

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

NEW FACULTY

2024



HOLLY BAUER

ANALYTICAL WRITING PROGRAM
TEACHING PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in literature (composition)
UC San Diego

Bauer has taught for more than 30 years at various segments of public education in California. Currently she serves as associate director of the Analytical Writing Program.



BERNARD BROWN

THEATRE AND DANCE
ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR

MFA in choreography
UCLA

Brown is a performing artist, choreographer, filmmaker, educator and arts activist working at the crossroads of Blackness, Queerness and belonging.



MARCELO CAETANO

MUSIC
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in signal processing
UPMC Paris 6 University

Caetano's research interests range from musical instrument sounds to music modeling, including analysis/synthesis for sound transformations and music timbre.



ANIKET DE

HISTORY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in history
Harvard University

A historian of modern South Asia and the Indian Ocean, De addresses global debates on race, inequality, federalism and border-making from a South Asian and anti-colonial perspective.



AMRITA DHAR

LITERATURE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in English language and literature, University of Michigan

Dhar studies and teaches early modern literatures, poetry and poetics, interdisciplinary disability studies, migration studies and critical race studies.



DEVIN GAROFALO

LITERATURE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in English
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Garofalo specializes in 19th-century British and Anglophone literatures, the history of science and environmental humanities, empire and race as well as gender and sexuality.



WILLIAM GIVEN

ANALYTICAL WRITING PROGRAM
ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in drama and theatre
UC San Diego and UC Irvine

Given serves as associate director of curriculum development of the Analytical Writing Program. He is also a screenwriter, playwright and photographer.



ALEXANDER KOCUREK

PHILOSOPHY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in logic and methodology of science
UC Berkeley

Kocurek's research and teaching focus on counterfactual reasoning, the logic of impossibility, conceptual engineering and metaphilosophy.



LILLIAN LU

LITERATURE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in English
UCLA

Lu's research and teaching focus on the global Anglophone 18th-century novel. They also write children's literature and fantasy books.



TIMOTHY MCCORMACK

MUSIC
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in composition
Harvard University

A composer of experimental music—primarily for acoustic instruments—McCormack is influenced by instrumental construction, noise, queer aesthetics and incurable disease.

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AINSLEY MORSE

LITERATURE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in Slavic languages and literatures
Harvard University

Morse is a scholar of 20th and 21st-century Russian and East European literature and culture as well as a translator, specializing in works from Russia, Ukraine and the former Yugoslavia.



HEATHER PONCHETTI DALY

HISTORY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in history
UCLA

Ponchetti Daly's research focuses on 20th-century Native American and constitutional law, grassroots activism and Indigenous food sovereignty.



LISA PORTES

THEATRE AND DANCE
PROFESSOR

MFA in directing
UC San Diego

A highly regarded Cuban American director, educator, advocate and leader, Portes has world-premiered productions at theaters such as South Coast Rep, Seattle Rep and Steppenwolf Theatre.



RACHEL RUDOLPH

PHILOSOPHY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in philosophy
UC Berkeley

Rudolph works in philosophy of language and mind, especially their intersections with value theory, social philosophy and philosophy of artificial intelligence.



JORGE SÁNCHEZ CRUZ

LITERATURE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in Spanish
UC Riverside

Sánchez Cruz studies 19th to 21st-century Latin American literature, culture and thought, with interests ranging from gender and sexuality studies to continental philosophy and decolonial thought.



CORY SMYTHE

MUSIC
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Master of music
USC Thornton School of Music

Smythe, who is a pianist, has worked closely with pioneering artists in new, improvisatory and classical music, including multi-instrumentalist-composer Tyshawn Sorey and violinist Hilary Hahn.



NADIA VILLAFUERTE

LITERATURE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese languages and literatures, NYU

Villafuerte is currently analyzing contemporary Mexican cultural productions that offer insights into the historical landscape of the Mexico-Guatemala region and its inhabitants.



YUAN YUAN

PHILOSOPHY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in philosophy
Yale University

Yuan is a philosopher who specializes in ethics, political philosophy and philosophy of law, emphasizing the interface between them. Currently she is exploring what makes war just or unjust.



PING ZHU

LITERATURE
PROFESSOR

Ph.D. in comparative literature
Rutgers University

Zhu is an expert in transnational Chinese and Sinophone literary, film and media studies. She serves as the editor in chief of the academic journal Chinese Literature and Thought Today.



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