

**Office of the Dean of the Faculty**  
**NEW MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY AND FELLOWS, 2017–2018**

**Scott Alfeld**, assistant professor of computer science, earned a B.S. from the University of Utah and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His primary research is at the intersection of machine learning and security, and he teaches topics in AI, machine learning, and security ranging from the highly practical to the purely theoretical.

**Lloyd Barba**, postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Religion, earned a B.A. in religious studies and history from the University of the Pacific and a Ph.D. in American culture at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His research and teaching interests are in American religions, specifically Latino/a and African American religious traditions.

**Dante Brown**, visiting assistant professor of dance, holds a B.A. in chemistry and dance from Wesleyan University and an M.F.A. in dance choreography and performance from The Ohio State University. He has taught dance, focusing on composition and contemporary dance, at numerous institutions; recently served as an artist-in-residence at Appalachian State University and Emory University; and has performed professionally with David Dorfman Dance and Dance Exchange, among other groups.

**Stephen Cartier**, visiting professor of chemistry, holds a B.S. in chemistry from Boston College and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from The Pennsylvania State University. His scientific interests include exploring the fundamental principles that underlie observed physical chemical phenomena and working closely with students in the classroom and laboratory to elucidate these concepts.

**Jun (Jeun) Hee Cho**, assistant professor of history, holds a B.A. and M.A. from Seoul National University in South Korea, and M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University. His research focuses on the intersection of market culture, institutions, and state formation in late medieval and early modern Europe, in particular the relationship between court and commerce in the Low Countries.

**Sonya Clark**, visiting artist-in-residence, earned an A.B. from Amherst College, which also granted her an honorary doctorate in 2015; a B.F.A. from the Art Institute of Chicago; and an M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Her work has been exhibited in more than three hundred venues worldwide, and she is a recipient of awards that include a Pollock-Krasner Fellowship, an Anonymous Was a Woman Award, a Rockefeller Foundation Residency, a United States Artists Fellowship, and a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship.

**Amy Coddington**, visiting assistant professor of music, holds a B.A. from Macalester College and a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. Her research explores how the media affects American popular music's potential to represent and express racial identity.

**Michael Cohen**, assistant professor of psychology, has a B.A. from Tufts University and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. His research focuses on understanding the limits of visual perception, memory, and awareness, and uses behavioral and neuroimaging (fMRI/MEG) methods to directly link different behavior with the underlying neural architecture.

**Haile Eshe Cole**, visiting assistant professor of anthropology and Consortium for Faculty Diversity Scholar, received B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees with a concentration in African Diaspora studies and women's and gender studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Her work examines race and experiences of birth and motherhood, including but not limited to the impacts of mass incarceration and maternal and infant health disparities.

**Chipo Dendere**, visiting assistant professor of political science and Consortium for Faculty Diversity Scholar, holds a B.A. from Linfield College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Georgia State University. Her research is on democratization and migration broadly, with a regional interest in African politics. She writes about the impact of voter exit, migration, and remittances on the survival of authoritarian regimes. Her new research is on the role of technology and social media in new democracies.

**Thomas Dichter**, visiting assistant professor of law, jurisprudence and social thought, earned a B.A. from Harvard University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. The focus of his research and teaching include nineteenth- and twentieth-century U.S. literature, race and ethnicity, incarceration, law and literature, citizenship and migration, and settler colonialism.

**Eleanor Dillon**, visiting assistant professor of economics, received a B.A. from Columbia University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on job choice, entrepreneurship, and the economics of education.

**Yagil Eliraz**, assistant professor of theater and dance, earned a B.A. from Tel Aviv University and an M.F.A. from the Yale School of Drama. His recent directing projects include Charles Mee's *Big Love* at Amherst College. He has taught at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem.

**Kristen Gardner**, assistant professor of computer science, received an A.B. from Amherst College and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Carnegie Mellon University. Her research focuses on performance modeling, developing mathematical solutions that predict system performance and inform system design.

**Masha Gessen**, John J. McCloy '16 Visiting Professor of American Institutions and International Diplomacy, is a journalist and the author of ten books of nonfiction, most recently *The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia*, to be published in October 2017. Her current book project is tentatively titled "How to Destroy a Democracy: Five Lessons in Imagining the Worst."

**Leah Gordon**, Lewis-Sebring Visiting Associate Professor in Education Studies (history and American studies), holds an A.B. from Brown University and a joint Ph.D. in history and education from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research brings together the history of American education and

twentieth-century United States history, with particular interests in intellectual history, social and educational policy, and ideas about race, class, and inequality in modern America. She is the author of *From Power to Prejudice: The Rise of Racial Individualism in Midcentury America*. Her current book project, “Imagining Opportunity: Education and Equality in Modern America,” is a history of the idea that schools can equalize society.

**Josh Guilford**, assistant professor of English in film and media studies, holds a B.A. in English from Michigan State University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in modern culture and media from Brown University. His research focuses on histories and theories of experimental cinema, with an emphasis on the post-war American avant-garde, and his current book project examines the politics of intimacy in the 1960s film culture called the New American Cinema.

**Dipankar Gupta**, Karl Loewenstein Fellow and visiting professor of political science, holds an M.A. from Delhi University and a Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University. He taught sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for nearly three decades and has held visiting positions in a number of universities in Europe, the UK, and the United States. He has authored and edited twenty books, is a regular columnist in the *Times of India*, and has been a member of boards that include the Reserve Bank of India and National Security Advisory Board.

**Darryl Harper**, Joseph E. and Grace W. Valentine Visiting Professor of Music, has recorded and performed internationally as a jazz clarinetist and composer. He earned an A.B. from Amherst College, an M.M. from Rutgers University and a D.M.A. from New England Conservatory. He has most recently served as chair of the Department of Music at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Dominique C. Hill**, visiting assistant professor of black studies, is a body-lyricist, disrupter, and ethnographer committed to socially just and artistic practices. With a Ph.D. in educational policy and concentration in gender and cultural issues in education, her work situates the body as a pivotal vessel for research, teaching/learning processes, and generating collective action. Her interdisciplinary scholarship emerges from her life work, which is dedicated to documenting and reimagining black life with a focus on black girls and women. Through her work, she incites questions that foreground voices, bodies, and knowledges of often disappeared and/or silenced populations.

**Albert Y. Kim**, lecturer in statistics, earned a B.Sc. in mathematics and computer science from McGill University and Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Washington. Prior to joining Amherst College, he was a data scientist in the AdWords division of Google Inc., a visiting professor of statistics at Reed College, and an assistant professor of statistics at Middlebury College. His interests include data science, machine learning, forest ecology, and spatial epidemiology.

**Peter Kimani**, visiting writer, earned an M.A. from City University, London, and a Ph.D. from the University of Houston. He is a novelist, critic, and journalist with teaching experience in Kenya and the United States. His latest work, titled *Dance of the Jakaranda*, is a piece of historical fiction.

**Arielle Knudsen**, visiting assistant professor of economics, earned a B.S. from Centre College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Indiana University. Her research addresses the consequences of protectionist international trade policies and the influence of institutional characteristics on patterns of trade.

**Michael Kunichika**, associate professor of Russian, received a B.A. from Reed College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. His research interests and specializations include twentieth-century Russian and Soviet literature, in particular modernist tendencies, the cultural history and philosophy of archaeology and anthropology, critical theory, and interdisciplinary approaches to Russian and Soviet literary and visual culture.

**Alberto Lopez**, visiting instructor of chemistry and Consortium for Faculty Diversity Scholar, earned a B.S. from the University of Michigan at Dearborn and expects to receive a Ph.D. from Wayne State University in organic chemistry this spring. At Wayne State, he worked on a novel synthesis for Daphniphyllum alkaloids. His appointment at Amherst begins on January 1, 2018.

**Eleonora Mattiacci**, assistant professor of political science, earned a B.A. from the Università degli Studi di Bologna and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. With research interests in international politics and security studies, she aims at elucidating how, in a time and place when traditional interstate conflict is perceived as less legitimate and effective, competition for the definition of the international political landscape has shifted to the dimension of technology.

**Sanam Nader-Esfahani**, assistant professor of French, holds A.B. from Mount Holyoke College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. Her research focuses on the literatures of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century France and Italy, especially the relationship between literature, science, and technology, and her current project examines the implications of optical theories and technologies on vision's role in the acquisition of knowledge and as a mode of representation.

**Mona Oraby**, visiting assistant professor of law, jurisprudence and social thought, earned a B.A. from Rutgers University and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University. Her research has focused on the legal administration of religious differences in the modern Middle East.

**Dianne Pater**, visiting assistant professor of biology and Consortium for Faculty Diversity Scholar, holds a B.S. from the University of New Mexico and a Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego. Her research focuses on how plants respond to environmental stresses at a molecular and whole-plant level and adds to tools that plant breeders and scientists can use to identify crops that perform well under drought conditions and other environmental stresses.

**Nathan Pflueger**, assistant professor of mathematics, earned a B.S. from Stanford University and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. His research focuses on using combinatorics to solve problems in algebraic geometry, and he has a particular interest in encoding geometric problems into games.

**Ashwin Ravikumar**, assistant professor of environmental studies, holds a B.S. from the University of California, Berkeley, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder. As a political ecologist with a recent focus on deforestation and land use change in the global South, especially in the Amazon rainforest, he aims to diagnose the political causes of environmental crises, locate the levers action for building a more sustainable and equitable world, and consolidate policy advocacy efforts around viable solutions to vital problems. His appointment at Amherst begins on January 1, 2018.

**Jeanette Sánchez-Naranjo**, assistant professor of Spanish, earned a B.Ed. from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Toronto. Her research experience involves the study of structural descriptions of languages, their social uses, and language learning and teaching.

**Rafael (Ray) Suarez**, John J. McCloy '16 Visiting Professor of American Studies, is the former host of *Inside Story* on Al Jazeera America, was the chief national correspondent for the *PBS NewsHour*, and was the host of NPR's *Talk of the Nation*. He's written three books: *Latino Americans: The 500-Year Legacy That Shaped a Nation*, *The Holy Vote: The Politics of Faith in America*, and *The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration, 1966–1999*. He earned a B.A. in African history from New York University and an M.A. in the social sciences from the University of Chicago. He has been awarded fourteen honorary doctorates from colleges and universities across the country, and a Public Policy Leadership Award from UCLA.

**Olufemi (Femi) Vaughan**, Alfred Sargent Lee '41 and Mary Farley Ames Lee Professor of Black Studies, holds a B.A. and M.A. in government from St. John's University and a D.Phil. from Oxford University. His research focuses on traditional sociopolitical structures in modern African states, development and governance in African states, African migrations and globalization, state-society relations in Nigeria, and religion and state formation in Nigeria.

## FELLOWS

**Li Cornfeld**, Center for Humanistic Inquiry fellow, is a feminist media scholar. She earned a B.A. in drama from Vassar College, an M.A. in performance studies from New York University, and a Ph.D. in communication studies from McGill University. Her dissertation examined live presentations of emerging technologies. She is currently researching spectacles of expertise and the formation of public knowledge.

**Colleen Kim Daniher**, Center for Humanistic Inquiry fellow, earned a B.Mus.A. in music and applied voice from the University of Western Ontario, a B.A. in English language and literature from the University of Western Ontario, an M.A. in theater studies from the University of Guelph, and a Ph.D. in performance studies from Northwestern University. Her teaching and research interests include critical race studies, visual cultural studies, and Asian diasporic theatre and performance.

**Amanda Henrichs**, Mellon postdoctoral fellow in digital humanities, earned a B.A. in Spanish language and literature and a B.A. in English from the University of Oregon, Robert D. Clark Honors College; an M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English from Indiana University. Her dissertation focused on time, tradition, and form in seventeenth-century lyric poetry.

**Yvette Jackson**, postdoctoral fellow in music, earned a B.A. in music from Columbia University and an M.A. in music-integrative studies from the University of California, San Diego, where she is a candidate for a Ph.D. in the same field. She is a composer of electroacoustic, chamber, and orchestral music for concert, theatre, and installation. Her appointment at Amherst begins on January 1, 2018.

**Amy Johnson**, Center for Humanistic Inquiry fellow, earned a B.A. in politics from Princeton University, a master's degree in Arabic language and literature from Georgetown University, and a Ph.D. in history, anthropology, and science, technology, and society from MIT. A linguistic anthropologist, she studies how communication technologies change ideas of personhood and governance.

**Jennifer Pranolo**, Center for Humanistic Inquiry fellow, earned a B.A. in modern culture and media from Brown University, an M.A. in film and comparative literature from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in film and media from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research and teaching focus on the history and theory of film and photography, aesthetics, and new media.

**Marketus Presswood**, Dean's Fellow, holds a B.S. from Morehouse College and an M.A. from DePaul University. He expects to earn his Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine, in 2018. His research and teaching interests include race, class, and gender in modern China, black internationalism, and Afro-Asian political and cultural relations.

**Maria Sidorkina**, Center for Humanistic Inquiry fellow, earned a B.A.S. in mathematics and comparative literature from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in cultural and linguistic anthropology from Yale University. Her work examines illiberal publics and politics through a focus on language and social interaction.

**Martin Viklund**, STINT fellow, is a professor in applied physics from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden. He earned an M.S. from Lund University and a Ph.D. from KTH Stockholm, and he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedical Engineering, Berlin. His research includes ultrasound, acoustofluidics and microfluidics for life sciences, and tissue engineering. He teaches courses in classical physics, in particular in acoustics and ultrasound.

**Kimberly Ward-Duong**, Five College astronomy department education and research fellow, earned B.S. degrees in physics, mathematics, and astronomy from Northern Arizona University and a Ph.D. in astrophysics from Arizona State University. As an observational astronomer, she does research involving binary stars, the early stages of planet formation, and the search to discover planets around nearby stars.