HSS

2024–2025
NEW FACES

We are pleased to introduce the new lecturers, postdocs, students, and others arriving in the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences for the 2024–2025 academic year. Please join us in welcoming them to HSS!

LECTURERS AND VISITORS

AMERICAN ARTIST
Artist-in-Residence

Artist will be the Caltech-Huntington Program in Visual Culture artist-in-residence for the fall term. With an MFA from Parsons School of Design, they make thought experiments that mine the history of technology, race, and knowledge production. Their artwork primarily takes the form of sculpture, software, and video, and their exhibits have been displayed around the world including at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Nam June Paik Art Center in South Korea. During their residency, Artist will teach a course called Seeing Systems: Critical Research as Visual Art.

SARA BALLANCE
Lecturer in Music

Ballance holds a PhD in musicology from UC Santa Barbara, as well as degrees in pedagogy of music theory and violin performance from the Eastman School of Music and in brain and cognitive sciences from the University of Rochester. Her work explores contemporary and historical issues of musical listening. In addition to offering private violin and piano lessons in Pasadena, she has taught at the Idyllwild Arts Academy and the USC Thornton School of Music.

OSCAR GELDERBLOM
Moore Scholar

Gelderblom is a professor of economic and social history at Antwerp University, with a special interest in the history of trade and finance. He has published on the organization of long-distance trade in early modern Europe, financial markets, entrepreneurship, migration, and political economy. He currently works on historical household finance in the 19th and 20th century, on the early history of the Dutch East India Company, and on the financial development of the Low Countries before the Industrial Revolution.

LECTURERS AND VISITORS

ANTONIO JIMENEZ-MARTINEZ
Visiting Associate Professor of Economics

Jimenez-Martinez is an applied theorist, and he joins HSS this fall to teach Introduction to Economics. His research focuses on information economics and social networks, and he has a background in optimality issues in general equilibrium models. He is currently an associate professor of economics at Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City, and he previously taught at the University of Guanajuato in Mexico and UC San Diego.

PROMISE LI
Lecturer in English

Li recently completed his PhD in English at Princeton University, and his work lies broadly in the field of early modern British literature, with a focus on poetry and Reformation writing. He joins HSS to teach the courses Literatures of Counter-Revolution in the 17th and 18th Centuries in the fall and spring terms, and Introduction to English Renaissance Poetry in the winter term. Li has also taught at Occidental College.

LIZZIE MUNDELL-PERKINS
Lecturer in English

Mundell-Perkins specializes in 20th and 21st century British literature, with a particular interest in narrative representations of consciousness, gender and sexuality, and the phenomenology of reading. Earlier this year, she earned her PhD in English language and literature from Yale University and received the Janice Carlyle Prize for Excellence in Teaching. She will teach courses entitled The Mind of the Modernist Novel and Writing in Emotions.

TED O'DONOGHUE
Moore Scholar

O'Donoghue is the Zubrow Professor of Economics at Cornell University, where he has served on the faculty since 1997. Much of his research focuses on the domains of intertemporal choice and risky choice and he has a strong interest in using behavioral economics to better understand economic field behaviors. His published work includes collaborations with HSS economics faculty members Kirby Nielsen, Charles Sprenger, and Colin Camerer.

SHEILAGH OGILVIE
Moore Scholar

Ogilvie is an economic historian interested in how social institutions shaped economic development in Europe between the Middle Ages and the present day. She is the Chichele Professor of Economic History at the University of Oxford. Her recent publications have analyzed guilds, serfdom, communities, the family, gender, human capital investment, consumption, and state capacity. Ogilvie's latest book, *The European Guilds: An Economic Analysis*, received the 2021 Gyorgy Ranki Biennial Prize from the Economic History Association.

JESSICA SEGALL
Artist-in-Residence

Segall is a multidisciplinary artist inspired by hostile and threatened landscapes. Her work plays with both the risk of engaging with the environment and the vulnerability of the environment itself, examining a queer ecology. She holds an MFA from Columbia University, and she has exhibited her work internationally including at The National Gallery of Indonesia and The Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery. As the Caltech-Huntington Program in Visual Culture artist-in-residence for the spring term, Segall will teach an undergraduate course called Imaging Ecological Futures: Visual Art and Ecology.

ANNE SULLIVAN
Lecturer in English

A former Weisman Postdoctoral Instructor in Visual Culture (2019–2021) and Anne Rothenberg Postdoctoral Instructor in Visual Culture (2021–2022), Sullivan returns to HSS as a lecturer in English. She spent the last two years at UC Riverside as a lecturer and coordinator of the university's teaching assistant development program. With a PhD in English from UC Riverside, her research interests include media history, Victorian literature, volcanoes, and astrophotography. This winter, Sullivan will teach an undergraduate class called Picturing the Universe.

REMINDER

HSS Fall Welcome Party
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. // Dabney Garden

POSTDOCS

IAN ANDERSON
Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Computational Neuroscience of Social Media and Emotion

Anderson joined HSS earlier this year after completing a PhD in social psychology at USC, where he received the 2023 Communicator of the Year Award (PhD Student) for his commitment to bringing his research into the public sphere. His current research interests include how psychological and interpersonal processes are influenced by media use and human-computer interaction. As a postdoc in the Mobbs Lab, Anderson is conducting behavioral studies to examine how to reduce the negative effects of social media interaction, namely habit formations and toxic interactions.

TRAVIS MCKENNA
Ahmanson Postdoctoral Instructor in Philosophy of Science

McKenna, who works primarily in the philosophy of science, is interested in questions about models and explanation, how applied mathematics works, the role that laws play in scientific inquiry, multiscalar modelling strategies of various kinds, and conceptual engineering. He holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh, and a BS (with honors) in mathematics and philosophy from the University of Sydney. During his year with HSS, McKenna will teach the undergraduate courses Introduction to Philosophy of Science and Knowledge and Reality.

PATRICK MORGAN
Howard E. and Susanne C. Jessen Postdoctoral Instructor in Medieval History

Morgan comes to Caltech from UCLA, where he recently completed a PhD in history. He studies the legal history of the Kingdom of Sicily in the 12th century and its connections to the Mediterranean world. At Caltech, Morgan will collaborate with history faculty, including Warren Brown, and teach the courses Laying Down the Law: Legal Culture in the Medieval Mediterranean (c. 530–1230) and The Early Islamic World (c. 600–1456).

SAEEDEH SADEGHI
Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Neuroscience

Sadeghi is interested in time perception, heart-brain interactions, interoception, and emotion. Prior to joining the O'Doherty Lab earlier this year, she received a PhD in psychology with a minor in cognitive science from Cornell University. At Caltech, Sadeghi is developing computational models of human valuation and decision-making processes, and she is testing those models on behavioral, neuroimaging, and electrophysiology data.

POSTDOCS

BO ZHANG
Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Neuroimaging of Survival Decisions

After receiving a PhD in psychology with a focus on memory and spatial navigation from Peking University, Zhang held postdoctoral positions at the Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence and Tsinghua University. At Caltech, he's working in the Mobbs Lab on a project that includes fMRI data analyses of data from ethologically inspired studies on escape and avoidance decisions. Zhang investigates the relationship between these basic threat responses and those that exist in the modern world through online threats and abuse.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

BAKDAULET BAITAN
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Baitan holds a BA in economics from Kenyon College and an MS in economic and social sciences from Bocconi University. With a background in real analysis and Bayesian statistics, his research interests include econometrics, mathematical statistics, and political economy. He is also interested in learning more about game theory and behavioral economics as a graduate student at Caltech.

AARON BERMAN
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Incoming social sciences graduate student Berman is interested in behavioral economics, experimental economics, and game theory. He recently graduated with an MS in behavioral and computational economics from Chapman University, where he also completed a BA in economics. He has experience with social dilemmas and a current proclivity for contests and retrospective data.

SHIANG-HUNG (SEAN) HU
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Hu spent the last two years as a research assistant in the Camerer Lab, supporting studies that focused on habit formation and autism. He holds a BA in economics (honors program) and a minor in mathematics from National Taiwan University, and his research interests span from behavioral economics to experimental economics.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

AMOGH JOHRI
Social and Decision Neuroscience Graduate Student

Prior to joining the O'Doherty Lab as a research assistant in 2022, Johri completed an integrated bachelor's and master's degree program in technology, computer science, and engineering at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore. He has a background in artificial intelligence and theoretical computer science and plans to continue studying computational neuropsychiatry as an SDN graduate student.

SOTA MINOWA
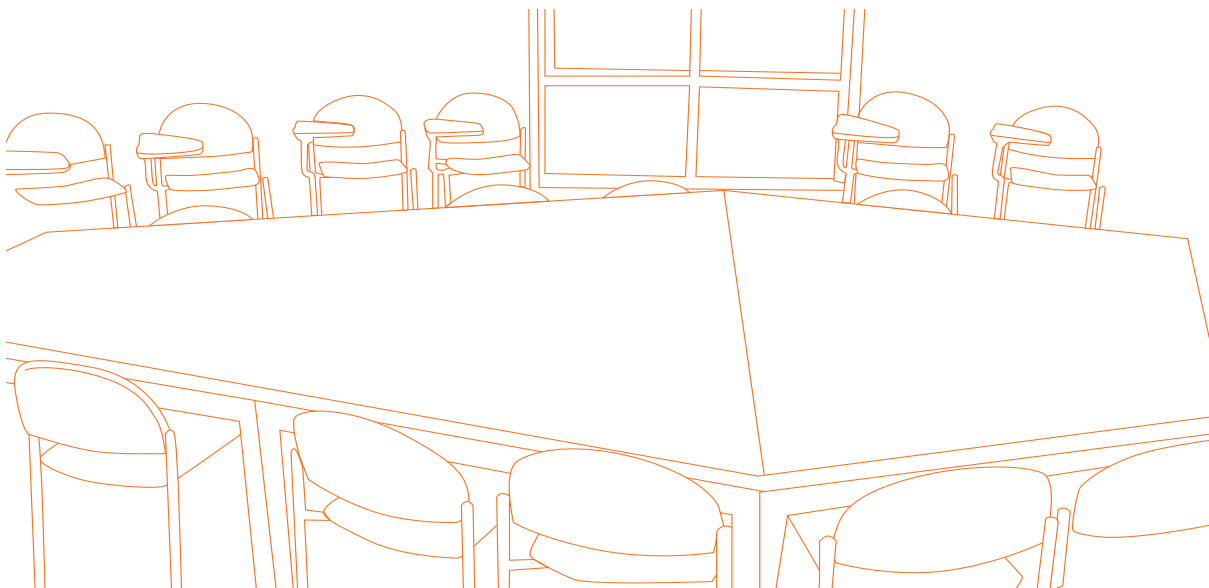### *Social Sciences Graduate Student*

Minowa received a BA in international relations and an MA in economics, both from the University of Tokyo. His research interests span from political economy to industrial organization. He is particularly interested in agent interaction in the context of armed conflict and legislature. Additionally, he enjoys reading papers on matching theory and model misspecification.

OLGA ROSPUSKOVA
Social Sciences Graduate Student

Rospuskova holds a BA in economics from the joint program between the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg and University Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, as well as an MA from the New Economic School in Moscow. She has research experience in mechanism design, with a particular focus on matching theory. Rospuskova's current interests encompass other areas of microeconomic theory including game theory, industrial organization, and decision theory.

STAFF

DIANA BOHLER
Administrative Assistant

Bohler came to HSS in March after transferring from the Computing + Mathematical Sciences department in the Division of Engineering and Applied Science, where she served as administrative assistant for more than five years. Prior to joining Caltech, Bohler enjoyed a 34-year career in the finance industry, working her way up from teller at the California Savings and Loan branch on Lake and Del Mar Avenue to managing the online banking and fraud division as an operations officer at the Pasadena-based Community Bank.

NATASHA GEORGE
STEM Writing Specialist and Lecturer in STEM Writing and Communication

George joins the Hixon Writing Center from Michigan State University (MSU), where she earned a PhD in microbiology and molecular genetics. She also holds BS degrees in both molecular, cell and developmental biology and earth sciences from UC Santa Cruz. Alongside her structural biology research at MSU, George engaged in numerous science communication and student support projects, including teaching science at community outreach events, developing interdepartmental peer mentorship programs for undergraduate and graduate students, and investigating STEM students' beliefs about themselves as writers as a part of a teaching-research fellowship program.
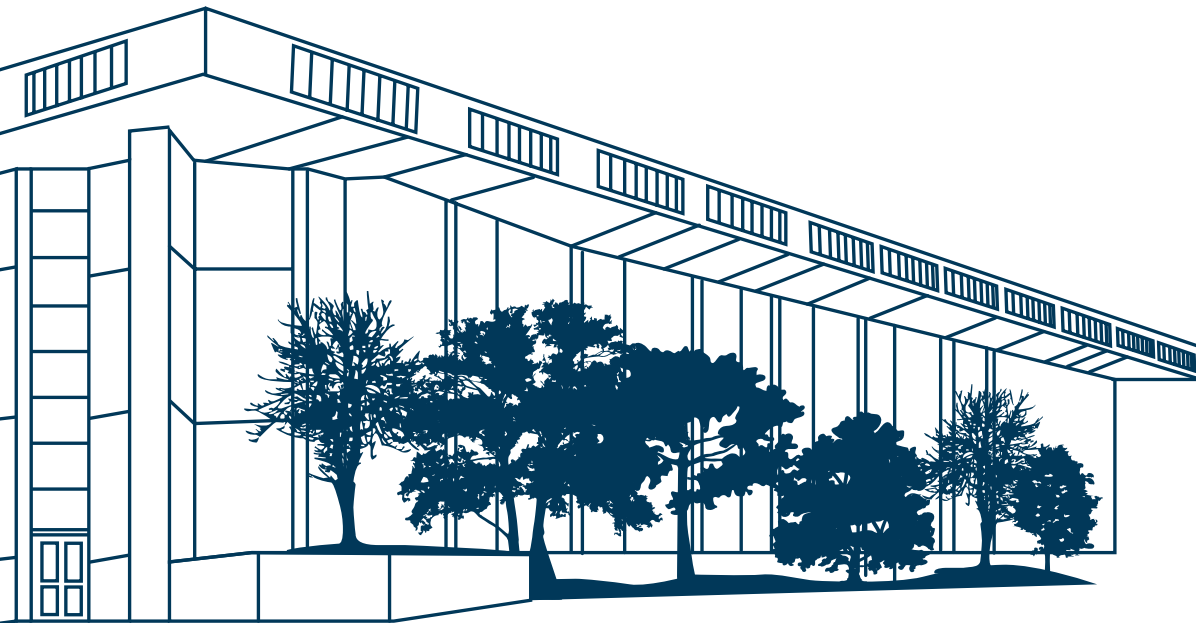

AUDREY LAI
Research Technician-Assistant

Lai graduated from UCLA earlier this year with a BS in cognitive science and double minors in applied developmental psychology and community engagement and social change. She conducted research in the Social Affective Neuroscience and Development Lab at UCLA, where she was awarded the Dean's Prize for Excellence in Research and Creativity for her honors thesis. In the summer of 2023, Lai collaborated with Ralph Adolphs on a SURF project entitled "Using Machine Learning to Classify Autism from Oculomotor Features." As a research assistant in the Adolphs Lab, she will work on projects relating to eye tracking and autism.

VALERIE WILLIAMS
Administrative Assistant

Williams joined the Einstein Papers Project (EPP) in April after 23 years of working as an administrator in the private investment field. She supports the daily on-site office operations as part of the EPP administrative team.

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