & Teens, CreateSpace Publishing</u>	<i>2015</i>
<u>Timeless Tales for Kids & Teens, CreateSpace Publishing</u>	<i>2015</i>