



2018–2019

# NEW FACES

We are pleased to introduce the new faculty, postdocs, students, and staff arriving in the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019. Please welcome them to HSS!

## PROFESSORIAL FACULTY



### CHARLES "CHIP" SEBENS

#### *Assistant Professor of Philosophy*

Sebens studies the philosophy of physics, focusing on the foundations of quantum theory. He uses tools from metaphysics and epistemology to assess competing proposals about what physical

laws govern the motion of subatomic particles. He returns to HSS from the Philosophy Department at UC San Diego, where he started as an assistant professor in 2016, after spending a year at Caltech as an Ahmanson Postdoctoral Instructor in the History and Philosophy of Physics. Sebens earned his PhD in philosophy from the University of Michigan in 2015.



### YI XIN

#### *Assistant Professor of Economics*

Xin earned her PhD from the Department of Economics at Johns Hopkins University after successfully defending her dissertation, "Essays on Structural Estimation of Dynamic Models with Asymmetric Information." Her research

interests include industrial organization, econometrics, and applied microeconomics. She focuses on understanding the channels through which asymmetric information and economic mechanisms impact the operation of online markets and developing econometric techniques that enable empirical studies of these markets.



### DANIELLE WIGGINS

#### *Assistant Professor of History*

Wiggins earned her PhD in history from Emory University, where she specialized in African American political history and urban political economy. Her dissertation examines the politics of capital development and crime control among Atlanta's black middle classes during the 1970s and 1980s. Prior to joining the HSS faculty in the summer of 2019, Wiggins will spend the 2018–2019 academic year as a visiting fellow at the University of Virginia's Jefferson Scholars Foundation.

## OTHER FACULTY



### PAOLO GALLUZZI

#### *Moore Distinguished Scholar*

Galluzzi is an Italian historian of science and director of the Galileo Museum (Institute of the History of Science) in Florence. His over 250 publications cover topics including the activity of the scientists and engineers of the Renaissance,

the Scientific Revolution, the history of the European scientific academies, and the birth and history of the historiography of science. He is scheduled to visit HSS as a Moore Scholar in May 2019.



### JOSEPH HALPERN

#### *Moore Distinguished Scholar*

Halpern is the Joseph C. Ford Chair in the Computer Science Department at Cornell University. His research interests include reasoning about knowledge and uncertainty, causality, game theory, decision theory, (fault-tolerant) distributed

computing, modal logic, and security. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Halpern begins his visit as a Moore Scholar in January 2019.

## OTHER FACULTY



### **RYAN HAY**

#### **Lecturer in Philosophy**

Hay earned his PhD in philosophy from the University of Southern California in 2011, and since then he has taught at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP); Occidental College; California State University, San Bernardino; USC; and Scripps College. He specializes in ethics (especially meta-ethics), and his broader teaching and research interests include philosophy of language, logic, and epistemology. While at UWSP, he received the Vice Chancellor Merit Award for Teaching two years in a row.



### **GABRIEL MOTZKIN**

#### **Eleanor Searle Visiting Professor**

Motzkin is the former director of the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, and he was most recently based at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. He is an emeritus member of the Department of Philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Motzkin works on science and secularization—more specifically, the role of emotional presuppositions and the emergence of a strong subjectivity in the early development of science.

## POSTDOCS



### **DEVDEPTA BOSE**

#### **Postdoctoral Scholar in Psychology and Economics**

Bose earned his PhD in economics from the University of Arizona, and he is interested in experimental economics, behavioral economics, and game theory. As a postdoc in the Camerer Lab, Bose

will work on projects related to value-accumulation models of decision making, which will involve aspects of computerized adaptive testing, decision neuroscience, and experimental economics.



### **MICHAEL SAVAGE**

#### **Ahmanson Postdoctoral Instructor in History**

Savage earned his PhD in history from the University of Toronto and his MA from the University of Calgary. He is currently working on a book on metropolitan school desegregation efforts in the northern

United States in the 1960s and 1970s. While at Caltech, he also plans to embark on a project examining the incongruous effects of the urban rebellions of the 1960s on civil rights and politics at the local and national levels.



### **VINCENT MAN**

#### **Postdoctoral Scholar in Neuroscience**

Man comes to HSS from the Computational Affective Neuroscience group at the University of Toronto, where he received his PhD in psychology. He will be a postdoctoral scholar in neuroscience working on neural mechanisms of learning and decision

making in the O'Doherty Lab. His research interests include cognitive neuroscience and neuroimaging.



### **TOMISLAV ZBOZINEK**

#### **Postdoctoral Scholar in Affective Neuroscience**

Zbozinek joins HSS as a postdoc in the Mobbs Lab. Earlier in 2018, he received his PhD in clinical psychology from UCLA. His research interests include fear and anxiety, improving our understanding and

treatment of anxiety disorders, and learning mechanisms. While here, his research will explore the neural basis of switching between survival states and how these states are modulated by the social environment (i.e., protective value of others).



### **MAXWELL MANSOLF**

#### **Postdoctoral Scholar in Psychology**

Mansolf will be a postdoc in the Adolphs Lab starting in March 2019. He has a PhD in quantitative methods from UCLA, and his research interests include quantitative psychology, psychological measurement, missing data, and causal inference. While

at HSS, he will analyze behavioral and neuroimaging data from public databases to construct psychological models.

# GRADUATE STUDENTS



## WEILUN DING

### Graduate Student

Ding completed an MS in data science with a concentration in brain and cognitive sciences at the University of Rochester. His previous research explored economic decision making through neurophysiology in monkeys and humans. As a T&C Chen

Fellow in HSS, he is interested in studying the valuation process underlying decision making in uncertain social and non-social contexts through neural and computational descriptions.

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## DANNY EBANKS

### Graduate Student

Ebanks is interested in political economy, social networks, electoral behavior, and econometrics. He received his BA in public policy from Princeton University, and he has a background in real analysis, probability theory, mathematical statistics,

and measure theory. Recently he served as a research assistant in the Division of Reserve Bank Operations and Payment Systems at the Federal Reserve System.

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## HAOTIAN "FOREST" FANG

### Graduate Student

With an undergraduate degree in mathematics and economics from UCLA and a master's in statistics from Columbia University, Fang is interested in delving deeper into experimental economics,

agent-based problems, econometrics, and statistical methodologies. He has a background in accounting, finance, and machine learning, and he spent the last three years working as a financial and risk analyst in New York.

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## MENG-JHANG FONG

### Graduate Student

Fong's current research interests include behavioral economics, experimental economics, game theory, and policy analysis (specifically legal policies). As a graduate student in HSS, he would like to learn more about the application of randomized field

experiments in policy analysis. He received his bachelor's degree in finance and master's in economics from National Taiwan University (NTU), and he served as a research assistant in the Taiwan Social Science Experimental Laboratory under former Caltech postdoctoral scholar and visiting associate in economics Joseph Tao-yi Wang.

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## SHUNTO KOBAYASHI

### Graduate Student

In addition to graduating with a double major in applied mathematics and statistics and in economics from Cal Poly Pomona (CPP), Kobayashi was named valedictorian and the College of Science's 2018 Julian A. McPhee Scholar. One

of the research projects he worked on at CPP was a statistical analysis of Major League Baseball pitchers. He is interested in microeconomic theory, game theory, and experimental economics.

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## MARCOS NAZARETH GALLO

### Graduate Student

T&C Chen Fellow Nazareth Gallo is interested in behavioral economics, neuroeconomics, and social psychology, and he has a background in experimental political science, behavioral policy

design, and development economics. His favorite topics are those with important policy implications, such as the study of corrupt behavior and the psychology of poverty. He received his BA in economics from Brigham Young University and an MA in economics from Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

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## SANGHYUN YI

### Graduate Student

After graduating from Seoul National University with a major in mathematics and a double minor in computer science and statistics, Yi would like to further his research in cross-fertilization of brain intelligence and machine intelligence.

The T&C Chen Fellow has extensive experience in machine learning, specifically deep learning and reinforcement learning, and he would like to apply those tools to brain science research.

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## STAFF



### **RICHARD "RJ" ANTONELLO**

#### **Research Technician Assistant**

After earning his BS in computer science and philosophy from Caltech in June 2018, Antonello began working with Frederick Eberhardt on issues related to causal discovery. His

current project focuses on high-dimensional causal discovery approaches geared toward practical applications in neuroscience and climate science, and he is developing a high-level causal structure for the zebrafish brain.

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### **JOE SHEA**

#### **Senior Director of Development, Humanities & Social Sciences (Development & Institute Relations)**

Shea joins Caltech as the new senior director of development for HSS, coming from Loyola Marymount University, where he served as senior director of

development for Loyola Law School. Prior to that, he served as director of major gifts at Occidental College. He comes to Caltech with a background in major and principal gift fundraising and will support HSS priorities in the Caltech *Break Through* campaign.

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### **STEPHEN DOLBIER**

#### **Research Technician Assistant**

Dolbier started working in the Rangel Lab over the summer, and his current project uses eye tracking to predict altruistic behavior. He received his BS in computation and neural systems from Caltech in June 2018, and he plans to

pursue graduate school in the future. He is interested in human decision making and cognitive bias, and he would like to find ways to help people make better decisions.

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### **LILIEN VOONG**

#### **STEM Writing Specialist and Lecturer in STEM Writing and Communication**

Voong earned her PhD in interdisciplinary biological sciences (molecular biology) from Northwestern University and most recently served as a

part-time strategy consultant for a precision proteomics software manufacturing company. She has worked with high school and undergraduate students as a tutor, teaching assistant, and STEM mentor for seven years. In 2013, she received the Neil Welker Teaching Assistant Excellence Award at Northwestern.

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### **STEVE MARR**

#### **Grants and Data Analyst**

Marr joins HSS as our first-ever grants and data analyst, and he will work with Tiffany Kim on divisional, financial, and research administration duties. He received his BS in business administration from California State University, Long Beach, and he spent the last three years working on budget and financial matters at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

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## **REMINDER**

### **HSS FALL WELCOME PARTY**

Thursday, October 4, 2018

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Dabney Lounge and Garden