

Office of the Dean of the Faculty
NEW MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY AND FELLOWS, 2018–2019

Arianne Abela, director of the choral music program and lecturer in music, holds an A.B. degree from Smith College, an M.M degree from Yale University, and a D.M.A. degree from the University of Michigan. She has lived and taught in Detroit for five years with a focus on diversity, inclusiveness, and community-building through the choral arts.

Ryan Alvarado, assistant professor of mathematics, earned a B.A. degree from William Jewell College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Missouri. Alvarado's research lies at the junction of harmonic analysis and partial differential equations, with recent work on problems in analysis on metric spaces, which center on extending results obtained in the "flat-space" Euclidean setting to more general nonsmooth environments that lack the resourceful nature of the Euclidean structure.

Michael Amoroso, visiting assistant professor of religion, holds a B.A. degree from Lehigh University, an M.A. degree from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. degree from The University of Texas at Austin. His research and teaching interests focus on religion in the Americas, with special attention to the ritual engagement of the dead in the United States and Brazil.

Gabriel Arboleda,* assistant professor of architectural studies, holds an arquitecto degree from the Universidad del Valle in Colombia, an M.S. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He values interdisciplinarity and relies upon social science theory in his architectural research, teaching, and practice, and is currently working on a monograph about sustainability in social design—particularly the paradigm of bringing sustainability to impoverished rural populations in Africa, Latin America, and other places.

Brittney Bailey, postdoctoral fellow and visiting assistant professor of statistics, earned a B.A. degree from Messiah College and a Ph.D. degree from The Ohio State University. Her research interests include the design and analysis of studies with data that are correlated due to clustering and methods for handling missing data with applications to studies in education, public health, psychology, and psychoneuroimmunology.

Sebastian Bitar, Karl Loewenstein Fellow and visiting associate professor of political science, earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia and a Ph.D. degree in international relations from American University in Washington, D.C. His research focuses on U.S.-Latin American relations, foreign policy, and security in the Western Hemisphere.

Jake Blackwood, assistant professor of economics, holds a B.S. degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland. His research employs heterogeneous agent models to answer questions about the ways in which frictions and distortions affect firm outcomes and what the macroeconomic implications are, both in the long run and over the business cycle.

Mara Bollard, visiting assistant professor of philosophy, holds a B.A. degree from the University of Sydney and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. Her primary research and teaching interests are in ethical theory and empirically informed moral psychology, and she is particularly interested in investigating the variety of roles that the emotions play in moral talk, thought, and behavior.

Michaela Brangan, visiting assistant professor of law, jurisprudence and social thought, earned a B.A. degree from the University of Washington, a J.D. degree from Yeshiva University's Cardozo Law School, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. Her research and teaching span political philosophy, contemporary aesthetics, and literary theory, and pay particular attention to how common law concepts operate as organizing devices in experimental and speculative literatures.

Dwight Carey, assistant professor of the history of art, holds a B.A. degree from Oberlin College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. Professor Carey's interdisciplinary research, currently focused on developing a natural resource history of Mauritian architecture, involves examination of the built environments of slavery from a methodological perspective that combines archival and on-site analysis, laboratory investigations of building materials, and oral history.

Abigail Carroll, visiting assistant professor of geology, earned an associate's degree from Greenfield Community College, an A.B. degree from Smith College, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of New Hampshire. She studies the rock record of Wyoming's Bighorn Basin to investigate ancient global warming events and their impact on early mammals and ecosystems.

* Appointment began in January 2018

Carl Clements, visiting lecturer in music and visiting director of jazz performance, is active internationally as a composer, scholar, and woodwind player, with a particular focus on jazz, Hindustani classical music, and contemporary improvisation. He has a Ph.D. degree from the CUNY Graduate Center, an M.F.A. degree from CalArts, and a B.M. degree from Berklee College of Music, and has taught at UMass, Hampshire College, Northeastern University, Columbia University, and John Jay College.

Amy Coddington, assistant professor of music, has a B.A. degree from Macalester College and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Virginia. Professor Coddington teaches courses that focus on American popular music and is at work on a book about the commercial radio industry's role in making hip-hop mainstream.

Charles Collett, visiting assistant professor of physics, earned a B.S. degree from Haverford College and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Northwestern University. His research interests lie in experimental low-temperature physics, the lower the temperature the better (personal best: around 500 microKelvin above absolute zero), with a current focus on working toward creating quantum computing components out of the quantum systems called molecular nanomagnets.

Ivan Contreras, visiting professor of mathematics, has a B.S. degree from the Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia, an M.S. degree from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Zurich in Switzerland. His research focuses on mathematical physics, in particular the connections between geometry, topology, and field theories.

Sony Coráñez Bolton, assistant professor of Spanish, holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Marquette University and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Professor Coráñez Bolton's research lies at the intersection of disability studies, race studies, and queer studies in the U.S.-occupied Philippines and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

Katharine Correia, assistant professor of statistics, earned an A.B. degree from Mount Holyoke College, an M.A. degree from Boston University, and a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University. She is a biostatistician, interested in statistical applications for the medical and public health fields, whose applied research has focused on reproductive health and assisted reproductive technologies.

Douglas Culhane, visiting lecturer in art and the history of art, has a B.A. degree in fine arts from Colgate University and an M.A. degree from the University of Iowa; he has also studied at the Art Students League of New York. As a sculptor, he explores the inner potential of things and creates works that make the mystery, uneasiness and animate presence of solid objects more apparent.

Amalia Culiuc, assistant professor of mathematics, holds an A.B. degree from Mount Holyoke College and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Brown University. Professor Culiuc studies harmonic analysis—particularly weighted estimates, which are questions regarding the effect of transformations on the size of a function under different notions of “size,” and sparse domination principles, a novel and powerful technique for obtaining such weighted estimates.

Jakina Debnam, assistant professor of economics, has an A.B. degree from Brown University and a Ph.D. degree from Cornell University. Professor Debnam's research projects introduce social and psychological features into existing economic frameworks and quantify the extent to which these features matter for economic outcomes and well-being. These projects address the following three themes: consumer responses to anti-soda legislation and campaigns, the primary science of subjective well-being measures, and learning and peer effects in social networks.

Pawan Dhingra, professor of American studies, received an A.B. degree from Carleton College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. His current research addresses extracurricular education (e.g., spelling bees, math centers), parenting, immigration, race, and culture.

Christopher Durr, assistant professor of chemistry, has a B.S. degree from Kent State University and a Ph.D. degree from The Ohio State University. Professor Durr's interdisciplinary research in inorganic chemistry is focused on developing and understanding next-generation polymeric materials, including switchable catalysts, degradable polymers, and biomedical materials.

Marc Edwards, assistant professor of biology, has a B.S. degree from McGill University and a Ph.D. degree from Washington University in St. Louis. The goal of his laboratory is to develop a deep mechanistic understanding of how cells move, using a range of cell biology and microscopy techniques to decipher the basic mechanisms of directed migration in *Dictyostelium*.

M. Nidanie Henderson-Stull, visiting assistant professor of biology, has a B.S. degree from Spelman College and a Ph.D. degree from The Rockefeller University. She has taught at the intersection of biology and chemistry since 2006. Her research goal is to determine the structure and function of proteins involved in cancer to improve anti-cancer drugs.

Sarah Huff, Robert E. Keiter 1957 Postdoctoral Fellow and visiting assistant professor of psychology, holds a B.A. degree from Colorado College, an M.A. degree from Brandeis University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. Her research explores how identities and cultural contexts influence interpersonal and intergroup relations.

Yvette Janine Jackson,* Joseph E. and Grace W. Valentine Visiting Assistant Professor of Music, earned a B.A. degree from Columbia University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, San Diego. She is a composer and sound installation artist whose research interests include radio drama as electroacoustic music, soundscape composition, and spatial audio.

Mark R. Jacobson, John J. McCloy '16 Visiting Professor of American Institutions and International Diplomacy, earned a B.A. degree from the University of Michigan, an M.A. degree from King's College London, and a Ph.D. degree from The Ohio State University. He has served as the first deputy senior civilian representative—Afghanistan for the NATO alliance, as a professional staff member at the Senate Armed Services Committee, and as an advisor to senior Department of Defense military and civilian officials. Professor Jacobson's current academic research focuses on disinformation and political warfare as well as the intersection of community identity/ validation and military service.

Jason O. Jeffries, postdoctoral fellow and visiting assistant professor of religion, holds a B.B.A. degree from Prairie View A&M University, an M.Div. degree from Virginia Union University, a Th.M. degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in religion from Rice University. Professor Jeffries's research interests include Black religions, African American culture and religion, and African American identity formation.

Shayla Lawson, writer-in-residence and chair of the Creative Writing Center, holds a B.A. degree from the University of Kentucky and an M.F.A. degree from Indiana University. She is the author of the poetry collection titled *I Think I'm Ready to See Frank Ocean* and the forthcoming essay collection titled *Live Tonight, Ms. Diana Ross*.

Joo Hyun Lee, visiting assistant professor of biology, has degrees from two institutions in South Korea, a B.S. degree from Kyung Hee University and an M.A. degree from POSTECH, and a Ph.D. degree from Dartmouth College. His research focuses on how environmental cues control epigenetic modifications using molecular, genetic, and biochemical approaches.

Russell Lohse, visiting assistant professor of history, earned a B.A. degree from the Metropolitan State College of Denver and a Ph.D. degree from The University of Texas at Austin. In his first book, titled *Africans into Creoles*, he adopted a trans-Atlantic perspective to examine questions of ethnicity, race, and identity formation within the crucible of slavery. He is currently at work on a book on gender, slavery, and violence in colonial Honduras.

Alberto Lopez,* visiting assistant professor of chemistry and Consortium for Faculty Diversity Scholar, earned a B.S. degree from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. degree from Wayne State University in organic chemistry. At Wayne State University, his research focused on a novel synthesis for *Daphniphyllum* alkaloids.

Jake Meginsky, visiting lecturer in theater and dance, holds a B.A. degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an M.F.A. degree from Bennington College. He is a composer, sound artist, and filmmaker. In 2018 he produced, directed, and designed the sound for the feature film *Milford Graves Full Mantis*, and his work as a composer has been presented at Judson Church, The Click Festival, New York Live Arts, EMPAC, the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, and the Guggenheim Museum.

Bernadine Mellis, Five College senior lecturer in film and video production, has an A.B. degree from Smith College and an M.F.A. degree from Temple University. Her works include a documentary titled *The Forest for the Trees* and a short film titled *I Should Think Fire*.

Andreas Önnersfors, STINT Fellow in history, holds a Ph.D. degree from Lund University, Sweden, where he was awarded the degree of reader/associate professor. With a firm background in the intellectual history of the Enlightenment, he recently has specialized in the contemporary political history of ideas and right-wing radicalization.

Mona Oraby, assistant professor of law, jurisprudence, and social thought, has a B.A. degree from Rutgers University and a Ph.D. degree from Northwestern University. Her research sits at the intersection of law, religion, and politics, with a focus on the legal regulation of religious difference.

George Zhijian Qiao, assistant professor of history and Asian languages and civilizations, earned a B.A. degree from Fudan University in China and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University. As a historian of late imperial China, Professor Qiao is interested in interactions between economic forces, political developments, and sociocultural factors that shaped market institutions and molded the behavior of economic actors, and in how people's economic activities and business institutions helped to change political configurations and transform sociocultural landscapes.

* Appointment began in January 2018

Katerina Ragkousi, assistant professor of biology, has a B.Sc. degree from Royal Holloway, University of London; an M.Sc. degree from the University of Nottingham; and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Professor Ragkousi's lab uses live sea anemone embryos (*Nematostella vectensis*) to study the processes that drive cell organization into polarized layers during animal development.

Ashwin Ravikumar,* assistant professor of environmental studies, holds a B.S. degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Colorado, Boulder. A political ecologist, his recent research has focused 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 of action for building a more sustainable and equitable world, and consolidate policy advocacy efforts around viable solutions to vital problems.

Macon Reed, artist-in-residence, earned a B.F.A. degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and an M.F.A. degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She studied radio documentary production at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies and recently completed a fellowship at Eyebeam Art + Technology Center and a residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Her immersive sculptural environments serve as public sites for dynamic inter-community conversation and transformative ritual. She understands this work as an act of creative resistance.

Matteo Riondato, assistant professor of computer science, received B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Padua in Italy and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Brown University. He employs tools from statistical learning theory, combinatorics, probability, graph theory, and mathematical optimization to design randomized algorithms offering guarantees on their performances or on the quality of their output.

Julia Scarborough, visiting assistant professor of classics, holds a B.A. degree from the University of Oxford, an M.A. degree from the Courtauld Institute of Art, and a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University. Her research examines the uses of pastoral imagery in Greek and Latin poetry beyond the bucolic genre, both to create tragic irony and to reflect on the work and the social role of the poet.

Kyle Smith, visiting associate professor of psychology, has a B.S. degree from Union College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from The Ohio State University. His current research topics include evaluating how people make judgments about the others' sexual orientations of others and examining how people's unconscious beliefs influence their estimates of the likelihood of events.

Valentina Velázquez-Zvierkova, lecturer in Spanish, holds a B.A. degree from California State University, Sacramento, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Davis. Her scholarship focuses on twentieth-century Mexican culture. Her current project focuses on the participation of transnational actors in Mexico's Golden Age cinema.

Jessica Ann Vooris, visiting assistant professor of sexuality, women's, and gender studies, received a B.A. degree from Bucknell University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland. Her research interests include LGBTQ families, children's gender and sexuality, and queer parenting. She is currently at work on a book about transgender, gender-creative, and gay children.

Neil White, assistant professor of economics, earned an A.B. degree from Princeton University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from The University of Texas at Austin. White's research focuses primarily on the impact of government policies on the macroeconomy, with a particular emphasis on understanding the effects of monetary and fiscal policy on the labor market.

Karamatou Yacoubou Djima, assistant professor of mathematics, earned B.A. B.S. degrees from the City University of New York, Staten Island, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her research interests lie broadly in applied harmonic analysis and machine learning, particularly using the representation of data (e.g., human voices, social media trends, or images) as relatively simple building blocks that harness hidden structures in the data to extract relevant information and often reduce the computational cost of algorithms.

Yongheng Zhang, lecturer in mathematics, has a B.Eng. degree from Central South University in China, an M.S. degree from Purdue University Calumet, and a Ph.D. degree from Purdue University in West Lafayette. His interests include algebraic topology, homotopy theory, and their interactions with engineering, science, and other fields of mathematics.

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