New FAS Professors

2018 ~ 19

Updated September 2018
The Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office
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Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tamar Szabó Gendler
September, 2018
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Yale Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS): 2018-19

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† Joining January 2019
All others: July 2018
Abhishek Bhattacharjee †
Associate Professor of Computer Science

Abhishek Bhattacharjee is an experimental computer scientist. He builds computer systems for all scales of use, from large-scale systems for datacenters and the cloud, to embedded systems for biomedical devices such as brain-machine interfaces. His lab’s research focus spans the hardware/software interface and its applications to the brain sciences. He was a faculty member at Rutgers University from 2010 through 2018. There, he received the Chancellor’s Award for Faculty Excellence in Research. Prior to Rutgers, Abhishek obtained his Ph.D. from Princeton University, where he was awarded the Wu Prize for distinction in dissertation research, and the CV Starr Fellowship from the Princeton Neuroscience Institute. He also holds a BEng from McGill University, where he received the British Association Medal for graduating at the top of his class.

Jeffrey Brock
Professor of Mathematics

Jeffrey Brock joins the FAS faculty as Professor of Mathematics in July 2018 and begins his term as the inaugural FAS Dean of Science in January 2019. His research focuses on low dimensional geometry and topology, particularly hyperbolic geometry. His work on William Thurston’s program to understand hyperbolic manifolds led to their geometric classification in joint work with R. Canary and Y. Minsky. He has studied renormalized volume and its gradient flow on deformation spaces. He is also interested in geometric and topological methods in analysis of complex data sets. Brock comes to Yale from Brown University’s Math Department, which he chaired from 2013 through 2017. He earned his Ph.D. at U.C. Berkeley and his B.A. at Yale. He was a Guggenheim Fellow in 2008 and was recently elected Fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

Sarah Bush
Associate Professor of Political Science

Sarah Bush joins Yale as an Associate Professor of Political Science and a Research Fellow at the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. Her research examines how international actors try to aid democracy, promote women’s representation, and support elections in developing countries. She is the author of The Taming of Democracy Assistance: Why Democracy Promotion Does Not Confront Dictators. Her articles have appeared in journals such as International Organization, Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Perspectives on Politics, as well as outlets like Foreign Policy and The Washington Post. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation. Bush taught at Temple University and held visiting fellowships at the Harvard Kennedy School and Uppsala University. She received a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University in 2011.

Yang Cai †
Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Yang Cai joins Yale’s Computer Science Department with a secondary appointment in Economics. His research interests include algorithm design, the connection between Economics and Computation, and machine learning. In particular, his research focuses on the question: how should we rethink algorithm design facing new challenges posed by the ever-growing technology platforms such as sponsored search, online marketplaces, crowdsourcing, sharing economies, and cryptocurrencies? Cai’s research combines tools from mathematical optimization and machine learning, as well as ideas from economic theory, such as mechanism design and contract theory, to address these challenges. Before joining Yale, Cai was an Assistant Professor in the School of Computer Science at McGill University. He holds a Ph.D. from MIT and a B.Sc. from Peking University.
Elisa Celis †

Assistant Professor of Statistics and Data Science

Elisa Celis’ research focuses on problems that arise in the context of the Internet and its social and economic implications. She approaches these problems by using both experimental and theoretical techniques. Her work spans multiple areas including social and computing crowdsourcing, data and network science, and mechanism design and algorithm with a current emphasis on fairness and diversity in artificial intelligence and machine learning. She has published articles in journals such as IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering, Journal of Applied Network Science, Human Computation Journal, Management Science, SIAM Journal on Computing, among others. Before coming to Yale, she worked at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne as a senior research scientist since June of 2014. Celis holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering and an M.Sc. in Mathematics, both from the University of Washington.

Veneeta Dayal †

Professor of Linguistics

Veneeta Dayal’s research focuses on the semantics of natural language and its interface with syntax and pragmatics, typically from a cross-linguistic perspective. Her primary areas of language specialization are English and Hindi-Urdu. She has published widely in leading journals in the field of linguistics: Linguistic Inquiry, Linguistics and Philosophy, Natural Language Semantics, and Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, among others. She is the author of Locality in Wh Quantification and Questions and a co-editor of Clause Structure in South Asian Languages. She was the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant, a Fulbright Senior Research Award, a Senior Research Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies and a Jawaharlal Nehru Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship. She received her Ph.D. in Linguistics from Cornell University in 1991.

Anastasia Eccles

Assistant Professor of English

Anastasia Eccles specializes in narrative theory, the phenomenology of reading, and British literature of the long eighteenth century. Her book project examines aesthetic responses to late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century fiction—like complicity and suspense—that challenge the theories of aesthetic autonomy information at the same time. With members of the Stanford Literary Lab, she is also at work on a co-authored digital humanities monograph on literary suspense. Her article, “Formalism and Sentimentalism: Viktor Shklovsky and Laurence Sterne,” appeared in the Autumn 2016 issue of New Literary History. This year she will teach courses about the history of poetry, narrative suspense, and Jane Austen and Walter Scott. She earned her Ph.D. in English from Stanford.

David Engerman

Professor of History

David Engerman comes to Yale after serving for nineteen years as the Chair of the History Department and the Ottilie Springer Professor at Brandeis University. Trained in U.S. and Russian history, Engerman works in the field of twentieth-century international history, with a particular interest in economic relations and intellectual history. He published three books while at Brandeis: Modernization from the Other Shore: American Intellectuals and the Romance of Russian Economic Development; Know Your Enemy: The Rise and Fall of America’s Soviet Experts; and The Price of Aid: The Economic Cold War in India. His research has been supported by fellowships and grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, American Institute of Indian Studies, Guggenheim Foundation, National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, National Endowment for the Humanities, and others. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of California-Berkeley in 1998.
Zhou Fan
Assistant Professor of Statistics and Data Science
Zhou Fan’s research focuses on statistical theory and methodology, and related areas of probability and machine learning. Fan’s expertise lies in random matrix theory, high dimensional and multivariate statistics, random graphs and networks, and discrete algorithms. In recent years, his works have been published by The Annals of Statistics, Probability Theory and Related Fields, Statistical Science, Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC), among others. Fan completed his Ph.D. in Statistics at Stanford University and spent a summer working on statistical genetics at the Broad Institute before joining Yale’s faculty. Prior to obtaining his Ph.D., he worked for two years at D. E. Shaw Research developing statistical and software tools for molecular dynamics simulations of protein molecules.

John Fortner †
Associate Professor of Chemical and Environmental Engineering
John Fortner’s research is primarily focused on advancing water-related technologies and engineering novel material interfaces as they relate to critical environmental-based health, security, and energy challenges. He has extensively studied the environmental fate, reactivity, and applications (for example, novel water treatment membranes) of engineered carbon nanomaterials, including fullerenes, carbon nanotubes, and graphene-based materials. John Fortner joins Yale from the University of Washington in St. Louis, where he was the I-CARES Associate Professor of the Department of Energy, Environmental, and Chemical Engineering. In 2015, he was awarded the Sustainable Nanotechnology Organization Emerging Investigator Award for his excellent research in sustainable nanotechnology and his commitment to mentoring students of all levels. He earned his Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from Rice University in 2007.

Cécile Fromont
Associate Professor of History of Art
Cécile Fromont’s writing and teaching focus on the visual, material, and religious culture of Africa and Latin America, with an emphasis on the early modern period and on the Portuguese-speaking Atlantic World. She is currently investigating areas of intersection between visual and material culture, religion, and knowledge creation in cross-cultural environments of early modern Africa and Latin America. Her first book, The Art of Conversion: Christian Visual Culture in the Kingdom of Kongous won, among other accolades, a College Art Association Millard Meiss Publication Fund Grant. Her essays on art have appeared in venues such as the Colonial Latin American Review, African Arts, and RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics. Her research and writing have been supported by grants and fellowships from the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, the Michigan Society of Fellows, and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, among others.

Maria Gendron
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Maria Gendron’s research interests stem from questions such as: why do some people experience such a diverse range of emotions? Why does culture create a barrier to a mutual understanding of each other’s states? She addresses questions like these with research grounded in the traditions of social and cultural psychology. Gendron employs a multi-method approach, including ambulatory, fieldwork and lab-based behavioral studies, and increasingly neuroimaging methods. Among the institutions that have funded her investigations are the National Institutes of Health and the Army Research Institute. In addition, her works How and why are emotions communicated?, "Emotion perception as conceptual synchrony", and "Revisiting Diversity" to mention a few, have been published by the Oxford University Press, the Emotion Review, and Current Opinion in Psychology, respectively. Maria Gendron holds a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Boston College.
Larry Gladney †
Professor of Physics

Larry Gladney joins Yale as Professor of Physics and FAS Dean for Diversity and Faculty Development in January 2019. Gladney’s research focuses on the intersection of experimental particle physics and cosmology, where he attempts to understand the origins of and fundamental connections between matter, energy, space, and time. He is particularly interested in future explorations of the cause for the accelerated expansion of the universe. Co-author or author of more than 600 peer-reviewed publications, he comes to Yale from the University of Pennsylvania where he was the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Professor for Faculty Excellence in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and the Associate Dean for Natural Sciences in the School of Arts and Sciences. At the University of Pennsylvania he also held a secondary appointment as Professor of Education in the Higher Education division of the Penn Graduate School of Education.

Marina Halac
Professor of Economics

Marina Halac's research pertains to contract and game theory, with a focus on understanding how incentives are shaped by contracting constraints and information environments. She has developed theoretical models to study issues such as the structure and dynamics of employment relationships, the problem of how to motivate experimentation and innovation, and the design of rules to optimally delegate decision making. Her works have been published in leading economics journals, including American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, and the Review of Economic Studies. Halac was recipient of the Elaine Bennett Research Prize in 2016, awarded biennially by the American Economic Association. Prior to joining Yale in 2018, she served as a faculty member at Columbia University and the University of Warwick. Halac received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley in 2009.

Alanna Hickey
Assistant Professor of English

Alanna Hickey specializes in Native American literatures, poetry and poetics, and early American literature and culture. Her current book project, *The Forms of National Belonging: The Politics of Native American Poetry*, illuminates the central role of poetry in Native American expressive cultures before the Native American Renaissance of the 1960s. It constructs a genealogy of verse written in English, Creek dialect, Anishinaabemowin, and Cherokee, showing how poets from a diverse set of Native communities adapted popular Euro-American poetic genres to accommodate pre-existing forms of Native expression and promote Indigenous spiritual and political life. She was the recipient of an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities from Stanford University. She received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University’s English Department in 2016.

John Eric Humphries
Assistant Professor of Economics

John Eric Humphries’ research focuses on topics of labor economics and applied microeconomics. His studies analyze how educational and career dynamics are affected by public policy. Much of his work considers how policies affect the acquisition of human capital and the role of cognitive and non-cognitive skills in the labor market. He has published work regarding the GED exam, non-cognitive skills, the return on education, and the estimation of dynamic treatment effects. He first joined Yale as a postdoc at the Cowles Foundation during the 2017-18 academic year. He is also a member of the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity "Inequality: Measurement, Interpretation, and Policy" working group (MIP). John Eric Humphries earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago.
Subhashini Kaligotla
Assistant Professor of History of Art

Subhashini Kaligotla’s area of expertise is medieval Deccan India, with research interests in sacred architecture, textual and visual intersections, landscape history, and historiography. She is working on a book manuscript titled Argument and Ornament in the Architecture of Deccan India, which questions the binary conception of Indian sacred architecture and the fragmentary view it engenders of the Deccan’s earliest surviving stone constructions. Engaging with the analytical frameworks of cosmopolitanism, courtly ideas about ornament, and South Asian notions of place and power, the work situates Deccan choices in the visual realm alongside similar transregional practices in the linguistic, ritual, political, and landscape spheres. Kaligotla’s research has been supported by the Fulbright program, the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, the Getty Research Institute, among others. Kaligotla earned her Ph.D. in Art History and Archaeology from Columbia.

Joshua Kalla †
Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Statistics and Data Science

Joshua Kalla arrives at Yale in January 2019 as an Assistant Professor of Political Science with a secondary appointment in the Department of Statistics and Data Science. His research seeks to understand the processes of persuasion and decision-making among voters and politicians, primarily through the use of randomized field experiments conducted in partnership with political organizations. His published work has appeared in *Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Political Analysis*, *The Journal of Politics*, among other outlets. His teaching interests include American politics, voting behavior, experimental design, and the data science of political campaigns. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley and his B.S. from Yale, both in Political Science.

Hwansoo Kim
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Hwansoo Kim comes to Yale as an Associate Professor of Korean Buddhism and Culture. His present research concerns colonial, modern, and contemporary Korean Buddhism from a transnational perspective. He has authored *Empire of the Dharma: Korean and Japanese Buddhism, 1877–1912* and *The Korean Buddhist Empire: A Transnational History, 1910–1945*. Formerly, he taught in the Department of Religious Studies at Duke University from 2009 through 2018, with a joint appointment with the Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Department, and served as the Director of Graduate Studies for the M.A. program. Kim also taught in the East Asian Studies Department at the University of Arizona, from 2008 through 2009. He received his Ph.D. in Korean and Japanese Buddhism from Harvard University in 2007.

Roy Lederman
Assistant Professor of Statistics and Data Science

Roy Lederman joins Yale as Assistant Professor of Statistics and Data Science and a member of the Quantitative Biology Institute. Lederman is interested in the organization and analysis of data, and he is working on computational and modeling problems in cryo-Electron Microscopy, a technology for mapping molecular structures. He works on various problems of alignment, classification, and signal processing that are motivated by application in cryo-EM. He is particularly interested in heterogeneity, for example, imaging of mixtures of different types of molecules. He also works on “hyper-molecules”, which represent heterogeneous molecules as higher-dimension objects. Lederman returns to Yale after being a postdoc at Princeton University. He served as a Gibbs Assistant Professor at Yale prior to this. Lederman has a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Yale and one B.Sc. in Physics and another in Electrical Engineering from Tel Aviv University.
Pamela Lee  
*Professor of History of Art*

Pamela Lee’s research focuses on modern and contemporary art. She is the author of *Chronophobia, Forgetting the Art World*, and *New Games: Postmodernism after Contemporary Art*, and she is currently completing *Think Tank Aesthetics: Mid-Century Modernism, the Cold War and the Rise of Visual Culture*, which analyzes the mutual imbrication of Cold War research practices and creativity in the visual sphere. A leader in the field of modern and contemporary art, Pamela Lee is fundamentally concerned with questions of space, time, and system, as manifested in the individual work of art. She addresses the relationship between technology, politics, and artistic production, and chronicles the ever-shifting nature of artistic media in the post-modern world. Lee was a faculty member at Stanford from 1997 through 2018.

Yifeng Liu  
*Associate Professor of Mathematics*

Yifeng Liu joins Yale as an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics. Liu’s fields of research are Number Theory and Algebraic Geometry. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the AIM SQuaREs Grant, and the Sloan Research Fellowship. His papers have been published in outlets such as *Algebraic Geometry, Annales Scientifiques de l’École Normale Supérieure, Journal of the European Mathematical Society*, and *Journal für die reine und angewandte*, among others. Liu was a C.L.E. Moore Instructor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 2012 through 2015, and an Assistant Professor at Northwestern University from 2015 through 2018. He obtained his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2012 and his B.S. in Mathematics from Peking University in 2007.

Juan Lora †  
*Assistant Professor of Geology and Geophysics*

Juan Lora’s research focuses on planetary climates. He uses a range of climate models to understand the atmospheric processes and interactions that produce climates across the Solar System. He is also a co-investigator on a concept mission that would send an instrumented lander with aerial mobility to Titan – currently a finalist for NASA’s New Frontiers program. He serves as an associate editor for *Icarus*, the journal of the Division of Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society. He also co-leads an outreach program aimed at making atmospheric and climate sciences accessible to students. He comes to Yale after spending four years as a postdoc at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona, and his B.S. from the University of Southern California.

Lisa Lowe †  
*Professor of American Studies*

Lisa Lowe’s work focuses on literatures and cultures of encounter that emerge from histories of colonialism, immigration, and globalization. She is known especially for her work on French and British colonialisms and postcolonial literature, Asian immigration and Asian American studies, race and empire, and comparative global humanities. She is the recipient of awards and fellowships from the Guggenheim, Rockefeller, and Mellon Foundations, the UC Humanities Research Institute, and the American Council of Learned Societies. She has authored books on orientalism, immigration, and globalization, such as *Critical Terrains: French and British Orientalisms, Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics*, and the monograph *The Intimacies of Four Continents*, among others. She earned her Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz and her B.A. in History from Stanford University.
Isabela Mares
Professor of Political Science

Isabela Mares has written extensively on a range of topics in comparative politics and political economy, including democratization, clientelism and corruption, taxation and fiscal capacity development, and social policy reforms in both developed and developing countries. She is the author or co-author of The Politics of Social Risk: Business and Welfare State Development, Taxation, Wage Bargaining and Unemployment; From Open Secrets to Secret Voting: The adoption of electoral reforms protecting voter autonomy; and Conditionality and Coercion: Electoral clientelism in Eastern Europe. She is currently completing a book titled Democratization after Democratization, which examines the adoption of electoral reforms limiting electoral irregularities in the Western world. Mares earned her Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Alka Menon
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Alka Menon joins Yale’s Department of Sociology in July 2018. Her research explores the intersection of race, medicine, and markets. Broadly, she is interested in the effects of globalization and medical consumerism on physician authority and healthcare. Currently, she is working on a book project on cosmetic surgery from a transnational perspective, focusing on the multiethnic cases of U.S. and Malaysia. Stemming from this research, she has also written about online reviews of physicians and the role of physicians as cultural gatekeepers and intermediaries. Her award-winning work has been published in Ethnic and Racial Studies and Social Science & Medicine and has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the Social Science Research Council. Menon obtained her Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University.

Priyasha Mukhopadhyay
Assistant Professor of English

Priyasha Mukhopadhyay is a literary historian of South Asia. Much of her research explores practices of reading in this region, focusing in particular on situations that challenge our notions of what it means to read and who is a reader. Some of these concerns are addressed in her current book project, Unread: The Book in South Asia, 1857–1914, which argues that colonial subjectivities were formed not by an intense engagement with writers such as Milton and Hume, but rather, through superficial and fleeting relationships with the most mundane of textual forms, such as the petition, almanacs, and instruction manuals, among others. Her research has appeared in Journal of Commonwealth Literature, Journal of Victorian Culture, and the edited volume, Fighting Words: Fifteen Books that Shaped the Postcolonial World. Mukhopadhyay completed her Ph.D. at the University of Oxford. She earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from the University of Delhi.

Elizabeth Nugent
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Elizabeth Nugent’s research interests include political behavior in authoritarian contexts and religion and politics, with a regional focus on the Middle East and North Africa. Her work has been published in Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Conflict Resolution, and Political Science Research and Methods. Her dissertation, titled “The Political Psychology of Repression and Polarization in Authoritarian Regimes,” develops and tests an original theory of state repression and its effects on processes of polarization in authoritarian contexts. The project employs a mixed-methods approach, including lab experimental tests of the theory’s micro-foundational psychological mechanism and case studies of repression and polarization in Egypt and Tunisia based on in-depth fieldwork in both countries. Nugent received her Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University in June of 2017. She also holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Arab Studies, both from Georgetown Univer-
Cormac O’Dea

Assistant Professor of Economics and Political Science

Cormac O’Dea is a public economist whose research focuses on how government policies affect household consumption, saving, and labor supply decisions. His current work investigates the implications of how Social Security is designed for household behavior and well-being. Other ongoing research studies the mechanisms through which inequality is transmitted across generations. His writings have appeared in *The Economic Journal*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, and *Journal of Population Economics*, among others. He was a postdoc at the Cowles Foundation through the 2017-18 academic year. He also worked at the Institute for Fiscal Studies in London while completing his Ph.D. in Economics at University College London. He holds an M.Phil. in Economics from the University of Cambridge and a B.A. in Economics from Trinity College, Dublin.

Giulia Oskian

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Giulia Oskian is a specialist in political theory. Her research focuses on democratic theory, the history of political thought, constitutional movements, and political psychology. Her research also focuses on other areas such as French modern political thought and the history of democratic theory. She is also interested in the history of political emotions, particularly anger, shame and courage. Her book *Tocqueville and the Legal Basis of Democracy* was published in Italian and is now being translated into English. She holds a Ph.D. from the Scuola Normale Superiore, and before coming to Yale she was a postdoc at Sciences Po, in Paris and at Queen Mary University of London. She also served as a Fulbright scholar at Columbia University.

Gerard Padró i Miquel

Professor of Economics and Political Science

Gerard Padró i Miquel arrives at Yale as Professor of Economics and Political Science and as Director of Yale’s Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy. He is broadly interested in political economy issues in developing countries, and is focused on the ethnic underpinnings of dictatorships and civil war. He has published work in *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *American Economic Review*, and *Review of Economic Studies*, among others. He has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the National Science Foundation and the European Research Council grants. He has previously worked at Stanford University and the London School of Economics, where he co-directed the Governance, Accountability, and Political Economy Research Group of International Growth Center. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Laurie Paul

Professor of Philosophy

Laurie Paul’s main research interests are in metaphysics, cognitive science, and the philosophy of mind. In her work, she explores questions about the nature of the self, decision-making, temporal experience, philosophical methodology, causation, causal experience, time and time’s arrow, perception,mereology, constitution, and essence. Her most recent book, *Transformative Experience* was published by the Oxford University Press, as was her book *Causation: A User’s Guide* (with Ned Hall), which won the American Philosophical Association’s Sanders Book Prize in 2014. Before coming to Yale as a professor in the Philosophy Department, she held the position of the Eugene Falk Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Paul received her Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1999.
Mark Peterson  
**Professor of History**

Mark Peterson is a specialist in the History of early North America and the Atlantic world. He authored the forthcoming book *The City-State of Boston: The Rise and Fall of an Atlantic Power, 1630-1865*, which is forthcoming. He is also the author of *The Price of Redemption: The Spiritual Economy of Puritan New England*. Currently, he is at work on two new books. One of them, *The Long Crisis of the Constitution*, offers a historical account of the U.S. Constitution as a political compromise based on eighteenth-century conceptions of power and property, and describes how the slow erosion of its original premises in the face of a changing U.S. population and economy have left the nation politically unmoored. He taught at the University of California, Berkeley, from 2007 through 2018, and at the University of Iowa from 1998 through 2007. Peterson earned his Ph.D. in History at Harvard University.

Tyler Pratt  
**Assistant Professor of Political Science**

Tyler Pratt joins Yale’s faculty as an Assistant Professor of Political Science and is also affiliated with the Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy. His research focuses on international organizations, with an emphasis on how the proliferation of global governance institutions affects international cooperation. His research has been funded by the Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, the Quantitative and Analytical Political Science Fellowship, and the University Fellowship from Princeton University. He received a Ph.D. from Princeton University, Department of Politics, an M.A. in International Policy Studies from Stanford University, and a B.A. in International Affairs from the University of Georgia. He teaches courses on international law and cooperation, global economic governance, and international organizations.

Carolyn Roberts  
**Assistant Professor of African American Studies and History**

Carolyn Roberts is a historian of early modern medicine. Her research and teaching interests broadly concern medicine, race, and slavery in the Atlantic world. Her current book project, *To Heal and to Harm: Medicine, Knowledge, and Power in the Atlantic Slave Trade*, is the first full-length study of the history of medicine in the British slave trade. The project studies the pharmaceutical and medical labor performed by a largely unknown group of African and British women and men, both enslaved and free. Roberts’ research has been supported through numerous fellowships and awards – most recently from the John and Elizabeth Armstrong Fellowship, the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, and the Consortium for the History of Science, among others. She holds degrees from Harvard University, Andover Newton Theological School, and Dartmouth College.

Evren Savci  
**Assistant Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**

Evren Savci is currently finishing her first book *Queer in Translation: Sexual Politics Under Neoliberal Islam*. Her work on the intersections of language, knowledge, sexual politics, neoliberalism, and religion has appeared in *Journal of Marriage and the Family, Ethnography, Sexualities, Political Power and Social Theory*, and *Theory & Event*, among others. She was selected Exemplary Diversity Scholar by the University of Michigan National Center for Institutional Diversity in 2013, and is the recipient of a Martin P. Levine Memorial Dissertation Award from the American Sociological Association, and the Presidential Award from San Francisco State University. Prior to her position at Yale, Evren served as Assistant Professor of WGS and as affiliate faculty of Middle East and Islamic Studies, American Muslim Ethnicities, and Diasporas at San Francisco State University. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from University of Southern California.
Wilhelm Schlag
Professor of Mathematics
Wilhelm Schlag is an expert in harmonic analysis, mathematical physics, and partial differential equations. He has been awarded with the Sloan and Guggenheim fellowships, among others. Schlag served as Plenary speaker at the International Congress of Mathematical Physics in 2012, and as invited speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 2014. He was appointed as the Holmer J. Livingston Professor of Mathematics at University of Chicago. He also later served as professor at CalTech. Prior to this, he served as Assistant Professor at Princeton from 1998 to 2001. Professor Schlag obtained his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in 1996 and his M.A. at the Technical University of Vienna in 1991.

Christophe Schuwey
Assistant Professor of French
Christophe Schuwey specializes in seventeenth-century French Literature. His research focuses on cultural transfers (specially between England and France), the making of cultural hierarchies, and the book market and marketing in the Classical age. He is the author of Peindre le siècle en comédies: une introduction au Misanthrope et au Tartuffe de Molière (Painting the times through comedy: an introduction to Molière’s The Misanthrope and the Tartuffe). He is also active in the digital humanities field, having written a book titled Interfaces: une approche concrète des humanités numériques littéraires (Interfaces: A Concrete Approach to Digital Humanities and Literature), forthcoming, and multiple critical editions, published or under development. He earned his Ph.D. jointly at Paris-Sorbonne University and University of Fribourg, before obtaining a senior lecturer position at University of Fribourg.

Emily Sellars
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Emily Sellars comes to Yale as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. Sellars’ research interests are at the intersection of comparative political economy, development economics, and economic history. Her dissertation, “Essays on Emigration and Politics,” received the 2017 Mancur Olson Award for the best dissertation in political economy defended in the previous two years. Currently, she is working on several papers to be published in The Journal of Politics and the Journal of Development Economics. Prior to coming to Yale, Sellars was a Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Chicago and an Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University. She received her Ph.D. jointly in Political Science and Agricultural and Applied Economics from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jessica Thompson †
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Jessica Thompson specializes in human evolution, with current projects in Malawi and Ethiopia. She leads the Malawi Ancient Lifeways and Peoples Project, her second human origins project. This multidisciplinary work combines archaeological science, evolutionary theory, and hunter-gatherer ethnography to develop and interpret the first deep time cultural and paleoenvironmental chronologies in Malawi. Her active field sites, which span the transition from the last Ice Age, yielded human remains that preserve the oldest ancient human DNA in sub-Saharan Africa. She has published articles in venues such as the Journal of Human Evolution, Journal of Archaeological Science, Journal of Quaternary Science, and Evolutionary Anthropology. Thompson received her Ph.D. from Arizona State University in 2008.
Emily Thornbury

Associate Professor of English

Emily Thornbury is a scholar of Old English and Anglo-Latin literature, with an interest in early theories of aesthetics. Her first book, *Becoming a Poet in Anglo-Saxon England*, explored how and why people set about composing verse in England prior to the Norman Conquest. Whether in English or Latin, the Anglo-Saxons’ poetry was enmeshed in the social circumstances in which it was composed, which reveals the ways that communities—or their absence—continually shaped poets’ ideas of form and their expectations for what their art could achieve. Currently, Thornbury is working on a book called *The Virtue of Ornament*, which traces the nonclassical, largely untheorized aesthetic principles of Anglo-Saxon art and literature through a series of productive encounters with Classical forms. She joins Yale from the University of California at Berkeley.

Jane Tylus

Professor of Italian

Jane Tylus is a literary historian who works primarily on late medieval and early modern Europe. Her most recent books are *Siena, City of Secrets*, the co-edited *Early Modern Cultures of Translation* (with Karen Newman), the co-edited *Poetics of Masculinity in Early Modern Italy and Spain* (with Gerry Milligan); and *Reclaiming Catherine of Siena* (winner of the 2010 MLA Howard Marraro Prize for Outstanding Work in Italian Studies). Other scholarly interests include modern Sicilian literature, female mysticism, novels, representations of work and peasantry, and the history and theory of translation studies. She comes to Yale from NYU. Prior to teaching at NYU, she was a faculty member in the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Tylus received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and her B.A. from the College of William and Mary.

Marynel Vázquez

Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Marynel Vázquez begins her period at Yale as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science. Vázquez’s research crosses the boundaries between Human-Computer and Human-Robot Interaction, and often combines elements from machine learning, design, social science and rapid fabrication. Her goal is to understand how we can make interactive computing technologies meaningful, intuitive, and appropriate for users, especially in complex social environments. Vázquez has been recognized for her achievements with scholarships and support from Apple, Google, and Disney Research. Prior to joining Yale, Dr. Vázquez received her Ph.D. and M.S. degrees from the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University in 2017 and 2013, respectively. She also received her bachelor’s degree in Computer Engineering from Universidad Simón Bolívar, Venezuela, in 2008.

Nisheeth Vishnoi †

Professor of Computer Science

Nisheeth Vishnoi’s research spans several areas of theoretical computer science: from approximability of NP-hard problems, to combinatorial, convex and non-convex optimization, to tackling algorithmic questions involving dynamical systems, stochastic processes and polynomials. He is also broadly interested in understanding and addressing some of the key questions that arise in nature and society from the viewpoint of theoretical computer science. Here at Yale, his current focus is on natural algorithms, emergence of intelligence, and questions at the interface of AI and Ethics. He was the recipient of the Best Paper Award at FOCS in 2005, the IBM Research Pat Goldberg Memorial Award in 2006, the Indian National Science Academy Young Scientist Award in 2011, and the IIT Bombay Young Alumni Achievers Award in 2016. He earned his Ph.D. in the Algorithms, Combinatorics, and Optimization program at Georgia Institute of Technology in 2004.
Natalie Weber

Assistant Professor of Linguistics

Natalie Weber joins the Linguistics Department as an Assistant Professor. Her interests are in theoretical phonology (the study of sound structure) and issues at the interface between the domains of sound structure (prosody) and domains of grammatical structure (morphology and syntax) in natural language. Her program of research incorporates both linguistic theory and empirical language description, and she is currently conducting fieldwork with speakers of two dialects of Blackfoot (Algonquian) in Lethbridge, Alberta. Her Ph.D. thesis at the University of British Columbia is titled “Prosodic constituency in Blackfoot.”

Kai Zhang

Assistant Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry

Kai Zhang’s main research focuses on structural mechanism of dynein/dynactin related complexes. In 2014, he determined the 23-subunit structure of dynactin complex by cryo-EM at near-atomic resolution, which was later published as a cover story in Science. Recently, he solved the first 3D structure of the extremely flexible dynein complex. Zhang is also interested in methodology development on all aspects of cryo-EM/ET. He is the author of GCTF (CTF determination and correction program), Gautomatch (real-time particle picking program, to be published), ATOM (tomography package), among other unpublished programs. He earned a Ph.D. in Biophysics from the Institute of Biophysics at the Chinese Academy of Science in 2013.
The FAS Dean's Office welcomes the new faculty and wishes them a fruitful year.

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tamar Szabó Gendler
September, 2018
Yale FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Office of the Dean

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