



University of Virginia

**College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences**

New Faculty 2014-15



## Letter from the Dean



Dear Colleagues,

It's an exciting time for the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. The pace of growth and revitalization of this academic institution continues to accelerate, as another large wave of new faculty arrives on Grounds this fall. As the new dean, I count myself as part of that cohort, and I can't help but feel empowered by the world-class group of scholars, researchers and educators gravitating to A&S. Its reputation for excellence in undergraduate education and graduate programs through exceptional teaching and research is longstanding. And this period of transition only serves to strengthen our world-class institution.

We welcome 65 new faculty members to the College this academic year. That's almost twice as many as the number that joined our faculty last year, and by 2018-19, nearly half of the Arts & Sciences faculty will be new. That type of generational transformation has a lightning-in-a-bottle quality, and the College is reaping the rewards from the tireless efforts of the search committees, department chairs, program directors, associate deans and other faculty who collaborated – and who continue to work on recruiting a brilliant, creative and diverse group of new colleagues.

The new hires include promising young academics who completed prestigious post-doctoral fellowships at institutions such as Stanford, and Columbia University. They include the Department of Sociology and the Women, Gender & Sexuality program's joint hiring of a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Princeton University. Her research explores the interplay between culture, science, health, and medicine with a particular focus on the social and cultural dimensions of public health and reproduction.

Among the new hires, several renowned artists are joining us for the term, thanks to distinguished residency programs created to support their invaluable interaction with our students and faculty. In its inaugural year, the Kapnick Foundation Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Endowment secured the commitment of a legendary American novelist of whom author Richard Ford once wrote, "It is an article of faith among readers of fiction that [he] writes American sentences better than anyone writing today." The students in his MFA fiction workshop will work closely with this master of the American novel, while his public lectures are sure to draw appreciative crowds.

In the McIntire Department of Art, our new Ruffin Distinguished Artist in Residence is a New York-based artist who specializes in visual art and performance. Her works investigating the boundaries of spectatorship in the visual and performing arts have been exhibited nationally and internationally, and our studio art students should relish the opportunity to study and collaborate with this unique artist.

Our Mellon Foundation grant continues to fund our efforts to expand our strengths in the humanities with the hiring of additional interdisciplinary faculty accustomed to collaborating with colleagues across varied fields of study. One of the new Mellon hires, the art department's new assistant professor in Byzantine art and archaeology, specializes in landscape and household archaeology of the Byzantine world. Before her arrival at U.Va.,

she was a postdoctoral fellow at Brown University and has participated in fieldwork in the Greek islands of Lemnos and Thasos, as well as in Athens, Thebes, Albania, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and Germany.

Another of our new Mellon-funded interdisciplinary faculty members is joining the Department of East Asian Languages as part of the “Connective Cultures of the Pre-Modern World” cluster. She joins us from The School Of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, where she served as a senior teaching fellow in the Study of Religions after completing her Ph.D. there.

Not to be outdone, the Department of Philosophy welcomes its addition of an internationally known metaphysician whose research interests include disability and feminism. The Department of English and the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, meanwhile, collaborated on a joint hire of a promising young scholar of postcolonial and Caribbean literature, one of three new faculty joining the Institute.

In the social sciences, one of our new economics professors joins us from the University of California, Berkeley. He stands at the forefront of pioneering efforts to utilize the “big data” resources and methodology of computer science and engineering for social science research; his hiring comes at a time when the College is seeking to bridge divides between the University’s other schools and to create new research and teaching in the area of computation and data science.

In the sciences, computational research and expertise emerged as one of the key hiring themes. Our new faculty include a computational chemist, an astrophysicist and a quantitative psychologist, as well as faculty additions to the Departments of Statistics and Atmospheric Sciences. Among them, we welcome to the Department of Chemistry an assistant professor who received his Ph.D. from Caltech while working with Nobel Laureate Ahmed Zewail. This addition to Chemistry spent the last two years at Stanford as a post-doc, working to develop new super-resolution microscopy techniques for live-cell imaging.

The Department of Chemistry is also welcoming a scholar from the University of Chicago’s department of surgery. Her work in bioanalytic research involves the development of microfluidic technology to study complex biological dynamics in the immune system. The goal for her valuable research, ultimately, is to guide the design of vaccines and immunotherapies. Her efforts are leading us to a greater understanding of the processes that generate protective immunity against vaccines on one hand, while damaging autoimmune inflammation on the other.

I can’t do justice in this short space to the talents and accomplishments of each of the new faculty joining the College this fall. However, each of them, featured in the pages that follow, represent a key step forward in the College’s efforts to expand and strengthen an already vibrant institution. We welcome them all and look forward to their collective and singular impacts on the University of Virginia and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Baucom". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Ian Baucom**  
**Bucker W. Clay Dean**  
College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences  
University of Virginia

**CHINA SCHERZ**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Anthropology**



Based in Uganda, China Scherz's research focuses on how people construe and negotiate ethical questions of care and exchange as they relate to religion, health, and development. Her first book, *Having People, Having Heart: Charity, Sustainable Development, and Problems of Dependence in Central Uganda* was published in July 2014 by University of Chicago Press. She has published articles in *American Ethnologist*, *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, and *Anthropological Theory*.

Scherz received her Ph.D. in medical anthropology from the University of California at San Francisco and UC Berkeley in May 2010. Before arriving at U.Va., she served as an assistant professor of anthropology at Reed College (2010-2014). She is the past recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, a UC President's Dissertation Year Fellowship, and a UCSF Kozloff Fellowship.

Scherz is shifting her research to the growing interest within the global health community in noncommunicable diseases and toward the emerging concern over alcohol production and abuse in Uganda. Scherz will explore how people navigate biomedical, religious, and traditional medical practice as alternative moral and therapeutic forms.

Within the Department of Anthropology, she will teach courses in cultural anthropology focused on medicine, Sub-Saharan Africa, development, humanitarianism, and ethics.

## AMY CHAN

Lecturer

McIntire Department of Art



An adjunct faculty member at U.Va. and Virginia Commonwealth University since 2008, Amy Chan seeks out unusual landscapes as an important part of her research. Her work is a hybrid of screen print and painting that expands upon the term “global weirding.” Pulling imagery from nature specimens, graphic patterns, and outer space, her paintings describe a natural system that has multiplied into the bizarre.

She has been an artist-in-residence at Onoma Fiskars in Finland, the Jentel Foundation in Sheridan, Wyoming, Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona, and The Studios of Key West. Her works of public art have been featured at Johns Hopkins Children’s Center in Baltimore, as part of the Scottsdale

(Arizona) Public Art Belle Arts Project and at VCU’s Cary & Belvidere Residential College.

Chan received her B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2000 and her M.F.A. in painting from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2008. She received a Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant in 2011 and a Virginia Commission for the Arts Fellowship in 2013.

She will teach Drawing I and II within the McIntire Department of Art.

## ANASTASIA DAKOURI-HILD

Lecturer

McIntire Department of Art / Archeology Program



An archaeologist whose field work has focused on Aegean prehistory within the broader framework of prehistoric societies and material cultures of the Old World, Anastasia Dakouri-Hild is working to launch a multidisciplinary excavation project in Greece, along with an archaeology field school for the University of Virginia. She is also completing a book on the House of Kadmos in ancient Thebes and publishing a recently completed topographical and cataloging project on the Late Bronze Age cemeteries of Thebes.

Dakouri-Hild earned a Ph.D. in Greek archaeology from the University of Cambridge (2004) and holds an M.A. in the same discipline from the University

of Durham and a B.A. in archaeology and art history from the University of Athens, Greece. Her research awards include her appointment as an American Council of Learned Societies 12-month Faculty Fellow (2008-2009) and the Michael Ventris Memorial Award, presented by the University of London's Institute of Classical Studies (2001).

Her research interests include Boeotian archaeology, multisensory approaches to studying the past, digital technologies in heritage management, and instructional technology and pedagogy. She is developing a new course on ceramic analysis in archaeology, incorporating computer-aided archaeological simulations in the classroom.

## FOTEINI KONDYLI

Assistant Professor

McIntire Department of Art / Archeology Program



An archaeologist researching the material culture of Byzantine non-elites, communal identity, and the construction of Byzantine spaces, Foteini Kondyli has combined archaeology, archival research, spatial analysis, and the digital humanities in her work. Before coming to U.Va., Kondyli was a postdoctoral fellow of archaeology at the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University. She has worked in archaeological sites in Greece, Albania, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and Germany.

Kondyli is writing a monograph on Late Byzantine rural societies, focusing on local communities' strategies during socio-economic crisis. Kondyli also will also be

engaging in a new research project on the negotiation of identities in Byzantine cities, focusing mainly on Athens and Thebes, where she has been conducting fieldwork. She has received the American Institute for Archaeology Colburn Fellowship (2014-2015) in support of this project.

Kondyli received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Byzantine archaeology from the University of Birmingham, UK. She was a junior fellow of Byzantine studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (2008-2009) and a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Amsterdam and Leiden University.

Kondyli will be teaching courses on Late Antique and Byzantine art and archaeology, as well as on digital applications for the study of the past.

## CLAUDE WAMPLER

### Ruffin Distinguished Artist-in-Residence McIntire Department of Art



Claude Wampler is the second artist to serve as the Ruffin Distinguished Artist-in-Residence, a one-year teaching position established by the Peter B. and Adeline W. Ruffin Foundation. The annual residency position was designed to bring artists of international stature to Grounds.

For more than two decades, Wampler has been working at the intersection of art installation and performance. She explores the possibilities for grafting performance techniques onto visual art presentation and vice versa, employing video, painting, photography, lighting, sound, costume, and text.

Her works have been exhibited in New York City, Los Angeles, Paris, Berlin, Brussels, Vienna, Lisbon, Istanbul, Tokyo, and many other national and international cities. One of her latest works, *N'a pas un gramme de charisme* ("Not an ounce of charisma") was presented last year at The Kitchen in New York City.

For the last two years, Wampler was a visiting artist faculty member in the NYU Steinhardt M.F.A. Program in Studio Art. She received an M.F.A. from New York University and a bachelor of fine arts from State University of New York, Purchase.

Wampler will work with studio art students this year, offering them the opportunity to expand their practices in interdisciplinary sculpture and performance. She also hopes to attract students from other areas of study to explore the benefits of interdisciplinary creativity.

## SHANE DAVIS

Assistant Professor  
Department of Astronomy



A theoretical astrophysicist, Shane Davis has focused much of his research on the study of accretion physics and radiative transfer. His work covers the topics of black holes, magnetars, numerical simulations of magnetohydrodynamics, and feedback from star formation. Although he is a theorist, much of Davis' work has involved direct modeling of observational data and the role feedback from star formation may play in galaxy evolution.

Davis' recent work has emphasized the development and application of numerical simulation tools, but his research also frequently involves working directly with data and "pen and paper" calculations.

Before arriving at U.Va., Davis was a senior research associate at the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and was the recipient of a Chandra Fellowship (2006-2009) and the Beatrice D. Tremaine Award (2012). Davis earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2006 and has a B.S. in physics from Carnegie Mellon University.

## CRISTIAN DANNA

Assistant Professor  
Department of Biology



Cristian Danna's research focuses on the study of the interaction between plants and microbes, particularly the mechanisms that allow plants to keep most microbes at bay as well as those that allow a few pathogenic microorganisms to infect plants. The mechanisms by which plants suppress microbial growth are largely unknown. Danna's utilizes multiple approaches including functional genomics, genetics, transcriptomics, chemistry, and cell biology.

Danna earned a Ph.D. in molecular biology and biotechnology from National University of San Martin, Argentina (2003) and an M.Sc. in genetics from the National University of Misiones, Argentina (1997). He completed postdoctoral training in genetics and plant-

microbes interaction at Harvard Medical School. His fellowships and awards include the Fund for the Improvement of Quality University Teaching (FOMEC-World Bank) in 1998 and 2001 and a five-year doctoral thesis fellowship from the National Research Council of Argentina (CONICET).

In the Department of Biology, Danna will establish a research program in genetics, molecular biology and cellular biology to study the interaction between plants and microorganisms. He will train undergraduate and graduate students in the laboratory, and he plans to inspire his students in the classroom by using a number of models of interactions between plants and microorganisms as a platform to teach plant metabolisms, chemistry, and genetics.

## DAVID KITTLESEN

Lecturer

Department of Biology



A former research associate at the University of Virginia's Carter Immunology Center, David Kittlesen was also a postdoctoral fellow at U.Va.'s Department of Surgery. His earlier research focused on tumor immunology, including the discovery of tumor antigens recognized by T lymphocytes and their translation to clinical trials, and viral immunology, as related to immune evasion by the Hepatitis C virus.

Kittlesen received a Ph.D. in biology and biomedical sciences from Washington University (1993) and has a B.A. in biology from St. Olaf College. His current research is focused on teaching and pedagogical approaches related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

education. In August, it was announced that Kittlesen had been elected to the University Academy of Teaching, which recognizes exemplary professors who have generously and collaboratively shared their knowledge with faculty and graduate teaching assistant colleagues throughout the University community. Kittlesen's other recent awards from the University of Virginia include a Nucleus Award (2013-14) to help improve STEM education in introductory-level courses, an All-University Teaching Award (2010-11) and an Excellence in Teaching Award (2002).

Kittlesen will teach introductory- and upper-level undergraduate courses within the Department of Biology.

**KATERI DUBAY**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Chemistry**



A theoretical chemist by training, Kateri Dubay uses the tools of computational simulation to investigate one of the great challenges in modern molecular science: the design of self-assembling nanomaterials. Her work seeks applications in solar cell technology, drug targeting, and the development of environmentally responsive nanomaterials.

Before her arrival at the University of Virginia, Dubay was a postdoctoral research scientist at Columbia University (2010-13) and a postdoctoral scholar at UC Berkeley (2009-10). She received her Ph.D. in chemistry from UC Berkeley, her M.Phil. from Cambridge University (2004) and a B.S. from Georgetown University. Her

fellowships and scholarly awards include an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and a Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

Dubay's research is guided by a particular interest in understanding the interplay of entropy, energy, kinetics, and environmental responsiveness within the complex systems she studies. Currently, Dubay is researching the effects of nascent chain conformations on the polymerization of conjugated polymers, environmentally directed nanoscale self-assembly and the ways in which kinetic effects can be harnessed in the processing and formation of advanced materials.

## ANDREAS GAHLMANN

Assistant Professor  
Department of Chemistry



With the looming inability of current antibiotics to effectively combat pathogenic bacteria posing a major health concern, Andreas Gahlmann seeks to determine the 3D locations and motions of individual biomolecules in living bacterial cells. By developing new experimental methods for correlative cellular imaging at nanometer resolution, Gahlmann aims to further our understanding of molecular-level spatiotemporal phenomena in cell biology and to advance the capabilities of state-of-the-art imaging technologies.

Gahlmann was a postdoctoral fellow in chemistry at Stanford University (2011-14) before his arrival at U.Va. He received his Ph.D. in physical chemistry at the California

Institute of Technology and earned a B.S. in chemistry with honors at the University of Portland (2005). His fellowships and awards include a postdoctoral fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation (2011-15) and a West Coast Conference Postgraduate Scholarship, awarded to student-athletes pursuing graduate school education.

Gahlmann will be teaching the first semester of the third-year level physical chemistry course. He plans to build a multidisciplinary research program that bridges concepts from molecular cell biology and chemistry, as well as molecular/optical physics and computer science.

## REBECCA POMPANO

Assistant Professor  
Department of Chemistry



Studying the complex kinetics of immunity, Rebecca Pompano grounds her research in bioanalytical chemistry, developing microfluidic tools to study complex biological dynamics, especially in the immune system. Pompano combines microscopy and live-imaging with microfluidic and chemical methods in an attempt to clarify the processes that generate protective immunity against vaccines on the one hand, while damaging autoimmune inflammation on the other. The ultimate goal is to guide the design of vaccines and immunotherapies.

Pompano received her Ph.D. in physical chemistry in 2011 from the University of Chicago, where she was awarded the Albert J. Cross Prize for Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Departmental Citizenship. She was also the recipient of an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2006–09) and the Ethyl & Albemarle Science Scholarship at the University of Richmond, where she earned her bachelor of science in chemistry.

A former postdoctoral scholar in the University of Chicago's Department of Surgery, Pompano plans to collaborate with colleagues in the Medical Center and the School of Engineering and Applied Science while working with graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in her research lab. Pompano is scheduled to teach the Honors General Chemistry Lab this fall. In future semesters, she will also teach an upper-level or graduate course in bioanalytical chemistry.

## DAVE DALTON

Lecturer

Department of Drama



As a theater director, Dave Dalton seeks to create innovative productions of classic texts, frequently with an emphasis on comedy. He has written and directed theatrical adaptations of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and several overlooked plays from the Spanish Golden Age.

Dalton completed his M.F.A. in directing from Columbia University (2002) and received a B.A. in theater from James Madison University, graduating magna cum laude (1998). He is a past recipient of an American Society for Theatre Research Targeted Research Areas Grant and received a Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Revival of a Musical for his Vortex Theater production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Before arriving at the University of Virginia, Dalton was an adjunct lecturer in directing at Barnard College's Department of Theatre (2012-14). Prior to that, he served as a guest artist faculty at Brandeis University and offered workshops at James Madison. Dalton will teach acting and directing courses within the Department of Drama and hopes to direct future productions in the U.Va. Drama season.

## **BENEDETTA LOMI**

**Assistant Professor of Japanese | Department of  
East Asian Languages, Literatures & Cultures**



Continuing her research on Buddhist rituals and on Japanese healing and medical practices, Benedetta Lomi joins an interdisciplinary cluster of faculty in the field of “Connective Cultures of the Pre-Modern World,” supported by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

She holds a Ph.D. in the study of religions and an M.A. in East Asian art and archaeology from SOAS, University of London. Shortly after completing her doctorate, Lomi was awarded the Shinjo-ito Postdoctoral Fellowship in Japanese Religions at UC Berkeley. Between 2008 and 2009, she held a fellowship from the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science, which allowed her to work as a visiting researcher at Keio

University.

Before joining U.Va., she served as a visiting lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages at Oxford Brookes University, a senior teaching fellow at SOAS, and a visiting tutor for the history department at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Lomi’s research on Japanese Buddhism focuses on its material and visual culture, with particular emphasis on the performative, healing, and transformative dimensions of Buddhist rituals, scriptures and objects. She will teach classes on different aspects of East Asian culture, exploring topics ranging from media and religion to the representation of the body in the Chinese and Japanese traditions.

## KARIM CHALAK

Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics



An econometrician focusing on fundamental problems associated with estimation of causal estimation, network, and peer effects, Karim Chalak seeks to address the challenges researchers and policymakers face drawing inferences about the effects of policy. His recent work has focused on developing and applying methods for causal inference in settings where key data may be missing or laden with errors.

The synergies between Chalak's work and the research interests of Denis Nekipelov, another new faculty member in the Department of Economics, will allow their department to push to the frontier in applied econometrics.

Chalak arrives at U.Va. following his appointment as assistant professor at Boston College (2007-14). He also served as a visiting scholar in Harvard University's Department of Economics (2009-10). Chalak received his Ph.D. and M.A. in economics from UC San Diego and completed his B.A. in economics with High Distinction at American University of Beirut.

Chalak will be teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in econometrics while developing his research projects.

## ANDREW KLOOSTERMAN

Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics



Concentrating his research on microeconomic theory and experimental economics, Andrew Kloosterman works on dynamic game theory and on how the future of long-term relationships affects current behavior. His work in associated models with imperfect information seeks to provide predictions for how firms behave and to reveal information in multi-period or dynamic interactions under uncertainty.

Kloosterman received his Ph.D. and M.A. in economics from New York University and completed his B.A. in mathematics at Washington University. He received a doctoral dissertation research grant from the National Science Foundation and a Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship from NYU. His

portfolio includes theory papers such as “Public Information in Markov Games,” which is under revision for the *Journal of Economic Theory*, and experimental studies in which he measures how subjects respond with different information sets. His study of the directed search model, for example, tests the theory that when firm productivity is heterogeneous, more productive firms offer higher wages in equilibrium, prompting more applications.

Kloosterman will teach courses in microeconomics and mathematical economics while continuing his research in dynamic games. His ongoing research topics include signal jamming and collusion, and repeated games with private monitoring and action trembles.

## DENIS NEKIPELOV

Associate Professor  
Department of Economics



Integrating new computational tools, Denis Nekipelov's research is bridging the gap between economic approaches to data and emerging approaches to "big data" in computer science and engineering. Nekipelov's research operates at the forefront of efforts to develop new techniques to study how markets work and how econometric techniques can be used to predict behavior in response to policy.

Working with John Bates Clark Medal winner Susan Athey of Stanford University, Nekipelov has used massive search engine query logs to model the bidding of advertisers in online markets on Google and other sites, demonstrating imperfect competition in this market and potential inefficiencies in

the online advertising auctions. His groundbreaking work on data security takes a serious econometric approach to the question of how researchers can disclose estimates based on sensitive data while still protecting individual privacy.

Nekipelov earned his Ph.D. in economics from Duke University (2008) and his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in applied physics and mathematics from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. Since completing his doctorate, he has been a faculty member at UC Berkeley and a visiting researcher at Microsoft Research. He joins the Department of Economics as an associate professor with tenure while holding a courtesy appointment in the Department of Computer Science in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. He also will serve as a fellow in the University's Data Sciences Institute.

**PETER TROYAN**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Economics**



Peter Troyan's research interests lie in the field of matching and market design: applying insights from economic theory to design institutions that will efficiently allocate resources when the use of monetary transfers is restricted, such as hospital-resident matching markets, kidney exchange, and public school choice. His work builds upon microeconomic theory, market design, game theory, and mechanism design.

Troyan earned a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University in 2014 and a B.S. in mathematics and physics from the University of Michigan in 2008. He was a Haley-Shaw Fellow in the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (2013-14), a recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award,

and served as a graduate fellow in the Department of Economics at Stanford (2008-09).

At U.Va., he will continue his work designing mechanisms to ensure diverse student assignments in public school choice settings and will teach core microeconomic theory in both the graduate and undergraduate programs.

## KEITH DRIVER

Lecturer

Department of English



A poet and reviewer for *B O D Y*, an international online literary journal, Keith Driver is working on a new collection of poems that uses arbitrary constraint systems and procedures to explore the role of ritual and pilgrimage in a culture lacking a coherent metaphysics. His poems and reviews have appeared in *Jubilat* (Fall/Winter 2003), *Bridge* (February/March 2005), *Pindelyboz* (Spring 2006), and a variety of other journals. In 2001, his work was selected by James Tate for the Poetry Center Juried Reading Prize.

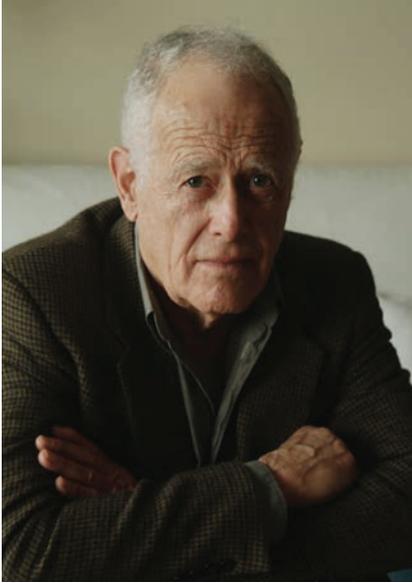
Driver received an M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Iowa's Creative Writing Program and his B.A. in English from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. He taught previously at Robert Morris University

(2001-07) and at Texas Christian University (2007-14).

Driver will teach a variety of writing courses and looks forward to participating in efforts to potentially re-shape the University's academic writing curriculum. His awards and fellowships include a Teaching Institute Fellowship at Robert Morris College (2006-07) and a Callen Scholarship at the University of Iowa (1999-2001).

## JAMES SALTER

### Kapnick Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Department of English / Creative Writing Program



A writer whose award-winning literary career spans six decades, James Salter is the inaugural writer-in-residence for a new program funded by the Kapnick Foundation Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Endowment.

Salter served as a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot for 12 years; his first novel, *The Hunters*, published in 1957, was inspired by his combat experiences during the Korean War. Five novels, including *A Sport and a Pastime* (1967), and *All That Is* (2013) followed, along with a series of screenplays, poetry, essays, and short-story collections. In the introduction to the Penguin Classics edition of Salter's *Light Years*, author Richard Ford wrote, "It's an article of faith among readers of fiction that James Salter writes American sentences

better than anyone writing today."

Salter's work has won a PEN/Faulkner Award (1989), a PEN/Malamud Award (2012) and a PEN/USA Lifetime Achievement Award (2010). He has taught at the Iowa Writers' Workshop and served as the William Blackburn Visiting Fiction Writer at Duke University and as a visiting professor at Williams College.

As the Kapnick Distinguished Writer-in-Residence, Salter will teach an advanced fiction workshop in the fall for students working toward a master of fine arts in creative writing. He will also deliver three public lectures on the act and art of writing.

## NJELLE HAMILTON

Assistant Professor

Department of English / Carter G. Woodson Institute for  
African-American and African Studies



A scholar of postcolonial and Caribbean literature, Njelle Hamilton is interested in how oral and print cultures cross-pollinate, and in how contemporary Caribbean writers address the social and political issues of the last 70 years. She is currently working on a book that examines the use of popular music forms in contemporary Caribbean novels that are equally attentive to musical and written expression, and to the ways that stories, voices and memories have been suppressed in official records.

For the last two years, Hamilton was an assistant professor of Anglophone literature at Plymouth State University. She received her Ph.D in postcolonial literatures and theory from Brandeis University (2012) and her M.A. in English and American literature from Brandeis (2007). Hamilton graduated with honors from the University of the West Indies with a B.A. in literatures in English (1998). Her work has been published in *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal* and the book *Critical Perspectives on Indo-Caribbean Women's Literature*.

In her first semester at U.Va., Hamilton will teach an English course called “Narrating the Caribbean” and a Woodson Institute course, “Trauma and Narration in African Diaspora Literature.” Both courses will focus on contemporary or seminal African, Afro-Caribbean, and African-American fiction and the strategies writers employ to narrate history and contemporary realities.

## KEVIN GRISE

Assistant Professor

Department of Environmental Sciences



Working in atmospheric science, Kevin Grise's research involves understanding large-scale climate models and their interaction with the atmosphere. His past work has examined a variety of atmospheric phenomena, ranging from the ozone hole in the stratosphere over Antarctica to the extratropical cyclones that affect North American winter weather. Grise's current research interests focus on the interactions between clouds and the jet stream and how these interactions might lead to important radiative feedbacks in future climate scenarios.

Grise arrives at U.Va. following two years at Columbia University as a postdoctoral research scientist. He previously spent a year at McGill University as a postdoctoral fellow

and received his Ph.D. and M.S. in atmospheric science from Colorado State University. He completed his B.S. in meteorology at Penn State University. The recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2005-2008), Grise served as co-author on the 2010 World Meteorological Organization Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion and as first author on nine peer-reviewed journal articles.

Grise will collaborate with University faculty on interdisciplinary research involving climate variability and change. As new satellite-based observations and improved climate models become available in the coming years, Grise will involve students in his research, using these tools together to better understand the Earth's climate system.

## GARY FERGUSON

Gordon Distinguished Visiting Professor  
Department of French



A specialist of the French Renaissance with broader interests in the medieval and early modern periods, Gary Ferguson focuses his research on the areas of gender and queer studies, women's writing, and the cultural history of religion. His most recent books and publications include *Queer (Re)Readings in the French Renaissance: Homosexuality, Gender, Culture* (2008).

Prior to his appointment at U.Va., Ferguson served as the Elias Ahuja Professor of French at the University of Delaware. He has been a visiting professor and scholar at the Université Paris 13–Paris Nord (2005), the Université Rennes 2–Haute Bretagne (2010), the Université Jean Monnet–Saint-Étienne (2012), and the University of Pennsylvania (2013) and served as a visiting fellow for the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Trinity College, Dublin (2010). He received his Ph.D. from the University of Durham (UK).

During the academic year at U.Va., Ferguson plans to take advantage of the University of Virginia Library's Douglas H. Gordon Collection of early printed books in French while working on a study entitled "Same-Sex Marriage in Renaissance Rome: (Hi)stories of Sexuality, Identity, and Community." He also will be editing a journal issue on the role of bishops as literary and cultural agents in Renaissance Europe.

## ERIK LINSTRUM

Assistant Professor  
Corcoran Department of History



Researching the history of modern Britain, its empire, and the connections between the two, Erik Linstrum has developed specific interests in the history of science and colonial violence. He is currently finishing a book manuscript on the uses of psychology in the 20th-century British Empire.

Linstrum joins the Corcoran Department of History from the University of Michigan, where he was an assistant professor and postdoctoral fellow. He completed his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University in 2012. His dissertation, “Making Minds Modern: The Politics of Psychology in the British Empire, 1898-1970,” won the Harold K. Gross Prize for best dissertation in history at Harvard. Linstrum received his M.A. at

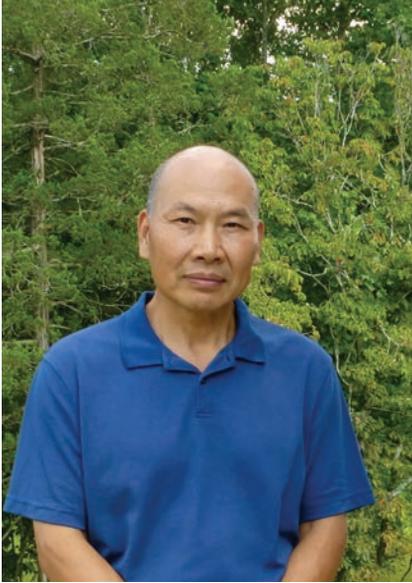
Harvard (2009) and earned a B.A. in history at Princeton University (2006).

His fellowships and awards include an FHHS Article Prize (2013) from the Forum for History of Human Science, the Walter D. Love Prize (2013), awarded by the North American Conference on British Studies, and a Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research (2010-11) at the Institute of Historical Research in London.

His next project will look at cultures of colonial warfare in Britain since the late 19th century. Linstrum plans to teach courses on modern Britain, European imperialism, colonial violence, and the history of the human sciences.

## XIAOYUAN LIU

David Dean Professor of East Asian Studies  
Corcoran Department of History



Xiaoyuan Liu's research on China's ethnic frontiers as part of East Asian international history and on Chinese-American relations has led to the publication of seven books, including *Recast All Under Heaven: Revolution, War, Diplomacy, and Frontier China in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (2010) and *Reins of Liberation: An Entangled History of Mongolian Independence, Chinese Territoriality, and Great Power Hegemony, 1911-1950* (2006). Liu is currently at work on a book-length study of the interaction between China's ethnic-frontier affairs in Inner Asia and its confrontations with the United States, the Soviet Union, and India.

Liu arrives at U.Va. after holding a Zijiang Professorship at East China Normal University in Shanghai, China. He has also taught at Harvard University, State University of New York at Potsdam, and at the University of Chicago as a visiting professor. Liu received his doctorate in history from the University of Iowa (1990). He served as an associate and full professor of history at Iowa State (2000-13) before arriving at U.Va. His honorary awards include a Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Fellowship for Asian Policy Studies, a Social Science Research Council-MacArthur Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, and research grants from the Smith Richardson Foundation.

Liu will be training graduate students and teaching courses on Chinese foreign relations and on China's frontiers in the 20th century.

**SARAH MILOV**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Corcoran Department of History**



A historian of 20<sup>th</sup> century American political economy, Sarah Milov joins the University of Virginia following her term as a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Center for History and Economics. She was also a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco. She is working on a book manuscript tentatively titled, "Growing the Cigarette: Tobacco Production, Consumption, and Regulation from the Grassroots." Her book argues that the cigarette was not produced in spite of consumer, health, and environmental regulations but by the government itself.

In addition to her research on how Americans understand the role of government in shaping their economic lives, Milov is also interested in the history of capitalism, Southern history, and the history of science. Milov received her Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2013. She completed her M.A. at Princeton in 2009 and received a B.A. from Harvard in 2007.

In the fall of 2014, she will offer two courses: "Disasters in America from Cholera to Katrina" and "Debating Science in Modern America." Milov will teach a variety of courses in 20th century American history and the history of capitalism. She also plans to become involved with the Miller Center.

## ALAN TAYLOR

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Professor  
Corcoran Department of History



One of the nation's premier experts in Colonial America and the early U.S. republic, historian Alan Taylor is the author of seven books. He won his second Pulitzer Prize earlier this year for his most recent book, *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832*.

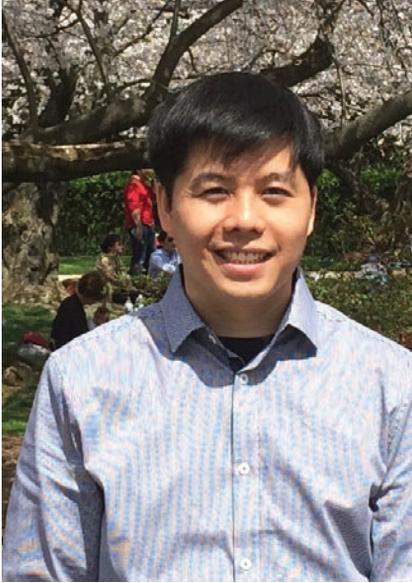
Taylor obtained his Ph.D. in American history from Brandeis University (1986) and his B.A. at Colby College (1977). Before arriving at the University of Virginia, he taught at the College of William and Mary (1985-1987), Boston University (1987-1994), and the University of California, Davis (1994-2014). His courses cover early American history, the American West, and the history of Canada. Taylor also serves as a contributing editor for

*The New Republic* and reviews books for that publication.

Taylor received his first Pulitzer in 1996 for his book, *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early Republic*, which also won the Bancroft and Beveridge prizes. He is currently writing "American Revolutions:" a synthesis of recent scholarship on the era of the American Revolution (1760-1821) with a North American continental perspective that will weave Mexico and Canada into a narrative about the impact of revolutionary republicanism and counter-revolutionary activism. The book will be a sequel to *American Colonies* (2001), his continental history of colonial North America.

## YEN DO

Assistant Professor  
Department of Mathematics



Yen Do arrives at the University of Virginia following a three-year appointment at Yale University as a Gibbs Assistant Professor. The Gibbs Assistant Professorships are intended for mathematicians who have completed their Ph.D. degrees and who show definite promise in research in pure or applied mathematics. At U.Va., Do will be focusing his research on harmonic analysis and its applications. Specifically, he is seeking to apply techniques from harmonic analysis to investigate research problems in mathematical physics and probabilistic analysis.

Do received his Ph.D. from UCLA (2010) and held an NSF Mathematical Sciences Institute postdoctoral appointment at the Georgia Institute of Technology (2010-11). He completed a bachelor's of engineering at the University of Technology, Sydney in Australia (2005). He has published seven papers and has two more under review. He received an NSF grant (2012-15) to support his work on Fourier analysis and its applications to completely integrable systems.

This academic year, Do will be teaching a course in calculus and a course in partial differential equations, while further developing his research program in analysis and probability.

## LEONID PETROV

Assistant Professor  
Department of Mathematics



A mathematician whose work brings together probability theory, representation theory, and algebraic combinatorics, Leonid Petrov seeks applications for his research to mathematical physics.

Part of his work revolves around the mathematical side of the so-called Kardar-Parisi-Zhang equation, which originated in mathematical physics in the 1980s. The equation represents the effort to describe random “nonlinear” growth phenomena, such as random polymers, polynuclear growth models, bacteria colonies, and metastable phases. Petrov and other mathematicians are investigating rigorous theories describing these phenomena employing specific tools based on exact combinatorial or algebraic

identities.

Petrov arrived at U.Va. following a postdoctoral appointment at Northeastern University. Prior to that, he was a research associate at the Dobrushin Mathematics Laboratory in Moscow. Petrov has delivered talks on his research at UCLA, Princeton University and other academic institutions. Petrov received his Ph.D. from the Institute for Information Transmission Problems in Moscow (2010) and completed his undergraduate studies in probability at Moscow State University (2007).

Petrov will be collaborating with research groups in probability, mathematical physics, and representation theory. This academic year, he will teach undergraduate courses on probability.

## ZEZHOU ZHANG

Whyburn Instructor  
Department of Mathematics



Zezhou Zhang's research interests include combinatorial and asymptotic aspects group theory, nonassociative algebras, and their interactions. Zhang is currently applying Lie and Jordan methods to enhance the understanding of certain groups.

He received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California, San Diego earlier this year and completed his B.A. in mathematics at Peking University (2009). Most recently, his article, "Nonassociative Algebras and Groups with Property (T)" was published in the *International Journal of Algebra and Computation*. He also co-authored a paper entitled "Groups graded by root systems and Property (T)."

Zhang served as a teaching assistant for five years at UCSD and has delivered presentations on root graded groups at UCSD and at the Erwin Schrödinger International Institute for Mathematical Physics in Vienna, Austria. He looks forward to collaborating with an active research group at U.Va. while teaching a variety of courses.

## JOHN C. (JACK) HAMILTON

Assistant Professor

Department of Media Studies / American Studies Program



A cultural historian who studies sound, media and popular culture, Jack Hamilton is currently researching the interplay of music and racial thought during the 1960s. Exploring how rock 'n' roll music moved from its roots as an interracial form to being widely understood as a "white" genre by the end of that decade, Hamilton is completing a book manuscript titled, "Rubber Souls: Rock and Roll and the Racial Imagination," to be published by Harvard University Press.

Hamilton earned his Ph.D. in American studies at Harvard University in 2013 and a B.A. in English from New York University. His fellowships and awards include the University of Virginia's Excellence in Diversity Fellowship (2014-2015), a

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from the University of Colorado, Boulder's Laboratory for Race and Popular Culture (2013-2014), and a Charles Warren Center Dissertation Research Grant (2011).

For the fall semester of the 2014-15 academic year, Hamilton is teaching a course called "Race and Sound in American Culture," cross-listed in American studies and media studies. After completing his book manuscript, Hamilton plans to shift his research to the transatlantic interracial history of popular music in the late 1970s and will teach classes on popular music, film, sports, and other areas of culture.

## **AYNNE KOKAS**

**Assistant Professor**

**Department of Media Studies**



A scholar who has studied China's growing profile in the world media industry, Aynne Kokas is revising a book manuscript entitled "Shot in Shanghai: Blockbusters, Theme Parks, and the Rise of Sino-US Media." The book is based upon her dissertation, fieldwork as a Fulbright Scholar in Shanghai, and an earlier year spent at the Beijing Film Academy.

She holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from UCLA.

In addition to her work on Sino-US media collaborations, Kokas also conducts research on the expansion of Chinese social media networks, and on global environmental media. Kokas has been a Fulbright Scholar and a Social Science Research Council Fellow

in Shanghai, a Chinese Ministry of Education Fellow in Beijing, and a United Nations Institute of Advanced Study grantee.

Before arriving at U.Va., she was concurrently a visiting fellow at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies and a postdoctoral fellow at the Chao Center for Asian Studies at Rice University. Kokas remains a fellow in Chinese Media at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy. In her first role at the University of Virginia, Kokas taught a course in Hong Kong entitled "Hollywood Goes to Asia" as part of the 2014 Jefferson Global Seminars.

## MAHSHAD MOHIT

Lecturer in Persian | Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures



An enthusiastic teacher of Persian for the last 15 years, Mahshad Mohit has taught at Yale University, New York University, and the School of Visual Arts in New York City. As a lecturer in Yale's Department of Near East Languages and Civilizations (2010-11), Mohit was responsible for the Persian program. Prior to teaching there and at NYU, she taught English to recent female immigrants from the Afghan community and helped prepare them for the U.S. citizenship exam while serving as a program manager for the Women for Afghan Women's community center in the New York City borough of Queens (2007-09).

Mohit has an M.A. in political science from New School University (2001). A native of Iran, she also holds an M.A. in political science from Tehran University (1986). She is the Persian translator of Steven Runciman's *A History of the Crusades*.

Her current research interests include 16th-century literature and history of Iran. Mohit is writing a manuscript on the state and structure of power in Iran during that time period.

## CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN

Lecturer

McIntire Department of Music



Focusing on sacred and secular music of the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, Christopher Buchanan particularly studies Germany and northern Italy. His forthcoming dissertation, “San Marco Across the Alps: Giovanni Gabrieli and the Foundation of the German Baroque,” examines that most famous composer of the Venetian School and his relationship with German tutors, patrons, and students, as well as his profound influence over the music of Germany for over a century past his death.

Buchanan is presently pursuing a doctor of musical arts in trumpet at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. He previously earned a master’s degree in musicology from the Peabody Institute and

a master’s degree in trumpet from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as well as a bachelor of music summa cum laude in trumpet and composition from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Buchanan served as consultant on two NEH grants: “Digital Prosopography for Renaissance Musicians: Discovery of Social and Professional Networks” and “The Lost Voices Project: Reconstructing the Chansonniers of Nicolas Du Chemin” and received a Career Development Grant from Johns Hopkins University. He also published a Historical Edition for *Balquhider Music: Giovanni Gabrieli, Sonata XVIII*.

This fall, Buchanan will teach individual trumpet lessons and coach the brass quintet and will also serve as Principal Trumpet of the Charlottesville Symphony. He is an active performer and a member of the U.S. Navy Band in Washington, D.C., as well as the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra.

## NATHANIEL LEE

Lecturer

McIntire Department of Music



Nathaniel Lee is pursuing a doctor of musical arts in trombone performance and brass pedagogy at the University of Iowa, where he served as the trombone studio teaching assistant. During his studies he was awarded the 2013 Downbeat Magazine Award for Outstanding Graduate Soloist. He earned his master of music in trombone performance from New England Conservatory and a bachelor of music performance from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Lee was an invited guest artist at James Madison University's 2014 trombone festival Tromblow, and was selected to perform in the 2012 and 2014 Castleton Music Festivals. With the Castleton Orchestra, Lee performed in the Royal Opera House in Muscat, Oman

as well as the Virginia and D.C. areas. He has served as Principal Trombone for the Ash Lawn Opera Festival and performed with the Boston Philharmonic, Opera on the James, Virginia Oratorio Society, and Waynesboro Symphony.

In 2014-15, Lee will be teaching private trombone lessons, conducting trombone choir and serve as Principal Trombone of the Charlottesville Symphony at the University of Virginia.

## KARL MILLER

Associate Professor  
Department of Music



Karl Miller studies the cultural and economic history of popular music in the United States. His book, *Segregating Sound: Inventing Folk and Pop Music in the Age of Jim Crow* (Duke, 2010), examined the ways the academy and the music business categorized music according to race in the early days of recorded sound and southern segregation. He is currently writing a history of amateur pop musicians in the United States from nineteenth-century parlor pianists to YouTube bedroom warblers.

Miller earned a Ph.D. in history from New York University (2002) and a B.A. in history from Macalester College (1990). Before coming to U.Va., he was an associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin, where he held appointments in history,

American studies, and musicology. His research has been supported by fellowships from the Smithsonian Institution and the American Council of Learned Societies. His awards include the inaugural Regents Outstanding Teaching Award and a grant to re-design the large-enrollment U.S. history survey course in light of new research in active learning, both from the University of Texas.

At U.Va., he will be teaching a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in U.S. popular music studies and musicology.

## ELIZABETH BARNES

Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy



With research interests divided between metaphysics and ethics/social philosophy, Elizabeth Barnes' work focuses on social philosophy, metaphysics, and the intersection between them. In metaphysics, she has written on indeterminacy and vagueness, emergence, truthmakers, and the open future. In ethics and social philosophy, she focuses on disability and wellbeing as well as an interest in feminist philosophy. She is currently writing a book on disability.

Barnes earned a Ph.D. at the University of St. Andrews, as a student in the Vagueness Project of the Arche AHRC Research Centre for the philosophy of logic, language, mathematics, and mind. She also earned a master of letters from St. Andrews and B.A.

in philosophy magna cum laude from Davidson College. She served as a senior lecturer at the University of St. Andrews from 2006-2010 and an associate professor there 2010-2014. She has received an Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK) major research grant for her work on indeterminacy and a Mind Association Fellowship for her work on disability.

Looking forward, Barnes plans to continue to develop her interest in the connection between the social and natural world.

## ROSS CAMERON

Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy



Ross Cameron works primarily on metaphysics and has published extensively on the metaphysics of time, possibility, truth, and objects. A central theme in his work has been the connection between truth and reality: what must the world be like to account for what we think is the case? He is also interested in the history of metaphysics and in the connections between metaphysics and other areas of philosophy, such as aesthetics and the philosophy of religion.

Cameron earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of St. Andrews and a master's degree in philosophy from University of Glasgow. Before arriving at U.Va., he spent nine years at the University of Leeds, as research fellow in metaphysics (2005), lecturer (2006-09), and associate professor (2009-2014). He was awarded a British Academy mid-career research fellowship to pursue his work on the metaphysics of time. With his collaborators Elizabeth Barnes and Robert Williams, Cameron was involved in a three-year project funded by the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council to study the idea that reality itself might be indeterminate.

In the Department of Philosophy, Cameron has plans to offer a course that will introduce various approaches to metaphysics from different cultures throughout history. He will also pursue completion on his book on the metaphysics of time.

## WALTER OTT

Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy



Walter Ott's research focuses on the philosophy of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, chiefly on issues in the philosophy of mind and metaphysics. He is especially interested in how the moderns want to account for our sensory experiences and for causation, in light of their austere ontology. His work asks: if all there is to physical objects is size, shape, and motion, then why do we see the world as we do, and how can one object act on another?

Ott earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in philosophy at the University of Virginia, and a B.A. in philosophy from Alfred University. Before coming to U.Va., he worked as an associate professor (2009-2014) and an assistant professor (2006-2009) at Virginia Tech, as an

assistant professor (2001-2006) at East Tennessee State University and as a faculty fellow (2000-2001) at Colby College. He has published two books, *Causation and Laws of Nature in Early Modern Philosophy* in 2009 by Oxford University Press and *Locke's Philosophy of Language* in 2004 by Cambridge University Press.

In the fall of 2014, Ott will teach two classes: an introductory course on the meaning of life and an upper-level course at the intersection of philosophy and cognitive science on animal minds. He is currently finishing a book manuscript titled "The Nature of Sensation and Perceptual Experience in the Modern Period" and co-editing a volume on causation and laws of nature.

## JEFFREY TEO

Assistant Professor  
Department of Physics



Jeffrey Teo's research is centered on the theory of topological matters in electronic systems, with Quantum Hall states, topological insulators, and superconductors being the most promising classes of topological phases. These support quasi-particles with exotic behavior, such as anyonic statistics beyond bosons and fermions and dissipationless electronic transport phenomena.

Teo completed his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in 2011 and then was a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Condensed Matter Theory in University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2011-2014). His fellowships and awards include the Simons Postdoctoral Fellowship (2011-2014) and the Herbert B. Callen Memorial Prize

(2011). He has published several papers in *Physical Review* and *Physical Review Letters*.

During in the 2014-15 academic year, Teo will continue research on topological phases of matter, working closely with students, postdoctoral scholars and colleagues in the Department of Physics to explore new electronic materials that support exotic and desirable characteristics. In fall 2014, he will teach the graduate-level course Solid State Physics.

## **RACHEL POTTER**

**Assistant Professor**

**The Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics**



Rachel Potter studies American political institutions, with a particular emphasis on the bureaucracy. Her current book project examines how bureaucrats' strategic behavior helps to ensure their "success" in the notice-and-comment rulemaking process.

Potter completed a Ph.D. in political science and public policy from the University of Michigan in 2014, a M.A. in political science from Michigan in 2011, a M.P.P. in public policy from University of Southern California in 2005, and a B.A. in communication from Boston College in 2001. She is also the recipient of a Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, Robert Bosch Fellowship, Presidential Management Fellowship, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy

Research Grant, and the APSA David Naveh Founders Award for Best Graduate Student Paper.

Within the Department of Politics, she will teach courses on American political institutions, bureaucratic politics, public administration, and regulation at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

## PHILIP POTTER

Assistant Professor

The Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics



Philip Potter's research focuses on foreign policy, international relations, and political violence. He is the principal investigator for a Department of Defense Minerva Initiative project to map and analyze collaborative relationships between militant organizations.

Potter earned a Ph.D. in political science (2009) and an M.A. in political science (2005) from UCLA, as well as a B.A. with honors in political science and economics from McGill University. He comes to the University of Virginia from the University of Michigan where he was an assistant professor of public policy (2009-2014). Prior to that appointment he was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania and a predoctoral fellow at the Belfer Center at

Harvard University.

He has recently published articles in *International Organization*, *The Journal of Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, and *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*. His book, *War and Democratic Constraint* (coauthored with Matthew Baum), will be published by Princeton University Press in spring 2015.

At U.Va., Potter will teach courses on international terrorism and the domestic politics of international relations.

## C. DANIEL MELIZA

Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology



A behavioral neurobiologist who studies pattern recognition, Daniel Meliza investigates the neural circuitry responsible for this behavior in the auditory system of songbirds. Songbirds provide an excellent model for understanding auditory processing because, like human beings, they use vocal communication to support complex social interactions.

Meliza earned a Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology in 2005, and a B.A. summa cum laude in biochemistry from Lewis & Clark College in 1999. He then worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Chicago from 2006-2013, with postdoctoral work supported by an NIH postdoctoral fellowship. He has published articles in the

*Journal of Neuroscience* and the *Journal of Neurophysiology*, among others.

In the Department of Psychology, he will teach courses on animal behavior and the neurobiology of speech and language.

## JESSICA CONNELLY

Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology



Jessica Connelly is an epigeneticist interested in the study of individual differences in behavior and other complex traits and disease. Her work towards better modeling of disease risk and understanding disease variants lies in expanding the paradigm of complex disease study to include epigenetic influences that contribute to disease. Methylation of CpG sites within DNA serves as one type of epigenetic cue which results in changes in gene function. The identification of methylated regions in the context of the human genome will define a relationship between the regulation/misregulation of epigenetic modifications and disease.

Connelly earned a Ph.D. in genetics from SUNY Stony Brook in 2004 and a B.S. in chemistry in 1997 from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. She then worked as a postdoctoral researcher in human genomics at the Center for Human Genetics at Duke University (2004–2009). From 2009–2014, she was an assistant professor in the U.Va. School of Medicine. Her lab is funded through the NSF and NIH, and current projects investigate epigenetic regulation of the oxytocin pathway as a consequence of heritable and environmental origin.

In the Department of Psychology she will focus her research on human and model system behavior. She is also designing a new course to be offered in spring 2015, titled “Behavioral Epigenetics,” to be taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

## TOBIAS GROSSMAN

Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology



Tobias Grossman's research is concerned with the question of how we become social beings, including study of the early development of social and affective competencies that enable human infants to interact with others and understand their social behavior. By using non-invasive and child-friendly methods such as electroencephalography (EEG), functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) and eye-tracking technology, he examines changes in infant brain function while important social developmental milestones are achieved. These developmental processes are studied across a range of situations in which infants can glean social and emotional information from various sources such as faces, voices, or biological motion.

In 2006, Grossman earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences and the University of Leipzig and an M.Sc. from the University of Leipzig in 2002. He then worked as a research fellow at the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development at Birkbeck College of the University of London (2006-2011). From 2011-2014, he was director of the Early Social Development Group at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences. He received an Early Career Research Contributions Award of the Society for Research in Child Development (2011) and an Early Career Award of the International Society on Infant Studies (2012).

In the Department of Psychology, Grossman will direct the Early Social & Brain Development Lab.

## FREDERICK SMYTH

Lecturer

Department of Psychology



Frederick Smyth's research focuses on implicit cognition – unconscious attitudes, self-concepts, and stereotypes – related to academic and career engagement, persistence and success, especially in STEM fields.

Smyth earned a Ph.D. in quantitative psychology from U.Va. (2004), an M.A. in liberal studies from Dartmouth College (1994), and a B.A. in English from McDaniel College (1980). Since 2006, he has worked as a research assistant professor and director of the Full Potential Initiative at U.Va. and from 2004-2006 was a postdoctoral research associate with the U.Va. Implicit Social Cognition Lab.

He received a National Science Foundation grant in 2006 to study Implicit Cognition in STEM Education and U.Va. Learning Grants in 2008 and 2012 to study Implicit Cognition in Differential Equations. He has published papers in *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *Research in Higher Education*. He was recognized by the Maury Pathfinder Graduate Prize (2002), U.Va. Psychology Outstanding Master's Thesis (2002), and a Presidential Fellowship (1997-2001).

Smyth will take an active role in efforts of the Department of Psychology to systematically review and refine its undergraduate curriculum as the new Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**XIN (CYNTHIA) TONG**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Psychology**



Cynthia Tong seeks to develop and apply statistical methods in the areas of developmental and health research. Her research utilizes Bayesian methodology, growth curve modeling, and robust structural equation modeling with nonnormal and missing data. Substantively, she analyzes the longitudinal development of cognitive ability and achievement skills.

Tong earned her Ph.D. in quantitative psychology from the University of Notre Dame in 2014 and an M.S. in applied mathematics (2009) as well as a B.S. in mathematics (2007) from Renmin University of China. She received the 2014 Award for Computational Sciences and Visualization and the 2014 Outstanding Graduate Student

Teaching Award, both from the University of Notre Dame. Her papers have been published in the journals *Structural Equation Modeling* and *Multivariate Behavioral Research*.

In the Department of Psychology, Tong will teach statistical courses as well as other topics that align with her research agenda. She will continue her work to develop statistical models and methods to analyze various kinds of complex data structure, and she welcomes collaborative opportunities.

## AMRISHA VAISH

Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology



A developmental psychologist working on early social and moral development, Amrisha Vaish's current research is focused on the development of social emotions such as sympathy and guilt, as well as on children's moral evaluations and prosocial behavior.

Vaish received her Ph.D. in psychology from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology and the Free University Berlin in 2010, her M.A. in psychology from the University of Chicago in 2006, and a B.A. in psychology and English from the University of Virginia in 2002. She was a Dilthey Postdoctoral Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (2010-2014), awarded by the Volkswagen and Fritz Thyssen Foundations. Vaish

received the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award from the Society for Research in Child Development in 2011 and the Division 7 Dissertation Award from the American Psychological Association in 2012. She has published papers in the journals *Child Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Psychological Science*, and *Psychological Bulletin*.

At U.Va., Vaish plans to continue her work on social and moral development and looks forward to collaborating with colleagues and students to take her work in new directions.

## SHANKAR NAIR

Assistant Professor  
Department of Religious Studies



Shankar Nair's fields of interest include Sufism and Islamic philosophy; Qur'anic exegesis; Hindu philosophy and theology; Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit literatures; and South Asian religions. His research focuses upon Muslim-Hindu interactions and the encounter between Arabo-Persian and Sanskrit intellectual cultures in early modern South Asia, as well as the history of Islamic and Hindu thought in the subcontinent more generally.

Nair earned a Ph.D. and a M.A. in religious studies from Harvard University, (2014 and 2010). He graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in religious studies and Indian studies in 2005. He worked as an assistant professor of Islamic studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2013-14). Nair received a Merit/Graduate Society Research Fellowship (2011-12) and a Frederick Sheldon Travel Fellowship (2005-06) from Harvard University.

In the Department of Religious Studies, Nair will teach courses on Islam and Islamic civilization, the Qur'an and its interpretation, Sufism (Islamic mysticism), Islamic philosophy and theology, Hindu-Muslim interactions, and South Asian religious literature.

## JANET SPITTLER

Assistant Professor  
Department of Religious Studies



With research interests in early Christianity and the New Testament as part of the broader Greco-Roman religious and literary landscape, Janet Spittler's current research involves the presentation of miracles in Greco-Roman literature, including Christian sources. She is working on a monograph involving a genre of Greek literature called "paradoxography" (collections of "amazing reports") and its relationship to reports of miracles in early Christian texts.

Spittler earned a Ph.D. and an M.A. (2007 and 2004) from the University of Chicago's Department of New Testament and Early Christian Literature and a B.A. in philosophy & Religion and classics from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga (1999). She was

an assistant professor of religion (2007-2014) and associate professor of religion (2014) at Texas Christian University. Spittler was a 2010-11 Humboldt Fellow at the University of Regensburg. Her publications include *Credible, Incredible* (2013) and *Animals in the Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles: The Wild Kingdom of Early Christian Literature* (2008), both published by Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.

In the Department of Religious Studies, she will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in new testament and early Christian literature, particularly non-canonical texts.

## MIRANDA WAGGONER

Assistant Professor | Department of Sociology  
Women, Gender & Sexuality Program



Engaging the interplay between culture, science, health, and medicine, Miranda Waggoner's research has a particular focus on the social and cultural dimensions of public health and reproduction. Her current book project examines how medical and public health ideas about pregnancy risk and birth outcomes shifted dramatically in the last few decades, with implications for how women and reproduction are viewed in medicine, politics, and society.

Waggoner earned a Ph.D. in sociology and social policy from Brandeis University in 2011, and a B.A. in sociology and government from the University of Texas at Austin in 2004. She was a postdoctoral research fellow for the Office of Population

Research at Princeton University (2011-2014). Her work has been supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

At U.Va., Waggoner will be teaching courses on gender and the body, health and society, and feminist theory.

## DAMIANO BENVEGNÙ

Lecturer

Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese



Damiano Benvegnù's research focuses on representations of animals and animality in modern Italian literature, visual art, and philosophy. He also studies literatures produced in peripheral languages, particularly by multilingual and diglossic communities, and those produced in the interactions between aesthetics, history, and nature. His chapter, "Witnessing Suffering Animal: Primo Levi on Animal Experimentation" in *Interpreting Primo Levi: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (A. Chapman & M. Vuohelainen, Eds.), is forthcoming from Palgrave (London) in 2015.

Benvegnù earned a Ph.D. in literature from the University of Notre Dame (2014) and a Dottorato di Ricerca in Italianistica [Ph.D. in Italian studies] in 2007 as well as a Laurea in Lettere [B.A. in literature] in 2002, both from Sapienza – Università di Roma. He was a visiting fellow at Trinity College of the University of Cambridge (2011) and a Dominica and Frank Annese Fellow of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies (2013-14). He received the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award of the Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Notre Dame.

At U.Va., he will be involved in instruction of language courses at all levels as well as all aspects of the Italian curriculum, while also seeking to establish interdisciplinary dialogues with other departments. Benvegnù will also revise his Ph.D. dissertation and pursue further research on animal representations in the use of dialects in modern Italian poetry.

## ALLISON BIGELOW

Assistant Professor

Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese



Allison Bigelow studies the intersections of colonial scientific discourse, gender systems, and indigenous literacies. Her current book project traces overlaps and divergences in indigenous and European imperial mining and metallurgical systems and lexicons in the early Americas.

Bigelow earned a Ph.D. in English (2012) and an M.A. in English (2007) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as a B.A. in English and Spanish (2003) from the University of Maryland. From 2012-14, she was a National Endowment for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture of the College of William & Mary. She was also a 2012

Dibner Fellow in History of Science and Technology at Huntington Library and a 2010 Paul W. McQuillen Memorial Fellow at the John Carter Brown Library.

In the fall 2014 semester, she will teach a seminar on “Interpreting Colonial Latin America,” which will involve student collaborations on translation of a South American manuscript from 1618. Their work will be published on the Early Americas Digital Archive to serve as a resource for readers around the world.

## ESPERANZA GORRIZ JARQUE

Lecturer

Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese



With interests in travel, culture, and variations among the dialects of Spanish-speaking countries, Esperanza Gorriz Jarque studies cultural representations of Spanish-speaking countries – including paintings, dances, movies, literature, theatre, and music – and what they represent about the culture that produces them.

Gorriz Jarque obtained a B.A. in translation and interpretation (English, German, and Spanish) from the University Jaume I, in Castellon, Spain. She worked with “Instituto Cervantes” in Frankfurt, Germany after receiving both an “Erasmus” and a “Leonard da Vinci” scholarship for study in German, before moving to Ohio as an International Visiting Teaching of Spanish (2008-2011).

After that, she received her M.A. in Spanish with a minor in Linguistics from West Virginia University. She joined U.Va. on a single year appointment in 2013-14, teaching intermediate and advanced intermediate Spanish.

In the future at U.Va., Gorriz Jarque will continue to instruct multiple levels of Spanish and to share her passion for culture and language with her students.

## ALICIA LÓPEZ OPERÉ

Lecturer

Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese



Alicia López Operé's research deals with 20th through 21st century Spanish poetry, with interests in contemporary poetry written in Spanish, as well as contemporary theater and poetic performance.

She earned a Ph.D. in Spanish (2009) and an M.A. in Spanish (2004) from the University of Virginia, as well as a B.A. in Spanish philology from Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain in 2001. López Operé was a lecturer of Spanish at the University of Richmond (2010-2014) and a visiting assistant professor of Spanish at Mary Baldwin College (2009-2010).

In addition to teaching Spanish language and Spanish and Latin American culture & literature courses at U.Va., López Operé will be acting and producing plays in Spanish with the Spanish department theater group.

## MATTHEW STREET

Lecturer

Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese



Matthew Street's research ranges from Second Language Acquisition to contemporary Latin American Literature, with particular study of language attrition of the isolated Spanish dialect of the Isleños in south Louisiana.

Street earned a B.A. in Spanish Language at the University of Louisiana-Monroe, followed by an M.A. in Spanish Language and Literature at the University of South Carolina. He joined U.Va. in a one-year position in 2013-14, where he reactivated and serves as an advisor of the U.Va. Chapter Zeta Zeta of Sigma Delta Pi, a national Spanish honor society. The chapter was awarded the 2014 Premio Fénix for extraordinary and exemplary activity.

In the future he will continue sharing his love for Spanish language, literature and culture with his students and working with Sigma Delta Pi to promote Spanish literatures and cultures.

## CHAO DU

Assistant Professor  
Department of Statistics



Chao Du's research focuses on stochastic modeling and statistical inference of dynamical cellular and molecular systems, such as single molecule enzymatic reaction and gene regulatory networks. His research interests also include Bayesian statistics, high-dimensional nonparametric density estimation, and interdisciplinary statistical problems in biophysics and systems biology.

Du earned a Ph.D in statistics from Harvard University in 2012 and a B.S. in statistics from Peking University in 2005. He was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Statistics at Stanford University in 2012-14. He has published several peer-reviewed articles in the journal *Quantitative Biology*.

In the Department of Statistics, he will continue to pursue his research while also teaching the graduate-level course "Introduction to Mathematical Statistics" this fall.

## KAREN KAFADAR

Commonwealth Professor and Chair  
Department of Statistics



Karen Kafadar is a leading exponent of exploratory data analysis. Her various research interests include robust methods, exploratory data analysis, statistics in forensic sciences, experimental designs, methods for analyzing randomized screening trials, and characterization of uncertainty in the physical, chemical, biological, and engineering sciences.

She earned a Ph.D. in statistics from Princeton University in 1979 and both a B.S. in mathematics and an M.S. in statistics from Stanford University in 1975. Kafadar subsequently worked at Oregon State University, the National Bureau of Standards, the Hewlett-Packard Company, the National Cancer Institute, the University of Colorado

at Denver, and Indiana University, as the Rudy Professor of Statistics and Physics. She is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, a National Associate of the National Research Council, and has received numerous honors including the 2001 William G. Hunter Award of the American Society for Quality. Karen was elected an AAAS Fellow “for important applications of statistics to cancer research, forensic science, microarrays, high-energy physics and other areas, for extensive editorial service, and for extraordinary service on scientific panels.”

In the Department of Statistics, she will focus on undergraduate and graduate program growth, enhancement of student placements upon graduation, expansion of curricular offerings to students across the university, increase in collaborative teaching and research partnerships, and catalyzing student-faculty research.

## GRETCHEN MARTINET

Lecturer

Department of Statistics



Gretchen Martinet's research is in the areas of sample surveys and special cases calibration method adjustment for nonresponse as an alternative for more standard adjustment methods. Her recent work in industry has focused on the practical application of sampling and survey methods, balancing practical needs and theoretical requirements.

Martinet earned a Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Virginia in 2011 and a B.S. in mathematics from Vanderbilt University in 2006. While at U.Va. she was a Presidential Fellow and a recipient of the Statistics Department Graduate Teaching Award. In 2011-14, she worked as a senior analyst statistician for Ernst & Young.

Within the Department of Statistics, she will incorporate into her courses the study of issues that arise in the practical application of statistics, better preparing students for careers in quantitative positions and helping them to connect the broader statistical community.

## DOUG MEYER

Lecturer

Women, Gender & Sexuality Program



Doug Meyer's work focuses on the race, class, and gender dynamics of anti-queer violence. His scholarship draws on intersectionality theory, LGBT studies, and sociological approaches to inequality. His book *Violent Differences: Race, Class, Gender, and Violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People* is under contract with Rutgers University Press.

Meyer earned a Ph.D. in sociology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) in 2011, an M.A. in Sociology from Queens College, CUNY in 2005, and a B.A. in sociology and political science from Albion College in 2002. He was a visiting assistant professor of sociology at the College of Wooster (2013-14) and an

adjunct instructor of Sociology in the CUNY System (Queens College, Hunter College, and York College from 2003-2013). He has published in the journals *Gender & Society* and *Critical Criminology*.

At U.Va., he will continue his current research on the social class politics of the "It Gets Better" anti-gay bullying project. He will also be teaching LGBT studies courses, including "Queer Theory" and "LGBTQ Communities: Race, Class, Gender."



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