



2022–2023

NEW FACES

We are pleased to introduce the new faculty, postdocs, students, and staff members arriving in the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences for the 2022–2023 academic year—and to re-introduce those taking on new roles within the division. Please join us in making everyone feel welcome in HSS!

MEET OUR NEW DIVISION CHAIR



TRACY DENNISON

Professor of Social Science History; Ronald and Maxine Linde Leadership Chair of the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences

On October 1, Dennison takes the baton from Jean-Laurent Rosenthal as the new Ronald and Maxine Linde Leadership Chair of the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Dennison holds a PhD in history from the University of Cambridge and a BA in Russian language and literature (with a minor in political science) from Bucknell University. Her research focuses on the political economy of pre-modern central and eastern Europe, especially the role of institutions in long-run economic growth and development. She has published extensively on serfdom, property rights, state capacity and state formation, and the economic divergence between western and eastern Europe. Her dissertation won the Economic History Association's Alexander Gerschenkron Prize in 2004. Dennison's first book, *The Institutional Framework of Russian Serfdom*, was awarded the Economic History Society's prize for Best First Monograph, as well as prizes from the Agricultural History Society and the Association for Slavonic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. From 2015–17 she held an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, where she began work on a new book about serfdom and state formation in Prussia and Russia.

PROFESSORIAL FACULTY



PETER CARADONNA

Assistant Professor of Economics

Caradonna's research is focused on better understanding the empirical content of various models of preference and decision making. He uses a combination of microeconomic and statistical theory in his research to obtain predictions or tests of behavior that are robust under model misspecification, data limitations, or perturbations of a model's underlying assumptions. He holds a degree in economics and mathematics from Boston University (BA '11) and degrees in economics from both the University of Oxford (MPhil '13) and Georgetown University (PhD '22).



PAWEL JANAS

Assistant Professor of Economics

Janas is an economic historian with research interests in finance and urban economics. He studies the consequences of financial crises on governments and households, focusing on local public goods, education, and long-run growth. In his research, he uncovers and digitizes large historical data sets and uses quantitative methods to answer important empirical questions. His dissertation explored the impact of the Great Depression on U.S. cities and school districts. Janas holds degrees in economics (BA '16) and applied mathematics (BS '16, MS '16) from the University of Colorado Boulder, as well as in finance from Northwestern University (MS '22, PhD '22).

LECTURERS AND VISITORS



CAITLIN BERRIGAN

Artist-in-Residence

Berrigan will be the Caltech-Huntington Program in Visual Culture artist-in-residence for the winter term. With a master's in visual art from MIT, she works across video, sculpture, performance, and text to engage with the intimate and embodied dimensions of power, politics, and capitalism. Her solo show at Art in General in New York in 2019 was titled *Imaginary Explosions*, and she published an artist's book of the same name in 2018 (Broken Dimanche Press). During her residency at Caltech, she will teach a course on world-building, which is an imaginative exercise practiced in the arts and sciences to envision alternative universes.



DMITRI LEVITIN

Visiting Fellow in the Research Institute for the History of Science and Technology (RIHST)

Levitin studies the intellectual, cultural, and religious history of early modern Europe and its relationship with the wider world. He completed a PhD in history and an MPhil in political thought and intellectual history, both at the University of Cambridge. Levitin has held research positions at Trinity College, the University of Cambridge, and All Souls College at the University of Oxford, and he received the inaugural Leszek Kołakowski Honorary Fellowship from the Foundation for Polish Science in 2016.



NAOMI LAMOREAUX

Moore Distinguished Scholar

Lamoreaux is the Stanley B. Resor Professor of Economics and History at Yale University, a senior research scholar at the University of Michigan Law School, and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She has written and edited several books and published articles on business, economic, and financial history. Her current research interests include patenting and the market for technology in the late nineteenth and twentieth century U.S., as well as business organizational forms and contractual freedom in the U.S. and Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Lamoreaux's visit as a Moore Scholar begins mid-January 2023.



MAYA LIVIO

Artist-in-Residence

Livio is a researcher, media-maker, writer, curator, and, most recently, an assistant professor of climate, environmental justice, media, and communication at American University in Washington, DC. Her justice-oriented, interdisciplinary work probes the contact zones between ecosystems and technological systems, investigating multispecies living and dying on a networked planet. Livio, who earned a PhD from the University of Colorado Boulder, will teach a course on environmental media for Caltech undergraduates as this spring's artist-in-residence.

LECTURERS AND VISITORS (cont.)



BECKY YING LU

Lecturer in Music

Lu joins HSS this year as a lecturer in music. With degrees in musicology from Cornell University (PhD '21) and the University of Oxford (MPhil '14), she has taught a variety of music classes at Ithaca College as well as at Cornell, Syracuse, Oxford, and Yale Universities. She has been invited to perform the piano at venues including Jordan Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Lincoln Center. And, as a soloist and chamber musician, she has collaborated with regional American orchestras, appeared on NPR, and participated in festivals across the United States and Europe.



FRANCESCA ROCHBERG

Francis Bacon Visiting Professor of History

Rochberg, the Catherine and William L. Magistretti Distinguished Professor of Near Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley, is a leading expert on the history of Babylonian astronomy and astrology, focusing on the second and first millennia BCE. An elected member of the American Philosophical Society, she is the latest recipient of the Francis Bacon Award in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology from HSS. In spring 2023, she will teach a course on the models and theory in ancient astronomy and will co-organize the next iteration of the Francis Bacon conference.



ANDREW SINCLAIR

Visiting Assistant Professor of Finance

Sinclair is an assistant professor of finance at the University of Hong Kong visiting HSS for two years. He studies the institutional foundations of Chinese finance and how the unique institutions affect market development and market outcomes. His work spans both historical and contemporary China, and his current project studies the Chinese government's commitment problem and its implications for finance and society. Sinclair, who holds a PhD in financial economics from Yale University, will teach a course on Chinese finance this fall and another on hedge funds in the spring.



PAI WANG

Lecturer in Chinese

Wang is an experienced instructor in Chinese as a foreign language; Chinese-language film, literary, and media culture; East Asian film and popular culture; performance studies; and digital media distribution. She completed her PhD in cultural studies at UC San Diego, and she holds an MA in Chinese studies from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. During her time at UC San Diego, she taught in the literature department and Chinese Studies Program.



LUIGI ZINGALES

Moore Distinguished Scholar

Zingales is the Robert C. McCormack Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance and the George G. Rinder Faculty Fellow at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. His research interests span from corporate governance to financial development, from political economy to the economic effects of culture. He co-developed the Financial Trust Index, which is designed to monitor the level of trust that Americans have toward their financial system. Zingales is scheduled to visit HSS as a Moore Scholar for the month of February 2023.

POSTDOCS



KETIKA GARG

Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Computational Neuroscience of Social Media

Garg holds a PhD in cognitive and information sciences from UC Merced and an MS with a

specialization in biology from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali. Her research interests span adaptive behavior, collective cognition, cultural evolution, and complex systems. She joined the Mobbs Lab this summer to develop ways to measure emotion through paradigms that mimic social media interaction. Using fMRI and social network analyses, she investigates how networks influence threat perception and inclusion.



RANI GERA

Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Neuroscience and Psychology

Gera joined HSS this summer as a postdoctoral scholar in neuroscience and psychology

in the O'Doherty Lab. He studies the neural and psychological mechanisms of habits using a combination of online testing, phone-based testing, and neuroimaging. Combining computational modeling with behavioral analysis, he investigates the factors that give rise to the formation of habits. Earlier this year, Gera received his PhD in neuroscience from Tel Aviv University.



YANTING HAN

Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Psychology

Another familiar face, Han earned her PhD in neurobiology earlier this year as a graduate student in the Adolphs Lab,

where she co-led the COVID-Dynamic Longitudinal Study. She is interested in the dimensional structure of human emotions, individual differences, and mental health. Her research takes an interdisciplinary approach to investigate emotions by collecting large-scale behavioral data via online crowdsourcing platforms and then applying advanced visualization and machine learning techniques.



CARINA HAUSLADEN

Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Behavioral Economics

Hausladen is interested in behavioral economics and computational social choice. She holds degrees in

economics from the University of Cologne (PhD '20) and the University of Passau (MS '17), and she recently completed a postdoctoral appointment at ETH Zurich. As a postdoctoral scholar in the Camerer Lab, she will conduct research on stereotypes and inequality. Her project will investigate how a two-dimensional warmth-competence scale could lead to a deeper understanding of the economic decisions people make and the nature of discrimination in markets.



SWATI PANDITA

Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Computational Neuroscience of Social Media

With degrees in information science (MPS '16) and communication (MS '20, PhD '22) from Cornell University as well as a BS in neuroscience from Rhodes College, Pandita joined the Mobbs Lab this summer to study the neuroscience of social media. Her research focuses on mental health, technology, and embodiment. As a postdoc, she develops ways to measure emotion and create interventions through paradigms that mimic social media interaction, using fMRI to measure neural activity during those interventions.

POSTDOCS (cont.)



LAURA TAYLOR

Postdoctoral Instructor in the Social Sciences

Taylor recently completed her PhD at the University of Arizona, where she specialized in natural resource and environmental economics, economic history, and law and economics. Her interest in social policy issues developed while working in Australia to study the impacts of Queensland's "Stolen Wages" policies on Indigenous well-being and economic outcomes. Taylor is a member of the Economic History Association and the Association for Economic Research of Indigenous Peoples (AERIP).



FILIP-MIHAI TOMA

Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Social and Decision Neuroscience

Toma joined the Camerer Lab in April to study supernormal stimuli, which are objects that have exaggerated but unrealistic features that draw human attention and enhance desire. He received his PhD in finance from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. His broader research interests include neurofinance, cognitive augmentation, behavioral economics, risk-taking, and artificial intelligence for neuroscience.



LIXIANG XU

Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Computational Imaging

Xu, who recently completed his PhD in physics from the University of Texas at Austin, is interested in computational neuroscience, natural language processing, human brain data, fMRI, EEG, machine learning, and computational geometry. He joined the Mobbs Lab this summer as a postdoctoral scholar, where he designs experiments that investigate the neural basis of different levels of threat. Xu uses machine learning and neural network approaches to map out the neural basis of threat proximity.

GRADUATE STUDENTS



CHENXUAN AN

Social Sciences Graduate Student

An's research interests include experimental economics, behavioral game theory, algorithmic game theory, revealed

preference theory, neuroeconomics, market design, and political economy. He received his BA in mathematics and economics from the City University of New York. With an interest in algebraic topology and stochastic calculus, An enjoys forming economic theories and solving problems.



CAMILA FARRÉS

Social Sciences Graduate Student

Farrés holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's in economic theory, both from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo

de México (ITAM). Her main research interests are microeconomic theory, development economics, and econometrics. She looks forward to learning about experimental economics at Caltech.

GRADUATE STUDENTS (cont.)



PAULO MATOS
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Matos came to Caltech from Princeton University, where he served as a predoctoral fellow in the department

of economics. His research interests encompass political economy, development economics, and applied microeconomics. Before completing his BA in economics at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Matos worked at Innovations for Poverty Action and the Institute of Peruvian Studies.



EGOR STOYAN
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Stoyan is interested in microeconomic theory and applied microeconomics, as well as game theory, decision theory, education economics, and

experimental economics. After receiving his BA in economics from the Higher School of Economics and the New Economic School joint program, Stoyan went on to earn his MA in economics from the joint program between the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance and the Luiss Guido Carli.



PO HYUN SUNG
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Sung earned a BA in economics and public policy from Korea University, and her research interests include

microeconomic theory, information economics, mechanism design, and market design. She looks forward to learning more about neuroeconomics and experimental economics during her graduate studies at Caltech.



YU-HSIANG WANG
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Wang has a background in eye-tracking experiments, data analysis, and programming, and his research interests include behavioral

economics, experimental economics, and cognitive process. He plans to learn more about machine learning and mathematical economics. Wang holds a BS in physics with a minor in economics and an MA in economics from National Taiwan University.



BINYAMIN (BEN) WINCELBERG
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Wincelberg, who recently completed a bachelor's degree in physics, economics, and

mathematics at Vanderbilt University, is interested in game theory, microeconomic theory, and mathematical economics. He looks forward to learning more about econometrics and experimental economics.



SHIYU (JAKE) ZHANG
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Zhang's research focuses on market design, experimental economics, decision theory, and microeconomic theory. He comes

to HSS from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, where he earned a BS in mathematics and economics and an MS in financial mathematics. Zhang intends to explore causal inference, positive political theory, and neuroeconomics while at Caltech.

STAFF



CHRISTOPHER BICKFORD

STEM Writing Specialist and Lecturer

Bickford joined the Hixon Writing Center from Kenyon College in Ohio, where he was a member of the faculty for 10 years. After completing his PhD in biology at the University of New Mexico, he held a postdoctoral appointment at Manaaki Whenua–Landcare Research in New Zealand. He also holds an MS in forestry from Northern Arizona University and a BS in botany from the University of Oklahoma. His research focused on how climate drivers and morphological variation affect photosynthesis.



ELIZABETH CORNEJO

*Senior Director of Development for Humanities and Social Sciences
(Advancement and Alumni Relations)*

Cornejo is now the senior director of development for HSS, as part of Caltech's Advancement and Alumni Relations (AAR) group, taking over the role previously held by Joe Shea. She joined AAR in 2019, with substantial experience in the nonprofit sector supporting health, social justice, public interest, and environmental organizations. She previously served as the director of philanthropy at the Trust for Public Land. Cornejo earned a BA in government and English literature from Georgetown University and an MA in nonprofit leadership and management from the University of San Diego.



SHIANG-HUNG (SEAN) HU

Research Technician-Assistant

Hu graduated from National Taiwan University with a bachelor's degree in economics (honors program) and a minor in mathematics. Prior to joining the Camerer Lab, he was a research assistant at the Taiwan Social Sciences Experimental Laboratory (TASSEL). Hu also had a summer internship with MobLab in 2021, and during that time he analyzed MobLab behavioral games data to improve the game model.



AMOGH JOHRI

Research Technician-Assistant

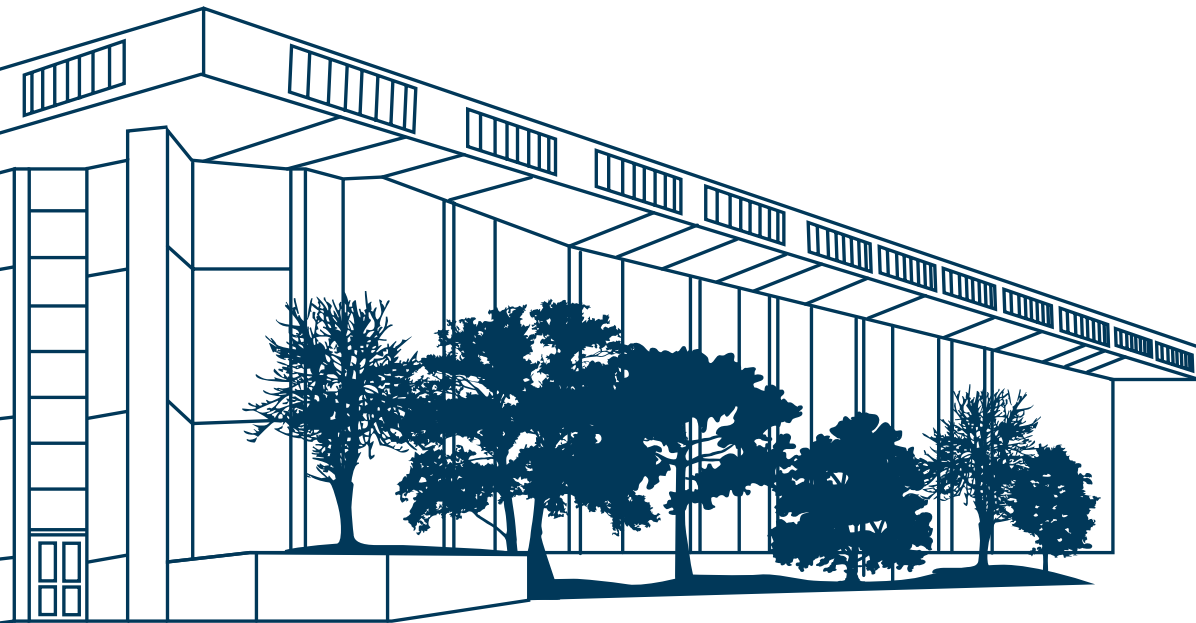
Johri is a research assistant in the O'Doherty Lab. His research interests include artificial intelligence, machine learning, theoretical computer science, and software development. Earlier this year, he completed an integrated bachelor and master's degree in technology, computer science, and engineering from the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore.



JIAJIN (MOLINA) ZHANG

Research Technician-Assistant

With a BS in neuroscience and a BA in anthropology from Emory University, Zhang joined the Mobbs Lab this summer as a research assistant. During her undergraduate studies, she used fMRI scans and data analysis to study the neural correlates of adult caregiving and the mental health of adult caregivers. She was awarded the Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology Award from the Oxford College of Emory University in 2020.



HSS

DIVISION OF
THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

WWW.HSS.CALTECH.EDU

Caltech

