

2019-2020

# EW FACES

We are pleased to introduce the new faculty, postdocs, students, and staff arriving in the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences between June 2019 and June 2020. Please welcome them to HSS!

# PROFESSORIAL FACULTY



### **DANIELLE WIGGINS** Assistant Professor of History

Wiggins arrived on campus this summer after spending the 2018–2019 academic year as a Jefferson Scholars Foundation National Fellow at the University of Virginia. She earned her PhD in history in 2018 from Emory University, where she specialized in African American political history and urban political economy. Wiggins begins her Caltech teaching this fall with a class on black America in the post-civil rights era.

### OTHER FACULTY



### **BRIDGET ALEX Lecturer in Anthropology**

Alex joins HSS this fall as a lecturer to teach a course on human evolution. She earned a PhD in anthropological archaeology and human evolutionary biology from Harvard University in 2016. In her research, Alex focuses on understanding the processes by

which Homo sapiens dispersed globally while all other human groups went extinct over the past 100,000 years. She also researches how education and outreach about human origins can promote understanding of evolution and the scientific method.



**ERIK CONWAY** RIHST Fellow

Conway will spend the 2019-2020 academic year as the first fellow appointed in the new joint Research Institute for the History of Science and Technology at Caltech and The Huntington (RIHST). He is a historian of science and technology

and works as the historian of JPL. His research focuses on the intersection of science and technology in the later twentieth century, primarily related to aerospace.



JOSHUA EISENTHAL Research Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Eisenthal joins the Einstein Papers Project this October, after earning his PhD in philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh. His research is in the philosophy of science and early analytic philosophy, with a particular

interest in philosophical issues that came into focus between 1880 and 1920—the period that encompassed the transition from classical to modern physics and the emergence of modern logic.



### LIA HALLORAN

Artist-in-Residence

Halloran will spend the spring term as an artist-in-residence in the Caltech-Huntington Program in Visual Culture. During the residency, she plans to teach a course that traces the lineage of scientific discoveries at Mount Wilson, Caltech, JPL, and The

Huntington. Halloran's 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. She plans to continue her long-standing collaboration with Kip Thorne, among other Caltech faculty, while exploring The Huntington's rich archives.



# **JESSICA HELFAND**

Artist-in-Residence

Helfand will be the Caltech-Huntington Program in Visual Culture artist-in-residence during the winter term. She makes paintings about tissue histologies, working with scientific images that present tissues at an atomic level and transforming them through

photography, paint, and radical shifts in scale. She plans to offer an undergraduate course to expose students to new ways of considering scale. Educated at Yale University, where she has taught for more than 20 years, Helfand is the author of several books on visual and cultural criticism, including Scrapbooks: An American History, which the New York Times named its 2008 best visual book.



JOHN KRIGE Francis Bacon Visiting Professor of History

Krige, the Kranzberg Professor in the School of History and Sociology at the Georgia Institute of Technology, will spend the fall term at Caltech, where he will teach a course titled Forbidden Knowledge. The main focus of

Krige's research has been on the development of civilian nuclear and space programs in Western Europe and the United States during the Cold War. In the winter, Krige will receive the Francis Bacon Award in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology from HSS.

### OTHER FACULTY



JENNIFER RODGERS Research Assistant Professor of History

Rodgers joined the Einstein Papers Project in June. She is a historian specializing in modern Europe, including Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, and the politics of memory; human rights and humanitarianism; and the

history of medicine. She is currently completing a manuscript titled "The Archives of Humanity: The International Tracing Service, the Holocaust, and Postwar Order."



**PABLO SCHENONE** Lecturer in Economics

Coming to HSS from Arizona State University, Schenone is interested in microeconomic theory, decision theory, and game theory. He received his PhD in economics from Northwestern University. Schenone will teach three courses this

year: Behavioral Industrial Organization in the fall and Theory of Value and Law and Economics in the spring.



**JOHN STYLES Eleanor Searle Visiting Professor** in History

Styles specializes in the history of early modern Britain and its empire, especially the study of material life, manufacturing, and design. He is a professor emeritus in history at the University of Hertfordshire, UK, and

he has published extensively on the history of everyday things used by the common people. He will teach two courses this coming year: Global Things, 1400–2000 in the fall and British History in the winter. Styles visited HSS in 2017 as a Moore Distinguished Scholar.



ANDREA THABET **Lecturer in American History** 

Thabet joins HSS this fall to teach two courses in American history. She is a historian specializing in Los Angeles urban and public history, with a focus on urban renewal policy and cultural policy. She also works as a historic preservation

consultant and serves as co-coordinator for the LA History & Metro Studies Group, based at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.



STEFANIE SOBELLE Visiting Associate Professor of English

Sobelle returns to Caltech from Gettysburg College after two prior stays in HSS as a postdoctoral fellow and visiting faculty. Her forthcoming book, A Building Is a Book, is an examination of the architecture in and of American literature from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Sobelle will teach two classes in the fall, American Literature of the Environment and Fabricating LA, and two more in winter, Housing America and Racing the Future: Multi-Ethnic Science and Speculative Fiction.





JIAN CAO Postdoctoral Scholar in Data Science and Election Integrity

Cao joined HSS this summer to work with Professor of Political Science Mike Alvarez. He holds a PhD in economics from Florida State University, where he spent the last academic year as a senior researcher in its

Center for Economic Forecasting. Cao is interested in econometrics, computational statistics, data science, and financial economics.



A. ZEYNEP ENKAVI Postdoctoral Scholar in **Neuroeconomics** 

Enkavi is a cognitive neuroscientist who studies behavioral and neural correlates of decisions that involve tradeoffs between short- and long-term goals. After earning her PhD in psychology from Stanford

University, she will join the Rangel Lab this coming year. While in HSS, she intends to work on psychometric and fMRI experiments to study the neurocomputational basis of basic decision making.



SICHAO "KEVIN" HE Linde Institute Postdoctoral Fellow in Economics

He comes to HSS from Harvard University. where he earned a PhD in economics. His research interests include microeconomic theory and behavioral economics. At Caltech, he expects to work closely

with faculty both in the social sciences and in the Computing + Mathematical Sciences (CMS) department to conduct research at the intersection of economics and computer science, with a focus on mechanism design and dynamic game theory.



#### **MARIO HUBERT**

Howard E. and Susanne C. Jessen Postdoctoral Instructor in Philosophy of Physics

Hubert is a philosopher who specializes in the philosophy and metaphysics of physics. Previously, he worked at Columbia University and New York University under

an Early Postdoc Mobility Fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation. He received a PhD in philosophy from the University of Lausanne in Switzerland in 2016. He will teach a course titled Knowledge and Reality this fall.

### **POSTDOCS & FELLOWS**



**DAVID KAHN**Postdoctoral Scholar in
Cognitive Neuroscience

After graduating from Caltech, Kahn (BS '06, biology) earned his PhD in neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the Adolphs Lab as a postdoc to work on projects

predicting individual differences in intelligence and personality from brain imaging data. He'll also analyze neuroimaging data from subjects with agenesis of the corpus callosum.



SIJIA ZHAO
Postdoctoral Scholar in
Affective Neuroscience using
Machine Learning

Currently a postdoc at University College London, where she earned her PhD in auditory neuroscience, Zhao will join the Mobbs Lab in January 2020. While

at Caltech, she plans to use machine learning to investigate the neural circuits involved in the switch between survival states, including the hypothalamus, amygdala, and periaqueductal gray.



# ANNE SULLIVAN Weisman Postdoctoral Instructor in Visual Culture

Sullivan's research interests include Victorian literature and culture, nineteenth-century media entertainments and technologies, print culture, and visual culture. She received her PhD in English from UC Riverside, where she spent the last two years as a lecturer. While at Caltech, she is working on her first book project, based on her dissertation, titled *On Fire: Industrialization, Media Technologies, and the Imagination, 1800–1900.* In the fall term, Sullivan will teach a course on volcanoes in literary and visual culture as well as one on consuming Victorian media.

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS**



ALENA BUINSKAYA
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Buinskaya earned undergraduate degrees in economics and applied mathematics from Kyung Hee University in Seoul, and she completed her MS in economics at Seoul National University earlier this year. Her research interests include game theory

and market design, and she also would like to learn more about experimental economics while at Caltech.



# BRENDEN EUM Social and Decision Neuroscience Graduate Student

Eum's research interests include neuroeconomics, behavioral economics, decision theory, economics of information, and experimental economics, with a particular focus on models of perception

and choice under limited attention and cognition. He holds a BA in economics with a minor in mathematics from New York University and an MA in economics from Columbia University.



SHARON CHEN
Social and Decision Neuroscience
Graduate Student

Chen is interested in the neurological basis of social behavior, emotion, learning, and decision making and its changes in psychiatric disorders. She received her BS in computer science in the Intelligent Systems track at

Columbia University. She has a background in machine learning and artificial intelligence, robotics, and natural language processing.



#### WANYING "KATE" HUANG

#### Social Sciences Graduate Student

Huang earned bachelor of economics degrees from Shandong University in China and the University of Queensland in Australia, where she graduated as valedictorian and obtained a university

medal. She wrote her honors thesis on the refinements of correlated equilibrium. Huang has a background in real analysis and is interested in game theory, microeconomic theory, and mathematical economics.



POLINA DETKOVA
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Detkova's research interests include contract theory, decision theory, and political economy. She earned a BA in economics from the Higher School of Economics and an MA in economics from the New Economic School, both located

in Moscow, Russia. She has studied measure theory and dynamic optimization, as well as corruption in Russian public procurement.



### ZHUOFANG LI Social Sciences Graduate Student

Li is interested in applying economic theory to explain real-world problems. After studying microeconomics, econometrics, and behavioral economics, she intends to learn more about game theory, industrial organization, and behavioral

and experimental economics while at Caltech. Earlier this year, she graduated from Renmin University of China with a BA in economics and a BS in mathematics.

# **GRADUATE STUDENTS**



PO-HSUAN LIN
Social Sciences Graduate Student

After graduating from the National Taiwan University with a BA in economics and a minor in mathematics, Lin spent time at UC Berkeley as a visiting student and as an intern at Pasadena-based MobLab. His research

interests include behavioral economics and microeconomic theory, especially mechanism design.



# JACOB MORRIER Social Sciences Graduate Student

Morrier holds a BSc in applied economics from Paris Dauphine University in France and a BSc in economics from the University of Québec in Montréal, Canada. His research interests include game theory, mechanism design, microeconomic theory,

public economics, and political economy.



# ALDO LUCIA Social Sciences Graduate Student

Lucia is interested in information economics, decision theory, and game theory, and he aims to deepen his knowledge of political economy and behavioral economics while at Caltech. He received his BS and MS in economics

from Bocconi University. During his undergraduate studies, he completed a summer course on real analysis at the London School of Economics and Political Science.



#### FAN WU Social Sciences Graduate Student

Wu's research interests include game theory, microeconomic theory, and information design. He received a BSc in physics from Peking University and an MS in finance from Tsinghua University, both in Beijing, China. In February 2018, his

paper "Quantum phase space with a basis of Wannier functions," written with Yuan Fang and Biao Wu, was published in the *Journal of Statistical Mechanics: Theory and Experiments.* 

## STAFF



# VIRGINIA FEDRIGO Research Technician Assistant

Fedrigo is a research technician assistant in the Camerer Lab. She graduated with an MSc in neuroeconomics from Maastricht University in the Netherlands. She is interested in exploring how economic models and behavioral insights gained from

both laboratory and field experiments can be applied to deepen our understanding of behavior traditionally perceived as irrational.



# ELIZABETH SCHRODER Lab Manager

Schroder (BS '17, engineering and applied science) is the new lab manager for the Rangel Lab, where she assists with grants and IRB matters and also manages data and various organizational activities. While a Caltech undergraduate, she was a

member of Axel Scherer's Nanofabrication Group (EAS) and spent a year as vice president of Blacker House.



**ANIEK FRANSEN**Research Technician Assistant

Fransen began her work with the O'Doherty Lab in November 2018 as a visiting student researcher, working on habit inducement in human participants. Now a research technician assistant, she will work on subject recruitment, data

collection, data management, and data analysis. She holds an undergraduate degree in social sciences from Tilburg University and an MSc in neuroeconomics from Maastricht University.



# JASMIN TURNER Research Technician Assistant

Turner has been a volunteer in the Adolphs Lab for the last two years and now officially joins the HSS staff as a research technician assistant, working with Lynn Paul to direct remote data collection for longitudinal studies of children with

agenesis of the corpus callosum. She received her MA in clinical psychology from Cal State Northridge earlier this year.



# STEPHEN GONZALEZ Research Technician Assistant

As a research technician assistant in the Rangel Lab, Gonzalez will recruit and screen human subjects, collect data from behavioral, eye-tracking, and fMRI experiments, and help process and manage the data. He comes to HSS from

USC, where he earned an MS in neuroimaging and informatics. He spent the last two years as a research assistant at the USC Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute.



**HSS FALL WELCOME PARTY** 

Thursday, October 3, 2019 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Dabney Lounge and Garden