HSS

2020–2021 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 2020–2021 academic year. Please join us in welcoming them to HSS!

PROFESSORIAL FACULTY

BRIAN JACOBSON
Professor of Visual Culture

Jacobson comes to Caltech from the University of Toronto. As a historian of media, art, and technology, he studies world-making and the creation of artificial environments, from media architecture and visual representation to energy infrastructure and terraforming. His latest project examines the visual culture of petroleum in post–World War II France and its late-/postcolonial empire. He holds a PhD in critical studies from USC's School of Cinematic Arts and a master's in comparative media studies from MIT. Jacobson's first book, titled *Studios Before the System: Architecture, Technology, and the Emergence of Cinematic Space*, was published in 2015 by Columbia University Press.

KIRBY NIELSEN
Assistant Professor of Economics

Prior to joining the HSS faculty, Nielsen received her MA and PhD in economics from Ohio State University, and she spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. She is interested in microeconomic theory, experimental economics, decision theory, behavioral economics, and industrial organization. Her latest publication, "Preferences for the Resolution of Uncertainty and the Timing of Information," appeared in the *Journal of Economic Theory* (Volume 189, September 2020).

CHARLES SPRENGER
Professor of Economics

Sprenger studies behavioral and experimental economics. His research interests include local and global investigation into subjects such as intertemporal choice behavior, economic risk preferences, and the relationship of time preferences to certain economic behaviors. With an MSc in economics from University College London (UCL) and a PhD in economics from UC San Diego, he joined the faculty at Stanford University and, most recently, the Rady School of Management at UC San Diego. He received a Sloan Research Fellowship in 2016.

OTHER FACULTY

SOPHIA KALANTZAKOS
2020–2021 Visiting Fellow in the Research Institute for the History of Science and Technology

Kalantzakos is Global Distinguished Professor in Environmental Studies and Public Policy at New York University and a long-term affiliate at NYU Abu Dhabi, where she is the founder and head of eARThumanities, an environmental humanities research initiative. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on environmental governance, energy, public policy, and geopolitics, especially resource competition and climate change as threats that are reshaping power politics across the globe. She is currently finishing her latest book, titled *EU and China: Face-off in the Horn of Africa*.

EDAN LEPUCKI
Lecturer in Creative Writing

Author Lepucki will join HSS in the winter term to teach a course in creative writing. Her works include the novella *If You're Not Yet Like Me* and the novels *Woman No. 17* and *California*, which debuted at #3 on the *New York Times* best-sellers list in 2014. Her fiction and nonfiction have been published in *Esquire*, *Narrative Magazine*, the *New York Times*, *The Cut*, and elsewhere. She is a graduate of Oberlin College and the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

PETER MCANIFF
Lecturer in Economics

With nearly 20 years of experience in corporate finance and an MBA in finance and JD from UCLA, McAniff is teaching an introduction to accounting course at Caltech this fall. He is a partner at The Circinus Group, an advisory and executive training firm based in Pasadena, and co-author of *The Practitioner's Guide to Investment Banking, Mergers & Acquisitions, Corporate Finance*, and *The Recruiting Guide to Investment Banking* through the firm's business press. He is also a visiting lecturer of economics at Claremont McKenna College.

SANDY RODRIGUEZ
Artist-in-Residence

Los Angeles–based painter Rodriguez will be the Caltech-Huntington Program in Visual Culture artist-in-residence for the winter term. Her work investigates the methods and materials of painting across cultures and histories. During her residency, she will teach a course on the various ways that artists have processed materials from the natural world to create colors of the Americas. She has a BFA from the California Institute of the Arts and has exhibited at a number of regional institutions, including the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and the Riverside Art Museum.

HANNA ROSE SHELL
Eleanor Searle Visiting Professor of History

Shell is an associate professor in the Department of Art & Art History and the Department of Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts at the University of Colorado Boulder. She studies aesthetics, media archaeology, textiles, and the interface of art and science. Her latest book, *Shoddy: From Devil's Dust to the Renaissance of Rags*, examines recycled textiles as transformative media, providing an innovative and interdisciplinary material history of used clothing. Shell joins HSS to teach two courses this fall term and then plans to return for the 2021–2022 academic year.

POSTDOCS

PATRICK BURAUEL
Postdoctoral Scholar in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Burauel spent the last year as a visiting student researcher under the direction of Professor of Philosophy Frederick Eberhardt. As a postdoctoral scholar in HSS, he will continue his work with Eberhardt to develop causal discovery algorithms and techniques for the construction of causal variables from raw measurement data. He holds a PhD in economics from DIW Berlin (the German Institute for Economic Research), and he is interested in machine learning for causal inference and econometrics.

MARGARET GAIDA
Postdoctoral Instructor in Early Modern Natural Philosophy

Before coming to Caltech, Gaida taught at the University of Oklahoma and was a postdoctoral researcher at the Historical Index of the Medieval Middle East digital program at Oklahoma State University. She has an MA and PhD in history of science, medicine, and technology. Her research covers the transmission, appropriation, and circulation of scientific knowledge across cultural boundaries in the medieval and early modern Mediterranean, with a focus on astrology, astronomy, and optics.

JULIA MICHIKO HORI
Fletcher Jones Foundation Postdoctoral Instructor in Contemporary Literature

Hori received her PhD in English and a graduate certificate in African American studies from Princeton University. Her research interests include Caribbean literature and visual culture; postcolonial literature; African American literature, race, and ethnicity; and theories of space and environment. Her publication "Elegant Despair: Mourning Clothes and the Sartorial Conscience of James Baldwin's *No Name in the Street*" will appear in a forthcoming edition of the journal *Callaloo*.

JAEJOONG KIM
Postdoctoral Scholar in Affective Neuroscience

Kim joined HSS this summer as a postdoctoral scholar in affective neuroscience in the Mobbs Lab, where he will examine the neural basis of escape and attack. His research will use machine learning to investigate the neural circuits involved in the switch between survival states, including the hypothalamus, amygdala, and periaqueductal gray. He holds a PhD in medical science and engineering from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST).

JONATHAN KOCH
Caltech-Huntington Humanities Collaborations Postdoctoral Instructor

Koch studies the ways in which literature shapes and is shaped by theology and politics, with a particular interest in the theology and politics of early-modern religious toleration. He earned his PhD in English from Washington University in St. Louis after defending his thesis, "The Poetics of Religious Toleration in Revolutionary England," in which he examined a variety of texts to determine the voices and formal character of religious toleration in seventeenth-century England.

DOUGLAS LEE
Postdoctoral Scholar in Neuroeconomics

Lee joined the Rangel Lab in May, after spending the first quarter of 2020 as a postdoctoral scholar at the National Research Council of Italy and as a visiting scholar in the department of economics at USC. His PhD is in cognitive neuroscience from Sorbonne University in Paris. At Caltech, he is analyzing existing datasets from eye-tracking experiments designed to test neurocomputational models of the effect of attention in simple choice.

JOSEPH ROOT
Linde Postdoctoral Scholar in Economics

After receiving his MA in mathematics and PhD in economics from UC Berkeley this year, Root 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. He studies economic theory with a particular focus on market design, mechanism design, and social choice theory. He is working with Professor of Economics and Mathematics Omer Tamuz to conduct research in economics and computer science.

TESSA RUSCH
Postdoctoral Scholar in Neuroscience

Rusch received an MS in neuro-cognitive psychology at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and a PhD in neuroscience at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf. She is currently a postdoc in the Adolphs Lab, conducting cognitive neuroscience studies of social behavior and decision making using fMRI and behavioral measures. She is also a core investigator on the COVID-Dynamic Longitudinal Study.

CHARLES KOLLMER
Ahmanson Postdoctoral Instructor in History of Biology

Kollmer has a PhD in history of science from Princeton University and an MA in humanities and social thought from New York University. He is interested in the history of the modern biological sciences. His research explores how geography, institutions, and experimentation shaped the scientific study of life, and how scientists' changing understandings of life reverberated throughout the world.

ADAM PHAM
Howard E. and Susanne C. Jessen Postdoctoral Instructor in Philosophy

Pham's research lies at the intersection of value theory and social science, and he specializes in ethics, social and political philosophy, and philosophy of social science. He holds an MA and PhD in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he received an Honored Instructor Award. His forthcoming book, titled *Algorithms and Autonomy: The Ethics of Automated Decision Systems*, is under contract with Cambridge University Press.

NINA ROUHANI
Postdoctoral Scholar in Neuroscience

Cognitive neuroscientist Rouhani studies how reinforcement learning and memory interact to influence decisions in behavior and in the brain. As a supporter of optimal decisions, her research interests took shape while seeking to understand why good goals go bad. She recently earned a PhD in psychology and neuroscience from Princeton University, and she joined the Adolphs Lab to examine individual differences in emotion and decision making using fMRI data.

SARAH TASHJIAN
Postdoctoral Scholar in Affective Neuroscience

Before joining the Mobbs Lab, Tashjian completed her MA and PhD in psychology at UCLA. She also holds a JD from Columbia Law School. Her research aims to understand the neural and behavioral dynamics of human social and emotional experiences, particularly in the domain of threat, and she focuses on the developmental periods from pre-adolescence through early adulthood.

TOBY WISE
Postdoctoral Scholar in Affective Computational Neuroscience

Wise spent the last academic year as a visitor in neuroscience in the Mobbs Lab and a fellow at the Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research at University College London. He holds an MSc in cognitive neuroscience from the University of Sussex and a PhD in neuroimaging from the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience at King's College London. As a postdoc in the Mobbs Lab, he will continue his research on decision making under threat and how the processes relate to subclinical anxiety in the general population.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

PETER DOE
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Doe earned his undergraduate degree from Baylor University, where he completed the Baylor Business Fellows program with an emphasis on economics, mathematics, and statistics. His research background includes experimental economics, real analysis, and algebra, and he looks forward to studying game theory and mechanism design, specifically auctions and matching markets, as a social sciences graduate student.

KEXIN FENG
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Feng is interested in public economics, econometrics, and game theory. She received a BS in mathematics and economics from the College of William and Mary. Her background is in statistics, real analysis, operations research, and differential equations, and she is interested in learning about financial economics and behavioral economics.

ANIEK FRANSEN
Social and Decision Neuroscience Graduate Student

Fransen spent the last academic year as a research technician assistant in the O'Doherty Lab. Her research interests are centered around human decision making, value learning, and habitual versus goal-directed behavior, especially when approaching those subjects by combining neuroimaging and computational methods. She holds an undergraduate degree in social sciences from Tilburg University and an MSc in neuroeconomics from Maastricht University.

CLAUDIA KANN
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Caltech alumna Kann (MSc '19, mechanical engineering) recently entered the social sciences field after also completing a BS in mechanical engineering from Rice University. As a graduate student in HSS, she will study American politics and political methodology, with a focus on political behavior. She is particularly interested in the issues surrounding inclusion and understanding whose voices are heard in the American political system.

KE SHI
Social Sciences Graduate Student

With an undergraduate degree in economics and mathematics from New York University Abu Dhabi, Shi worked briefly as a research assistant in the NYUAD Center for Interacting Urban Networks. His research interests include game theory, information, and networks. He enjoys reading theory but also takes an interest in empirical studies.

QIANYING WU
Social and Decision Neuroscience Graduate Student

Wu's research interests are network neuroscience and social and affective neuroscience. She earned a BS in biosciences from the University of Science and Technology of China, and she has a background in non-invasive brain stimulation, decision making, and autism research. In the future, she hopes to study brain dynamics during social behaviors with the help of brain imaging and computational modeling.