

Office of the Dean of the Faculty
NEW MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY 2012-2013

*Starts January 2013

Anouk Alquier, Visiting Lecturer in French, studied English literature, linguistics, and the arts at the Université de Toulouse-le-Mirail and French at Washington University in Saint Louis. Her research and teaching interests are language, contemporary literature and cultures, and second-language acquisition.

Jennie Barbour, Five College Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, received B.A., M.St, and D.Phil degrees from Oxford University and comes to Amherst from a research fellowship in Göttingen, Germany. She previously taught at Harvard and studied at Oxford and Princeton. She is interested in all aspects of the Hebrew Bible and its early Jewish and Christian reception.

Merle Ivone Barriga Ramirez, Five College Fellow, received a B.A. and M.A. from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, and is a Ph.D. candidate in theater historiography at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Her pedagogy and research are related to theater and performance studies, performance ethnography, and performance for social change in the Americas, with emphasis in postcolonial and transnational theories and the impact of neoliberalism over race, class and gender formations. Her dissertation project is titled "Performing Indigeneity: The performative dimension of racial formations in Puckllay." She is also a theater director and performer with professional experience in Perú and Brazil.

Dimaris Barrios-Beltran, Lecturer in Spanish, received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, and is a Ph.D. candidate in language sciences at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her main research areas are syntax, semantics, first- and second-language acquisition, and specific language impairment.

Danielle Benedetto, Lecturer in Mathematics, received a B.A. from Colby College and Sc.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Brown University. She is passionate about teaching first-year calculus students, as well as encouraging young women in the field of mathematics.

Peter Berek '61, Visiting Professor and Chair of English, received an A.B. from Amherst College and, after receiving his Ph.D. at Harvard, taught for twenty-three years at Williams College and then at Mount Holyoke College, where he also served as Dean of Faculty and Provost, and Interim President. His scholarly work focuses on early modern theater, poetry, and the history of the book.

Karin Boxer joins the Department of Philosophy as a Visiting Assistant Professor after serving as an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. She received an A.B. from Princeton University and B.Phil. and M.Phil. degrees from the University of Oxford. She works on issues in moral philosophy and moral psychology. Her book *Rethinking Responsibility* will be published in February 2013.

Scott Branson, Five College Visiting Assistant Professor, received his B.A. and M.A. from New York University and his Ph.D. from Emory University. His work examines sexuality and death in relation to literary form in British, French, and American literature of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Lisa Brooks, Associate Professor of English and American Studies, is the author of *The Common Pot: The Recovery of Native Space in the Northeast*, which focuses on the role of writing as a tool of social reconstruction and land reclamation in the Native American networks of the northeast. She received a B.A. from Goddard College, an M.A. from Boston College, and a Ph.D. in English, with a minor in American Indian Studies, from Cornell University. Professor Brooks was formerly the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities at Harvard.

Nusrat Chowdhury, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, received a B.A. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; an M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin; and a Ph.D. from The University of Chicago. She is broadly interested in political anthropology, and her research explores the intersections of resource crisis and political crisis in South Asia, particularly Bangladesh.

Birte Christ, Karl Loewenstein Fellow in Political Science and Jurisprudence at Amherst College for fall 2012. She is an Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of Giessen, Germany, and received an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Freiburg, Germany. Her work concerns aesthetic representations of capital punishment in the U.S.

Katherine Clemans, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology, received a B.A. from Duke University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in developmental psychology from the University of Florida. Her research investigates aggressive and antisocial behavior in the context of adolescent peer networks.

Jonathan Collins, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry, received a B.Sc. from Allegheny College and a Ph.D. from Brock University in Canada. His work primarily focuses on the development of whole-cell biotransformations and their applications in organic synthesis.

Stephanie Elsky, Robert E. Keiter 1957 Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought, received a B.A. from Columbia University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her work focuses on the connections between law, poetry, and poetics in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Britain.

Maud Eriksen is the STINT Fellow in Religion for the fall semester and is an Associate Professor in theological ethics at Uppsala University, Sweden. She received her Ph.D. from The Norwegian Lutheran School of Theology, Norway. Her interests are primarily in literature/film and ethics as well as research ethics.

Vanessa Fong '96, Associate Professor of Anthropology, received an A.B. from Amherst College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. She is conducting a longitudinal study of a partly transnational cohort of people born in China between 1979 and 1986.

Susanne Gomoluch, Lecturer in German, received her B.A. and M.A. in British literature from Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, and her Ph.D. in Germanic languages and literatures from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her work focuses on German literature, culture and thought of the 1800s, as well as second-language acquisition.

Aneeka Henderson, Robert E. Keiter 1957 Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, received a B.A. from Southern Illinois University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Her work examines contemporary black women's fiction and its representation of the black middle-class family.

Hannah Holleman, Assistant Professor of Sociology, received a B.A. and a B.S. from Oklahoma State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. Her work concerns social inequality, sociological theory, environmental sociology, and political economy.

Ken Howard '66, Croxton Lecturer in Film and Media Studies, received an A.B. from Amherst College and an M.F.A. from Kent State. He is a Tony Award- and Emmy Award-winning actor and president of the Screen Actors Guild.

Daniel Koltonski, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, received a B.A. with High Honors from Swarthmore College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Cornell University. His work concerns moral, political, and legal philosophy, particularly questions about the obligations of citizens in a democracy.

Edward Koo '76, Croxton Lecturer in the Biology and Neuroscience Program, received an A.B. from Amherst College and an M.D. from Duke University School of Medicine.

Paul Matteson, Five College Assistant Professor of Dance (Amherst and Mount Holyoke), received a B.A. from Middlebury College and an M.F.A. in choreography from Bennington College and is a recent performer with the internationally touring Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane Dance Company. His choreographic work honors “what if” processes, imaginary partnering, and the rhythmic colliding of text and movement.

Jessica McCutcheon, Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics, received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, an M.A. from the University of Toronto, and a Ph.D. from Yale University. She works primarily on Latin literature, focusing on fear in Latin epic and on vision and visualization in ancient literature.

Julia D. McQuade, Assistant Professor of Psychology, received a B.A. from Bates College and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Vermont. Her research examines the social and emotional adjustment of youth with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Harold Meltzer '88, Joseph E. and Grace W. Valentine Visiting Associate Professor of Music, received an A. B. from Amherst College; a M.Phil. from King's College, Cambridge; an M.M.A. and D.M.A. from the Yale School of Music; and a J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law. He is working on composing his first opera.

Eunmi Mun, Robert E. Keiter 1957 Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology and Asian Languages and Civilizations, received a B.A. and an M.A. from Seoul National University, South Korea, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Her research concerns gender inequality in the workplace, corporate and public policies for gender equality and recent changes of labor market institutions in East Asia.

F. Remy Ndangali, Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics, received a B.A. from the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal, and a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. His research is in applied mathematics, specifically in nonlinear nanophotonics.

Andrew Poe, Assistant Professor of Political Science, received a B.A. from St. John's College, an M. A. from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego. His research examines social and political theories, with special emphasis on problems in democratic theory, the history of European political thought, fanaticism and political affect.

Alexandra Purdy, Assistant Professor of Biology, received a B.S. from the College of William and Mary and a Ph.D. from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. She was a postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Boston Children's Hospital, and her work on the cholera pathogen uses genetic and genomic approaches to understand its survival and spread in the environment.

Stanislav Rabinovich, Assistant Professor of Economics, received a B.A. and a B.S. from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests lie in macroeconomics, labor economics and public finance.

Yael Rice, Five College Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Islamic Art, received a B.A. from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; an M.A. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her work concerns the arts of the book in Iran and Islamicate India, with a particular focus on manuscripts produced and collected at the Mughal court during the early modern period.

Geoffrey Sanborn, Professor of English, received a B.A. from Stanford and an M.A. and Ph.D. from UCLA. He is the author of *The Sign of the Cannibal: Melville and the Making of a Postcolonial Reader* and *Whipscars and Tattoos: The Last of the Mohicans, Moby-Dick, and the Maori* and is currently working on a book called *Pleasureville: Fun, Money, and Other People's Language in the Work of William Wells Brown*.

***Phil Scraton**, Karl Loewenstein Fellow in Political Science and Jurisprudence at Amherst College in the spring of 2013. He is a Professor of Criminology and Director of the Childhood, Transition and Social Justice Initiative, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast. He holds a B.A. (Hons) and M.A. from the University of Liverpool and a Ph.D. from Lancaster University, and his research and publication topics include critical theory and methods; the politics and processes of truth and acknowledgement; gender, sexuality and violence; criminalization of children and young people; children's rights; incarceration; and prisoners' resistances.

Dwaipayan Sen, Assistant Professor of History and Asian Languages and Civilizations, received a B.A. from Oberlin College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from The University of Chicago. His research interests include caste politics and the history and historiography of modern South Asia and Bengal.

***Rebekah Tolley**, Artist-in-Residence, is a printmaker and digital media artist. Her work uses traditional printmaking and digitally generated imagery in animated sequences that are projected onto sculptural forms. She received her B.F.A. from Concordia University in Montreal and her M.F.A. from Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia.

Kiara Vigil, Assistant Professor of American Studies, received a B.A. in history from Tufts University, an M.A. in teaching social studies from Columbia University's Teachers College, an M.A.L.S. from Dartmouth College and a Ph.D. in American culture from the University of Michigan. Her work concerns historical and contemporary cultural representations of Native American peoples, as well as literary histories and intellectual traditions that cut across and connect indigenous communities with various cultures in the United States.

Elena Wang '06, Karl Loewenstein Fellow in Political Science and Jurisprudence at Amherst College during the fall 2012. She received an A.B. from Amherst College and is currently ABD at the University of California, Berkeley, in political theory. Her work examines the sexual and cultural politics of contemporary high fashion, interweaving insights from a number of fields, including psychoanalysis, modernist aesthetic theory and political economy.

Colleen Woods, Robert E. Keiter 1957 Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of History, received a B.A. in history from the University of Michigan, an M.A. in liberal studies/American studies at the University of New York Graduate Center, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan. Her work focuses on U.S. foreign relations, U.S. empire in the Philippines, decolonization, and the Cold War.

F. Gizem Zencirci, Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, received a B.A and M. A. from Bilkent University, Turkey and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her work concerns welfare politics, market reforms and neoliberal forms of governance in the Middle East.