



2023-2024

NEXT STEPS

In connection with the Institute's 130th commencement ceremony on June 14, the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences celebrates another cohort of undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars as they complete their time at Caltech. Here we proudly present the "next steps" of this outstanding group.

CAROLINE CHARPENTIER

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and the Brain and Behavior Institute, University of Maryland, College Park



Charpentier joined the O'Doherty Lab in 2016, and she received an HSS Brass Division Award in 2021. She is now an assistant professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, with dual appointments in the department of psychology and the Brain and Behavior Institute. She is the principal investigator of the Social Learning and Decisions Lab, which focuses on uncovering the behavioral and neural computations involved in human social and affective influences on learning and decision-making processes.

EUGENE CHUA

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Nanyang Technological University



Chua is a philosopher of physics and science, with a particular interest in the history and philosophy of thermodynamics. He joined HSS in the fall of 2023 as the Ahmanson Postdoctoral Instructor in Philosophy of Science, and he taught the undergraduate courses Knowledge and Reality and Philosophy of Space and Time. Chua will begin his new appointment as an assistant professor of philosophy at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore this fall.

CARINA HAUSLADEN

Postdoctoral Researcher, Computational Social Science Group, ETH Zurich



As a postdoctoral scholar research associate in behavioral economics in the Camerer Lab, Hausladen conducted research on stereotypes and inequality. Her project investigated 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. In October 2023, Hausladen joined the computational social science group at ETH Zurich as a postdoctoral researcher.

WANYING (KATE) HUANG

Senior Lecturer in Economics, Monash University



Huang receives her PhD this month after completing her dissertation, *Essays on Rational Social Learning*, with Omer Tamuz as her advisor. She was the recipient of both the Roger and Marjorie Davisson Graduate Fellowship and the Repetto-Figueroa Family Graduate Fellowship in 2021-2022. This fall, Huang will begin her new career as a senior lecturer in economics (assistant professor equivalent) at Monash University in Australia.

JOANNA HUEY

Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Southern California



Huey graduates after defending her thesis, *Institutional Design of Criminal Justice Processes*, with Alex Hirsch as her advisor. Among other honors, she received the HSS Brass Division Award for Teaching (teaching assistant) in 2019 and the John O. Ledyard Prize for Graduate Research in Social Science in 2019 for joint work with Jeffrey Zeidel (PhD '23). She also received the Stephen A. Ross Memorial Fellowship in 2020–2021. Huey will join the department of political science and international relations at the University of Southern California as an assistant professor.

LISA KLUEN

Lecturer and Staff Scientist, Harvard Medical School, McLean Hospital



As a postdoctoral scholar in the O'Doherty Lab, Kluen studied the neural mechanisms of decision-making in social and non-social contexts using behavioral measures, computational modeling, and neuroimaging techniques. She is now a staff scientist and lab manager for the Laboratory for Brain and Cognitive Health Technology at Harvard Medical School, McClean Hospital, and she is a lecturer at Harvard Medical School.

SHUNTO KOBAYASHI

Assistant Professor of Marketing, Boston University



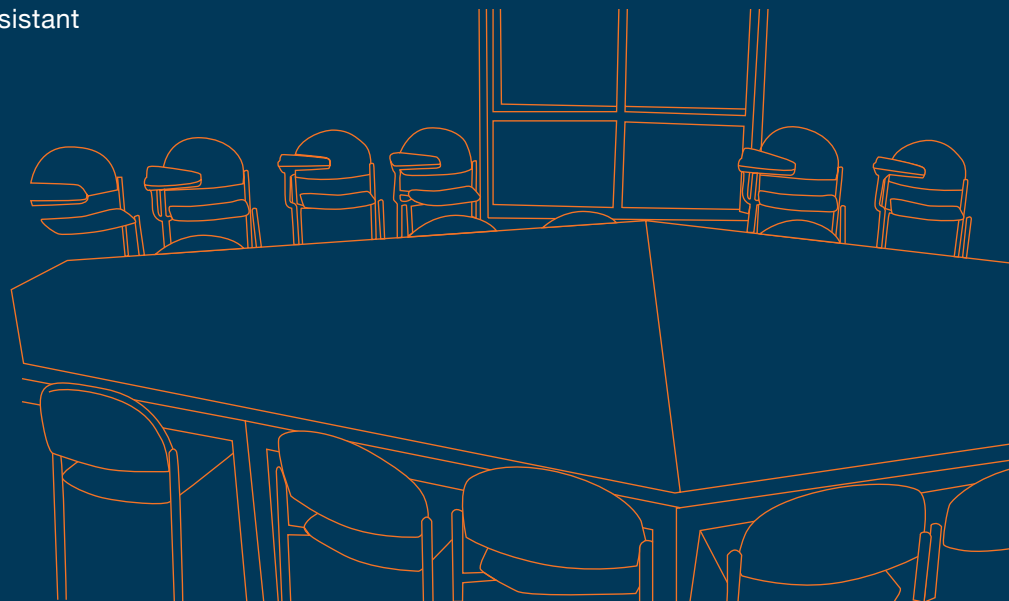
Kobayashi's research examines the effects of market mechanisms and information structures on firms' strategic behaviors, especially within digital markets. Last month, he completed his dissertation, *Essays in Empirical Industrial Organization*, with Yi Xin as his advisor. The Linde Institute Graduate Fellowship recipient (2020–2021 and 2021–2022) will join the Questrom School of Business at Boston University as an assistant professor of marketing in the fall.

ZHUOFANG LI

Machine Learning Engineer, Google



Li is interested in computational social science, and her research focuses on building scalable tools for analyzing large-scale social science data with the help of cutting-edge techniques in computer science and applied mathematics. Li graduates this month after defending her thesis, *Essays on Trustworthy Online Platforms*, with Michael Alvarez as her advisor, having held the Citadel Global Fixed Income Graduate Fellowship during the last year of her studies at Caltech. She will be a machine learning engineer at Google after commencement.



PO-HSUAN LIN

Assistant Professor of
Economics, University of Virginia



As a graduate student in HSS, Lin received the John O. Ledyard Prize for Graduate Research in Social Science (2021), the Roger and Marjorie Davisson Graduate Fellowship (2021–2022), the James and Karen Gerard Fellowship in Social Sciences (2022–2023), and a grant from the National Science Foundation for “Doctoral Dissertation Research in Economics: Two Experiments on the Behavioral Equivalence of Dirty Faces Games.” He earns his PhD after completing his dissertation, *Essays in Behavioral Game Theory Solution Concepts*, with Thomas Palfrey as his advisor. Lin will be an assistant professor of economics at the University of Virginia in the fall.

SARAH TASHJIAN

Lecturer in Psychology,
University of Melbourne



Tashjian combines psychological theory with neuroscientific methods to understand how humans make adaptive decisions. Her work focuses on safety decisions, which sit at the intersection of reward and threat processing. As a postdoctoral scholar in affective neuroscience in the Mobbs Lab, she led a study that revealed new details about the brain’s reaction to fear and its impact on others (*Psychological Science*, 2022). Tashjian is now a lecturer in psychology (assistant professor equivalent) at the University of Melbourne’s School of Psychological Sciences.

ALDO LUCIA

Assistant Professor of
Economics, The Ohio State
University



After commencement, Lucia will join the faculty at The Ohio State University as an assistant professor of economics. Last month, he defended his thesis, *An Experimental and Theoretical Investigation of Decision-Making Under Risk*, with Charlie Sprenger as his advisor. Lucia was the recipient of the Lance E. Davis Fellowship for 2020–2021, the Stephen A. Ross Memorial Fellowship for 2021–2022, and a grant from the National Science Foundation for “Doctoral Dissertation Research in Economics: Expected Utility Core of Risk Preferences” in 2023.

FILIP-MIHAI TOMA

Senior Researcher,
NEXARCH Lab



Toma was a postdoctoral scholar research associate in social and decision neuroscience. During his joint appointment in the Camerer and Shimojo (BBE) Labs, Toma studied supernormal stimuli, which are objects that have exaggerated but unrealistic features that draw human attention and enhance desire. Toma is now a senior researcher at NEXARCH Lab.

In addition to celebrating the HSS students who received their PhDs this spring, HSS congratulates those who took their next steps last year, following the publication of the 2023 *Next Steps* edition, including:

Danny Ebanks, now a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University’s Institute for Quantitative Social Science

Meng-Jhang Fong, now a postdoctoral scientist with Amazon

Lindsey Gailmard, now a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University’s Regulation, Evaluation, and Governance Lab

CLASS OF 2024

Among the seniors expected to graduate in June, 14 percent (34 out of 244) are completing an option (major) or minor in the humanities or social sciences. Two students chose business, economics, and management (BEM) as their first option, and one of those students also completed a second option in economics. Twenty-four other students selected one of our tracks for their second option (double major): 19 in BEM, two in economics, and three in English. Eight students completed a humanities minor: three in English, two in history, one in philosophy, one in the history and philosophy of science, and one in visual culture.

Next steps for the members of this impressive group of graduates include . . .

- working in a research lab at Children's Hospital Los Angeles to develop diagnostic tools for children with brain cancer;
- pursuing advanced degrees in biology at MIT; in mechanical engineering at Stanford; at the Institute for Computational and Mathematical Engineering at Stanford; and in the Industrial Systems, Manufacture, and Management program at Cambridge;
- serving as software engineers at a robotics start-up and Splunk, a Bay Area-based company that produces software for searching, monitoring, and analyzing machine-generated data;
- and building a start-up that uses generative AI and computer vision to automate the conversion of 2-D engineering sketches into 3-D models.



HSS

DIVISION OF
THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Caltech

