

Office of the Dean of the Faculty
NEW MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY 2013–2014

Clara Altman, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought, received a B.A. in history and political science from Washington University in St. Louis and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, and she is a Ph.D. candidate in American History at Brandeis University. Her research and teaching focus on U.S. legal history in transnational, international, and imperial perspectives.

Bradley Bailey, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Postdoctoral Curatorial and Teaching Fellow in Japanese Prints at the Mead Art Museum, received a B.A., M.A., and M.Phil. in the history of art from Yale University, where he is also a Ph.D. candidate. In addition, he holds an M.B.A. from the Yale School of Management. He studies Japanese art from 1700 to the present, with special emphasis on its influence on Western art and art markets. He is also interested in museum management and art finance, having worked at the Yale University Art Gallery and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation.

Brian Baisa, Assistant Professor of Economics, received a B.S. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from Yale University. His research is on game theory, with a focus on auction design. He is especially interested in what economic theory can say about the ways in which goods and services are sold. He is also interested in studying how psychological biases and heuristics change the predictions of game-theoretic models.

Nicholas Ball, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, has a B.A. from Macalester College and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. His teaching interests reside at the interface of organic and inorganic chemistry, and his research focuses on turning pollution into products by using the power of transition-metal catalysis—that is, developing methodologies that convert deleterious air, water, and ground pollutants into useful feedstocks for chemical synthesis.

Monica Bel Lopez, Lecturer in Spanish, has a B.A. in Arabic philology from the Universitat de Barcelona and a B.A. in Spanish philology from the Universidad de Granada. She is earning her M.A. at the Universitat de Barcelona in training teachers of Spanish as a foreign language.

Charlotte Brathwaite, Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater and Dance, is a stage director. She holds a B.A. from the Amsterdam School for the Arts in the Netherlands and an M.F.A. in directing from the Yale University School of Drama. Her work is noted for its unique approach to staging classic and contemporary plays, opera, performance art, dance and installation and has been presented in America, Mexico, the Netherlands, Germany, India, the West Indies, and Croatia.

Ashley Brown Burns, Robert E. Keiter '57 Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, received her B.A. in political economy from Williams College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in public policy from Duke University. Her current work examines intersections of social problems and political action, particularly stratification and contemporary American public policy.

Kalisha Cornett, Five College Fellow in English and Film and Media Studies, graduated from the University of Colorado-Boulder with a B.A. in English and a B.S. in journalism. She is now enrolled in the Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Program at the University of Chicago and is completing a dissertation titled “Out of the Blur of the background: Landscape as medium in post-classical American cinema.”

Jennie D’Ambrose, Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics, received her B.Sc. and Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research focuses on nonlinear differential and difference equations arising in quantum mechanics and general relativity.

Harris Daniels, Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics, received his B.S. from Trinity College and M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. His research is in algebraic number theory—more specifically, elliptic curves and modular forms.

Solsiree del Moral, Associate Professor of American Studies and Black Studies, has a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.A. from Columbia University. A historian of Puerto Rico, the modern Caribbean, and U.S. Empire, she is the author of *Negotiating Empire: The Cultural Politics of Schools in Puerto Rico, 1898–1952* (2013), and her second research project is titled “Migration, Diaspora, and Nation.”

Jacqueline Dresch, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, holds a B.S. in mathematics from the State University of New York at Geneseo and a Ph.D. in mathematics and quantitative biology from Michigan State University. Her research interests include mathematical biology, parameter estimation and sensitivity, modeling gene regulation in eukaryotes, parallel computing, and numerical solutions to ordinary differential equations.

Robert Drewell, Five College Visiting Professor of Biology, has a B.Sc. in molecular genetics from King's College, University of London, and a Ph.D. in molecular and developmental biology from King's College, University of Cambridge. He investigates the molecular mechanisms of developmental gene regulation in *Drosophila* and social insects.

Adi Gordon, Five College Visiting Assistant Professor of History and Judaic Studies, received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is a scholar of modern Jewish and European intellectual histories, with emphases on Central Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on the one hand, and Zionism and the Yishuv (the Jewish society in pre-1948 Palestine) on the other. He is author of *In Palestine: In a Foreign Land* (2004) and editor of *Brith Shalom and Binational Zionism* (2008). He is currently completing an intellectual biography of Hans Kohn (1891–1971).

Nicholas Horton, Professor of Statistics, holds an A.B. from Harvard College and a Sc.D. from the Harvard School of Public Health. He is an applied biostatistician whose statistical methodological research focuses on the development of approaches to account for multivariate response models, longitudinal studies, and missing data.

Christina Knight, Visiting Assistant Professor of Black Studies, received a B.A. from Stanford University and an A.M. from Harvard University. She will receive her Ph.D. in African American studies from Harvard University this fall. Her research interests include the connection between embodied practices and identity, the relationship between race and the visual field, and the queer imaginary.

Miriam Kolar, Five College Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities at Amherst and Hampshire College, received her A.B. from Dartmouth College, an M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts, and a Ph.D. from Stanford University, where she was based at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). Miriam studies the human perception of sound in cultural contexts and leads archaeoacoustics research at the ancient ceremonial center at Chavín de Huántar, Peru. Her cross-disciplinary scholarship draws on a diverse background in arts and sciences, including professional work as a concert sound designer and recording engineer.

Adam Levine, Visiting Assistant Professor in Film and Media Studies, received a B.A. from the University of East Anglia and an M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts. His film and video work has screened at festivals and galleries including the Vienna International Film Festival, Festival des Cinémas Différents et Expérimentaux de Paris, TIE: The International Experimental Cinema Exposition, Artists' Television Access, and REDCAT.

Martin Medina-Elizalde, Visiting Assistant Professor of Geology, starting January 1, 2014, received a B.A. at the Universidad De Baja California Sur, Mexico, an M.S. from the Center of Research of Advanced Studies, Yucatan, and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Barbara. His research explores climate change, focusing both on the marine record of sea level fluctuations and the impact that shifts in climate had on ancient civilizations. His current study examines high resolution geochemical records from limestone caves in the Yucatan, which track decadal to millennial changes in temperature and precipitation throughout the rise and fall of the Mayan Empire.

Mitchell Morris, Joseph E. and Grace W. Valentine Visiting Professor of Music, received his B.A. from Duke University, an M.A. from Columbia University, and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. Among his many research interests are popular music, LGBT studies, opera and musicals, music in film and television, and ecomusicology.

Carolyn Palmquist, Assistant Professor of Psychology, has a B.A. from The College of William & Mary and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. She studies nonverbal communication—specifically, pointing—as a means to address questions about children's interpretations of pedagogical exchanges.

Yan Qi, Assistant Professor of Biology, received a B.S. from the California Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. She was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Molecular Biology at Massachusetts General Hospital and a curriculum fellow in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard. Her work focuses on the regulatory network of stress resistance and cell protection using the nematode worm *C. elegans*.

Kerry Ratigan, Assistant Professor of Political Science, has a B.A. from Haverford College, an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research and teaching interests include Chinese politics, state-society relations, the politics of developing countries, civil society and social movements, and research design.

Craig Russell, Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics, received a B.A. from the University of Oregon and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has broad interests in Greek and Roman literature, particularly epic, and wrote his dissertation on the ways in which characters exert control over narratives about their own lives that form within Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

Sahar Sadjadi, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Anthropology, holds a doctorate in medicine from Tehran University of Medical Sciences and a Ph.D. in anthropology and sociomedical sciences from Columbia University. Her areas of interest are medical anthropology, gender and identity, science studies, globalization, childhood, the body, sexuality, HIV/AIDS, North America, the Middle East, and ethnographic methods.

Anja Sandstrom, is the STINT Fellow in Chemistry for the fall semester and is an Associate Professor in medicinal chemistry at Uppsala University, Sweden. She received her Ph.D. from Uppsala University, Sweden. Her interests are in pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry.

Michelle Stewart, Pick Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, received her B.S. in environmental science from the University of Notre Dame; an M.A. in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz; and her Ph.D. in geography from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Her work concerns environmental governance, political ecology, and conservation social science, with regional expertise in the Himalayas and China.

Jesse Torgerson, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, received a B.A. from Biola University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. His research interests are in the medieval period and are animated by exchanges and interactions between the societies and cultures of Europe and the Mediterranean basin. His current work focuses on manuscript evidence for the transfer of historical knowledge between the Byzantine and Carolingian empires.

Vanessa Walker, Assistant Professor of History, has a B.A. from Whitman College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her primary areas of interest in teaching and research are the history of U.S. foreign relations and the history and politics of human rights.

Markus Wirthmann, Visiting Artist-in-Residence, is a sculptor and installation artist who works with a broad variety of hardware-store materials. His work explores natural phenomena and effects from a scientific context, such as waves, sand dunes, or crystallization processes. As a "garage-scientist," he creates works of art that reflect both the poetic precision of natural science and the imperfection of human attempts to mimic nature. He studied at Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig and received his Meisterschüler degree from Universität der Künste Berlin.