

HSS

2021–2022

NEW FACES

We are pleased to introduce the new faculty, postdocs, and students arriving in the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences for the 2021–2022 academic year. Please join us in welcoming them to HSS!

PROFESSORIAL FACULTY



ERIC MAZUMDAR
Assistant Professor of Computing and Mathematical Sciences and Economics

Mazumdar's research lies at the intersection of machine learning and economics. He is broadly interested in developing the tools

and understanding necessary to confidently deploy machine learning algorithms into societal-scale systems. This requires understanding the theoretical underpinnings of learning algorithms in uncertain, dynamic environments where they must interact with other strategic agents, humans, and algorithms. Practically, he applies his work to problems in intelligent infrastructure, online markets, e-commerce, and the delivery of healthcare. Mazumdar holds degrees in electrical engineering and computer science from MIT (BS '15) and UC Berkeley (PhD '21).



DANA MURPHY
Assistant Professor of English and Black Studies

Murphy, who was born and raised in Pasadena, joined Caltech from the University of Michigan, where she was an assistant professor in the Department

of English Language and Literature. She is an interdisciplinary scholar who specializes in the fields of Black studies, global literatures in English, and women's and gender studies. Her ongoing research interests include Black feminist poetics, decolonization in postcolonial literatures, and intergenerational and queer relationships and temporalities in Black diasporic and Latinx literatures and cultures. Murphy earned degrees in English from UC Berkeley (BA '11) and UC Irvine (MA '15, PhD '18). She is currently writing a book that is inspired by Phillis Wheatley.



LISA RUTH RAND
Assistant Professor of History

Rand is a historian of technology, science, and the environment. In research and teaching, she pursues entanglements of human and non-human forces that drive disuse, disorder, and decay—and often also underpin ideas about extraterrestrial futures. Her first book, forthcoming from Harvard University Press, is tentatively titled *Space Junk: A History of Waste in Orbit*. Rand earned a PhD in history and sociology of science from the University of Pennsylvania and received the Emerging Scholars Global Policy Prize from Penn's Perry World House in 2019. She will hold a Guggenheim Fellowship at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in 2022.

OTHER FACULTY



R. MATTHEW BROWN
Lecturer in Music

Brown is a composer, orchestrator, arranger, keyboardist, session singer, and tenor with the Los Angeles Master Chorale. He completed his doctoral studies in music composition at the USC Thornton

School of Music, and he has taught a variety of music classes at PCC, Cal Poly Pomona, Chapman University, Pepperdine University, and Moreno Valley College.



ALEXANDER C. T. GEPPERT
Eleanor Searle Visiting Professor in History

Geppert comes to Caltech from New York University, where he is an associate professor of history and European studies

and a Global Network Associate Professor. He also has a joint appointment at NYU's Center for European and Mediterranean Studies and NYU Shanghai. His research focuses on the nexus of spatiality, knowledge, and transcendence in varying configurations, including outer space, miracles, expositions, and the theory of historiography. He has authored and edited several books, and his forthcoming project is tentatively titled *The Future in the Stars: Europe, Astroculture, and the Age of Space, 1942–1972*.



LIA HALLORAN
Artist-in-Residence

Halloran will be the Caltech-Huntington Program in Visual Culture artist-in-residence for the winter term. Her work uses scientific concepts as a starting point to explore how perception, time, and scale inform

the human desire to understand the world and our place within it. During her residency, she plans to teach a course that explores the various ways that artists and scientists grapple with extreme scales of size or time and then communicate that scale in an understandable and meaningful way. Halloran will also continue her long-standing collaboration with Kip Thorne, among other Caltech faculty, while exploring The Huntington's rich archives.



CATHERINE E. CLARK
Visiting Associate Professor of History and Visual Culture

Clark's research is largely concerned with how the visual produces knowledge—both in the past and in contemporary historical practices. She has written widely about

the histories of modern France and its visual culture. Her book *Paris and the Cliché of History: The City and Photographs, 1860–1970* (Oxford University Press, 2018) presents new methodology for using photographs as historical documents. Clark holds an MA and PhD in history from USC, and she is currently an associate professor of history and French studies at MIT.



ANTHONY GRAFTON
Senior Residential Fellow in the Research Institute for the History of Science and Technology (RIHST)

Grafton is the Henry Putnam University Professor of History at Princeton

University. His interests lie in the cultural history of Renaissance Europe, the history of books and readers, the history of scholarship and education in the West from antiquity to the nineteenth century, and the history of science from antiquity to the Renaissance. His honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the Balzan Prize for History of Humanities, and the Mellon Foundation's Distinguished Achievement Award. Grafton is also a member of the American Philosophical Society and the British Academy.



ELIN O'HARA SLAVICK
Artist-in-Residence

Slavick is an interdisciplinary artist, poet, professor, curator, critic, and activist. After earning an MFA in photography from the School of the

Art Institute of Chicago, she joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she taught for over two decades. She has exhibited her work internationally and authored two monographs: *Bomb After Bomb: A Violent Cartography* and *After Hiroshima*. As the spring artist-in-residence, she will teach a course that challenges Caltech undergraduates to render scientific and mathematical data into visually powerful forms and experiences.

POSTDOCS & FELLOWS



ALEXANDER W. BLOEDEL *Linde Institute Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Economics*

Bloedel recently joined HSS as a postdoctoral scholar in economics under the Center for Social Information Sciences (CSIS), which is part of The Ronald and

Maxine Linde Institute of Economic and Management Sciences. With a PhD in economics from Stanford University, Bloedel studies economic theory, and he is broadly interested in information and learning, mechanism design, bounded rationality, and other topics at the intersection of economics and computer science.



JOHN VINCENT (J. V.) DECENVIRALE

*Weisman Postdoctoral Instructor
in Visual Culture and Caltech
Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow*

Decemvirale holds a PhD in history of art and architecture from UC Santa Barbara

and an MA in curating contemporary art from the Royal College of Art in London. In 2017 he received a Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art for his thesis, "Knowing Your Place and Making Do: Radical Art Activism in Black and Latino Los Angeles, 1960 to the Present." He spent the last academic year as a faculty fellow in the graduate program in museum studies at Syracuse University.



COOPER D. GROSSMAN *Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Neuroscience*

After earning a PhD in neuroscience from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine earlier this year, Grossman will join the O'Doherty Lab as a postdoctoral

scholar in the fall. He will work on the neural mechanisms of reward learning and decision making in the human brain, using a combination of single-unit electrophysiological recordings and functional MRI paired with computational modeling of behavior.



ANDREW HILL

*Howard E. and Susanne C. Jessen
Postdoctoral Instructor in English*

Hill's research interests include nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature and culture, transatlantic poetry and poetics, critical

theory, intermediality, visual culture and iconography, and animal studies. He has an MA and a PhD in English with an emphasis in critical theory from UC Irvine, where he received a School of Humanities Research Grant in 2018 and an English Department Research Merit Award in 2020.



NA YEON KIM *Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Neuroscience*

Kim joined HSS this summer as a postdoctoral scholar in neuroscience in the Adolphs Lab. In this role, she will conduct eye-tracking and fMRI studies to

gain a deeper understanding of the social difficulties experienced by people with autism. Prior to coming to Caltech, she earned her PhD in cognitive psychology and neuroscience from Princeton University, where she studied the neural basis of the development of visual selective attention in middle childhood (ages 6 to 12).



HANNAH F. LEBLANC *Howard E. and Susanne C. Jessen Postdoctoral Instructor in STEM and Inequality*

LeBlanc comes to Caltech from Cornell University, where she was a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow teaching courses

at the intersection of history, public health, and environmental justice. She holds a PhD in history from Stanford University with a PhD minor in feminist, gender, and sexuality studies. Her current book project, *Fortified Bodies: Nutrition for National Defense in World War II and the Cold War*, builds on her graduate thesis and examines U.S. government-sponsored nutrition science projects during World War II and the Cold War.

POSTDOCS & FELLOWS (CONT.)



FARZAD POURBABAEE *Postdoctoral Instructor in Economic Theory*

Pourbabaee received his PhD in economics and MA in statistics from UC Berkeley. He also holds an MA in mathematics from McMaster University.

His research areas include economic theory, finance, probability, and statistics, and his published work has appeared in *Economics Letters*, *Economic Theory*, and *Quantitative Finance*.



FEDOR SANDOMIRSKII *Linde Institute Postdoctoral Instructor in Economics*

Sandomirskii is a microeconomist specializing in game theory and its applications to problems of economic design. He is especially interested

in the strategic use of information and resource-allocation mechanisms. At Caltech, he will teach undergraduate courses in economics and collaborate with faculty from The Linde Institute's Center for Social Information Sciences (CSIS). Sandomirskii completed a PhD in mathematical methods of economics from the Central Economic Mathematical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow.



JUNI SINGH *Postdoctoral Instructor in Social Sciences of Sustainability*

Singh will join HSS as a postdoctoral instructor in social sciences of sustainability in the winter term. She holds a master's degree in applied policy and economics

and a PhD in economics from the Paris School of Economics. Her interests include development economics, networks, behavioral economics, experimental economics, and public policy, and she hopes that her research will have a positive impact on public policy in Nepal in the future.



CRISTIANO ZANETTI *Postdoctoral Scholar Fellowship Trainee in the History of Science*

Zanetti earned a PhD in history and civilization from the European University Institute. His research focuses on the social and cultural history of technological

innovation in the long Renaissance. He is the recipient of a 2021 Marie Curie Global Fellowship. Starting in January 2022, Zanetti will work with Mordechai Feingold, Kate Van Nuys Page Professor of the History of Science and the Humanities, and Jed Buchwald, Doris and Henry Dreyfuss Professor of History, to research the power of Renaissance automata.



QING (ROBIN) ZHAO *Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Political Science*

Zhao, who recently completed her PhD in public affairs at Princeton University, is interested in political economy, public finance, applied microeconomics, and education finance. As a postdoctoral scholar in HSS, she will continue her work on the politics of school funding and collaborate with several social science faculty members, including Rea A. and Lela G. Axline Professor of Business Economics and HSS Division Chair Jean-Laurent Rosenthal and Professor of Political Science Rod Kiewiet.

GRADUATE STUDENTS



JACK ADENEY
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Adeney has an academic background in experimental and behavioral economics, particularly bargaining games under adverse selection. He received a bachelor's degree in economics with a minor in applied mathematics from NYU Abu Dhabi and a master's in economics from the University of Cambridge. He has experience in designing and coding experiments, and he looks forward to doing more of that as a social sciences graduate student. His other interests include models of political lobbying and trust in organizations.



SNEHA REDDY AENUGU
Social and Decision Neuroscience Graduate Student

Aenugu is interested in investigating the neural basis of human decision making and behavior. She holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and a master's in computer science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she focused on reinforcement learning and cognitive psychology. She is eager to apply insights from economics, political science, and philosophy to her decision-making research.



WENNING DENG
Social and Decision Neuroscience Graduate Student

Deng received a BS in applied mathematics and a BA in psychology from Brown University. Her research interests include emotion, social learning, and social decision making. As an SDN graduate student, she looks forward to using computational models to capture how the human brain integrates emotion in social learning.



MATTHEW ESTES
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Estes's research interests include microeconomic theory, political economy, game theory, and mathematical economics. After completing his BA in mathematics at Harvard University, he earned a JD from the University of Chicago Law School, where he took courses in law and economics, antitrust law and policy, and bankruptcy and reorganization law. At Caltech, he is interested in learning more about economic theory, experimental economics, and industrial organization.



JAMES (GARRETT) HALL
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Hall received his BS in computer science with a minor in economics from Auburn University, where he also completed graduate coursework in economics and statistics. He spent a year working in software development as part of a co-op with telecommunications and networking solutions provider ADTRAN, Inc. His research interests include behavioral economics, game theory, decision theory, and experimental economics.



THOMAS HENNING
Social and Decision Neuroscience Graduate Student

Henning is interested in studying areas of neuroeconomics, with a particular focus on how individuals and groups make decisions in the face of both real and perceived risk and ambiguity. He looks forward to developing the technical skills to better understand the motivations that drive our global economy, and he hopes to use these insights to inform economic and criminal justice policy. Henning holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Arizona State University, and he spent the last two years working as a structured credit trader at Goldman Sachs.

GRADUATE STUDENTS (CONT.)



ZHENLIN KANG
Social Sciences Graduate Student

After earning a bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics (with honors) from the University of Sydney, Kang is interested in studying the neural basis of individual decision making. She is keen

on developing theories with the aid of experiments and applying theory to solve real-life problems.



SEOKYOUNG MIN
Social and Decision Neuroscience Graduate Student

Min is interested in how our multiple memory systems guide our everyday decisions and help us navigate the social world. For his undergraduate degree,

he double-majored in psychology and science, technology, and policy at Yonsei University, where he also earned a master's in psychology. He aims to combine behavioral experiments, computational modeling, functional neuroimaging, and real-world behavioral data analysis to better understand human learning and decision making.



BAHADIR ULGEY
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Ulgey's background is in real analysis, abstract algebra, computer programming, and algorithms, and his research interests include microeconomic theory, economics of

information, and game theory. He holds undergraduate degrees in economics and mathematics from Boğaziçi University, and he recently received his MA in economics from Koç University. He looks forward to learning more about experimental economics, social networks, and algorithmic game theory.



MITCHELL LINEGAR
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Linegar graduated from Reed College, where he majored in math and economics. He is interested in industrial organization and political economy, with a focus on

informational and cultural economics. He spent the last two years examining the effect of news media on political behavior and estimating discrete choice models across many categories of goods. He would like to continue using these methods to study media consumption.



NGHIA TRAN PHAM
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Pham received a bachelor's degree in business management from the joint program between the National Economics University of Vietnam and the University of Sunderland in the UK

before completing some graduate-level courses at Bocconi University. Among his research interests are game theory, formal theory (in political economy), network theory, mechanism design, and experimental economics.



THARANI WEERASOORIYA
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Weerasooriya is interested in econometric theory, computational economics, causal inference, and voting theory. She earned a bachelor's degree

in economics (with honors) from the University of Queensland. She also holds a postgraduate diploma in science from the same university, where she studied measure theory, functional analysis, and operations research. Before joining HSS, Weerasooriya worked on an Australian Research Council grant on urban land use in Melbourne.

STAFF



BRIDGET ALEX *STEM Writing Specialist and Lecturer*

Alex holds a PhD in anthropological archaeology and human evolutionary biology from Harvard University. She came to Caltech in the fall of 2019 as a lecturer in anthropology and taught courses on human evolution and world archeology. Her science writing has appeared in *Science*, *Smithsonian*, *Atlas Obscura*, and *Audubon*, and she is a contributing editor for *Discover* magazine.



ANNY LIN *Grants and Finance Manager*

Lin joins HSS on October 1 from Stanford University, where she was responsible for pre- and post-award grants management in the Department of Psychology, managing the portfolios of ten principal investigators. Prior to Stanford, she worked at UC Berkeley as a project analyst in the lab of Dr. Jeffery Cox and as a program coordinator in the Center for Emerging and Neglected Diseases (CEND). Lin earned her undergraduate degree in sociology at UC Berkeley.



NAREEN MANOUKIAN *Writing Specialist*

With a graduate degree from the USC Rossier School of Education and a master's from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Manoukian has worked in collegiate writing centers across Los Angeles, from USC to Azusa Pacific University, including a year at our very own Hixon Writing Center. She has also taught courses in English and composition at Cal State Northridge, Los Angeles City College, Pasadena City College, Los Angeles Valley College, and Cal State LA.



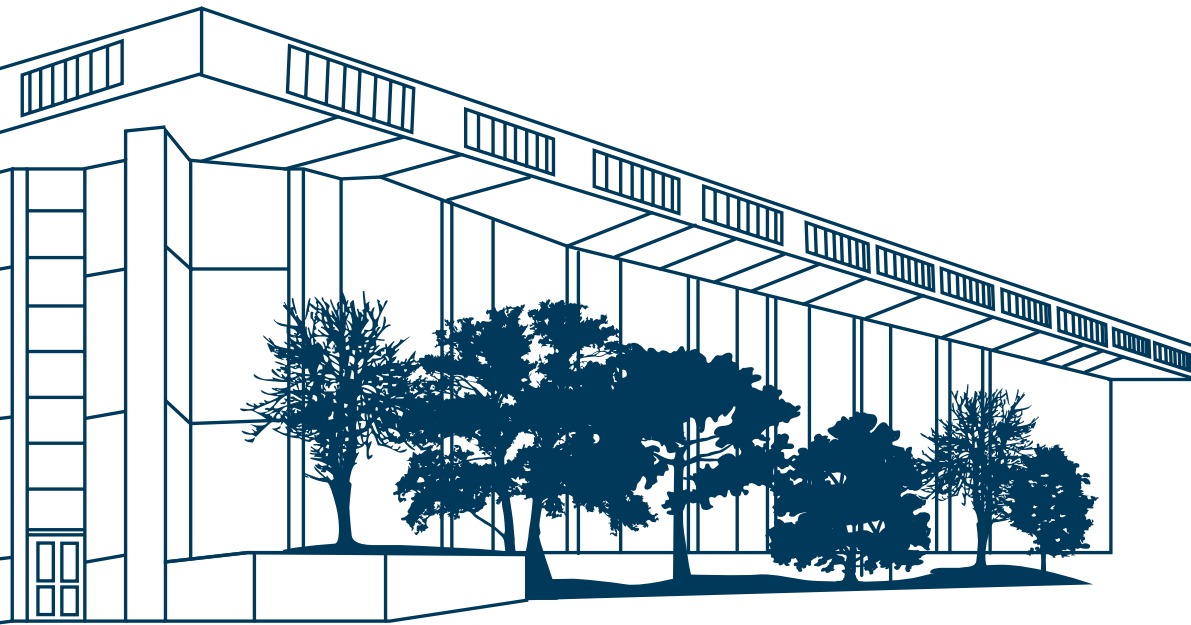
JOSHUA SCHNEIDERMAN *Writing Specialist*

Schneiderman received his PhD from The Graduate Center at City University of New York (CUNY) earlier this year. His critical writing has appeared (or will appear) in *Contemporary Literature*, *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Public Books*. His awards include the Research Society for American Periodicals Article Prize in 2018 and the L. S. Dembo Prize for best article published in *Contemporary Literature* in 2017.



OLIVIA WARSCHAW *Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian*

Warschaw comes to Caltech from The New School's Parsons School of Design in New York, where she was the fashion and textile librarian, guiding students and faculty in interdisciplinary approaches to visual and object-based research. She was previously an adjunct reference and instruction librarian at the NYU Division of Libraries. She holds an MS in library and information science from Long Island University and an MA in costume studies from NYU.



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