



2022-2023

NEXT STEPS

This summer, the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences applauds the outstanding graduate students and postdoctoral scholars who left HSS during the year ending June 30, 2023, to embark on new adventures beyond the Institute. Please join us in wishing them well in their next steps!

ALEXANDER BLOEDEL

Assistant Professor of Economics, UCLA



Bloedel is an economic theorist studying topics in information economics, mechanism design, dynamic games, and bounded rationality. He spent the 2021–2022 academic year as a Linde Institute Postdoctoral Scholar in Economics, collaborating with Omer Tamuz and other Center for Social Information Sciences faculty on research at the intersection of economics and computer science. In the fall of 2022, Bloedel joined the department of economics at UCLA as an assistant professor.

JOHN VINCENT (J.V.) DECEMVIROLE

Assistant Professor, California State University, San Bernardino



During his two years with HSS as a Weisman Postdoctoral Instructor in Visual Culture and Caltech Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow, Decemvirale taught undergraduate courses that built upon his interests in modern and contemporary art and the histories of Black and Latino art spaces in Los Angeles, and he collaborated with faculty in the Caltech–Huntington Program in Visual Culture. Decemvirale joins the faculty at Cal State San Bernardino in a tenure-track position this fall.

MARGARET GAIDA

HSS Lecturer and Independent Scholar



Gaida joined HSS in the summer of 2020 as a postdoctoral instructor in early modern natural philosophy. She collaborated with faculty in the Research Institute for the History of Science and Technology at Caltech and The Huntington. Her research focuses on 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. Gaida is scheduled to return to HSS during the 2023–2024 academic year as a lecturer.

SUMIT GOEL

Postdoc, NYU Abu Dhabi



Goel graduated with a PhD in social science and a minor in computer science after completing his dissertation, *Essays in Mechanism Design and Contest Theory*, with Federico Echenique as his advisor. During his time at Caltech, he was a Linde Institute Graduate Fellow (2019–2020 and 2021–2022) and a Repetto-Figueroa Family Graduate Fellow (2020–2021). Goel is spending the summer as a research member at the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (formerly MSRI), and then he'll begin a postdoctoral appointment at NYU Abu Dhabi.

DANIEL GUTH

Postdoctoral Associate, University of Rochester Medical Center



Applied microeconomist Guth (BS '16, mathematics) is interested in health and environmental economics. He earned his PhD after defending his thesis, *Essays in Health Economics*, with Jean-Laurent Rosenthal as his advisor. After commencement, Guth joined the University of Rochester Medical Center as a postdoctoral associate.

WADE HANN-CARUTHERS

Postdoc, Game Theory Group at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology



Hann-Caruthers (BS '16, mathematics and computer science (minor)) completed his dissertation, *Essays on Social Learning and Social Choice*, with Omer Tamuz as his advisor, and he joins the Game Theory Group at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology as a postdoc this August. His research interests lie primarily in microeconomic theory, especially social learning, social choice, and mechanism design. Hann-Caruthers was the recipient of a 2019–2020 PIMCO Graduate Fellowship.

CLAUDIA KANN

Kann began her Caltech graduate studies in mechanical engineering (MS '19) and then enrolled in HSS's PhD program to study American politics and political methodology. She earned her PhD after defending her thesis, *Computational Methods in the Study of Political Behavior*, with Michael Alvarez as her advisor, and she is now considering jobs in private industry. During the 2021–2022 academic year, Kann was a Stephen A. Ross Memorial Fellow.



CHARLES KOLLMER

History Faculty, Flintridge Preparatory School

Kollmer is a historian of the modern life sciences. As the Ahmanson Postdoctoral Instructor in History of Biology, he taught several undergraduate courses, including *Classification and Its Consequences in Modern Biology* and *Medicine and Carving Nature's Joints: Histories of Nature's Order*. Kollmer received an HSS Brass Division Award for teaching in 2021. He joins the history faculty at Flintridge Preparatory School in La Cañada this August, where he will focus on world history.



HANNAH LEBLANC

Social Studies Teacher, Francis Parker School

LeBlanc spent the past two years as the Howard E. and Susanne C. Jessen Postdoctoral Instructor in STEM and Inequality. In one of the courses she taught at Caltech, she and her students examined how scientific ideas about race developed in concert with European imperial expansion and slavery, and how these ideas were employed in legal cases, medical practice, and eugenics policies. LeBlanc will join the Francis Parker School in San Diego this fall as a social studies teacher.



OMAR PÉREZ

Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Chile

Pérez joined the O'Doherty Lab as a postdoctoral scholar in neuroscience in 2017, and he studied neuroeconomics, habits, and the relationship between electrophysiology and fMRI signals. He is now an assistant professor in the department of industrial engineering at the University of Chile. His research uses concepts from psychology, behavioral economics, and cognitive neuroscience. Pérez is also an invited researcher at the Instituto Sistemas Complejos de Ingeniería in Chile.



ADAM PHAM

Data/ML Scientist, Channel Precision

As the Howard E. and Susanne C. Jessen Postdoctoral Instructor in Philosophy, Pham taught undergraduate courses including *Ethics & AI* and *Moral Philosophy*. In May 2021, Cambridge University Press published his first book, *Algorithms and Autonomy: The Ethics of Automated Decision Systems* (written with Alan Rubel and Clinton Castro). Pham joined the research department at Channel Precision as a data/ML scientist (technical staff) in January 2023.



FEDOR SANDOMIRSKIY

Associate Research Scholar and Lecturer, Department of Economics, Princeton University

Sandomirskiy is a microeconomic theorist specializing in information economics and economic design. As the Linde Institute Postdoctoral Instructor in Economics, he taught undergraduate courses on algorithmic economics and collaborated with faculty from The Linde Institute's Center for Social Information Sciences. In July, Sandomirskiy joined the department of economics at Princeton University as an associate research scholar and lecturer.



JEFFREY ZEIDEL

Postdoc, NYU Abu Dhabi

Zeidel received his PhD after completing his dissertation, *Essays in Behavioral Economics*, with Thomas Palfrey as his advisor. As a graduate student in HSS, Zeidel was a Clarence J. Hicks Scholar (2019–2020 and 2021–2022) and an A. Michael and Ruth C. Lipper Fellow (2020–2021). He also received the John O. Ledyard Prize for Graduate Research in Social Science in 2019 (for joint work with social sciences graduate student Joanna Huey). Later this summer, Zeidel will join Goel at NYU Abu Dhabi as a postdoc.



QING (ROBIN) ZHAO

Cost Engineer, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Zhao joined HSS in the fall of 2021 as a postdoctoral scholar in political science. With interests in political economy, public finance, applied microeconomics, and education finance, she collaborated with social science faculty members, including Jean-Laurent Rosenthal and Rod Kiewiet. Her main project studied the politics of school funding. Earlier this year, Zhao moved to JPL as a cost engineer.

