



New Faculty 2020

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Art & Art History / Emergent Digital Practices

Katherine Hollenbach

Assistant Professor

Kate holds an MFA from UCLA Design Media Arts and a BS in computer science and engineering from MIT. She was formerly director of design and computation at Oblong Industries and previously taught at the School of Design at DePaul University in Chicago. Her art practice examines critical issues in user interface and user experience design, with a focus on user habits, data collection and surveillance.

Art & Art History

Sarah Magnatta

Assistant Professor

Sarah has taught for the University of Denver in various capacities, and we are happy to welcome her now as a tenure-track assistant professor. She received her MA from the University of Denver and her PhD from The Ohio State University. She researches and teaches topics in contemporary art through global perspectives; she is especially interested in challenging art historical and museum hegemonies to further decolonize the field. Her current work focuses on artists in the Tibetan diaspora.

Art & Art History

Dean Sobel

Associate Professor of the Practice
of Art History and Museum Studies

With over 30 years experience as a museum director and curator, Dean will lead the museum studies program for the School of Art and Art History. During his career, Dean has been the director and chief curator at the Aspen Art Museum and Milwaukee Art Museum. More famously, he was the founding director of Denver's acclaimed Clyfford Still Museum. In addition to museum studies classes, he will also share his expertise on Modernism and Abstract Expressionism with our students.

Center for World Languages & Cultures

Stefan DuBois

Teaching Assistant Professor

Stefan received his doctorate in Iberian linguistics from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where his research focused on language attitudes toward L2 use of colloquial language. He most recently taught Spanish at Harris-Stowe State University, an HBCU in St. Louis, Missouri.

Center for World Languages & Cultures

Mark Pleiss

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Mark completed a PhD in contemporary peninsular Spanish literature at CU Boulder. He previously taught at St. Olaf College and served as lead coordinator at CU Boulder's CTL and CU's Culture and Languages Across the Curriculum Program. He has published on parody, affect, and the absurd in contemporary Spanish narrative and on teacher observation and consultation protocols in higher ed. His recent book, "April Warnings," was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award.

Communication Studies

Kalemba Kizito

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Kalemba earned his PhD in communication at the University of Memphis in 2019, with his dissertation, "Borders as Documents of Violence: Colonial Cartography and The Epidermal Border." He has taught at Ohlone College, California State University East Bay, University of Memphis and Whitman College. His research focus is in critical rhetoric, with teaching experience across a range of courses, including rhetoric and intercultural communication.

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Communication Studies

Summer Preston

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Summer earned her PhD in communication studies at Arizona State University in 2019. She has taught at University of Northern Colorado, Arizona State University and Phoenix College. Her research expertise is in critical health communication, and her dissertation was titled, “Bearing the Weight of Healthism: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Women’s Experiences with Exercise, Health, & Body Image in the Gym.” Summer’s teaching experience covers a variety of modalities and topics, including small group, health and nonverbal communication.

Communication Studies

Cody Walizer

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Cody is a DU alum and a current DU doctoral candidate, preparing to defend his dissertation, “#TakeAKnee: A Rhetorical Criticism of the NFL Anthem Protests,” this fall. He has taught at DU, Metropolitan State University of Denver and Regis University, including courses in public speaking, interpersonal communication and dialogue. He has been an active competitor and coach with DU’s debate team for the past nine years and is a trusted leader in the debate community.

Economics

John Nicolarsen

Teaching Assistant Professor

John previously taught economics at Sarah Lawrence College and New York University. His research interests include economic theory and methodology, ecological economics and political ecology, law and economics, the history of economic thought, public sector economics, and data science and economics.

Economics

Yeo Yoon

Assistant Professor

Yeo joined the economics faculty after completing his PhD at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Yeo teaches courses in macroeconomics and monetary theory. His research focuses on the evolution of financial systems, the money creation process and corporate financialization.

Emergent Digital Practices

Jeremy Billauer

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Jeremy recently graduated with an MFA from DU in emergent digital practices focusing specifically on multiperson interactive installation and speculative technologies. Inspired by the effortless and innate influence of natural systems, his research includes creating work with an intention to foster empathetic connection for participants in interpersonal and intrapersonal capacities.

English & Literary Arts

Patricia Cottrell

Assistant Professor

Patty's teaching interests include creative writing prose, queer literature, states of ambiguity and non-human subjects. They are the author of "Sorry to Disrupt the Peace" (McSweeney's). Their work has appeared in publications like Granta, BuzzFeed, The Black Warrior Review, and most recently in the Pets anthology (NY Tyrant). Currently, they are guest-editing a queer fiction issue of McSweeney's Quarterly. They hold an MFA in writing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Languages & Literatures

Polina Dimova

Assistant Professor

Polina previously taught at Vanderbilt University and Oberlin College. Her research centers on synesthesia, with a particular focus on Russian contributions bridging the fields of music history and performance, art, psycholinguistics, literature and cognitive science. A 2019-20 ACLS fellow, Polina presently is finalizing her monograph, which is under contract with Penn State University Press.

Media, Film & Journalism Studies

Johnny Ramirez

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Johnny received his PhD in education with a specialization in race and ethnic studies at UCLA Graduate School of Education and a master of arts in Chicanx studies at California State University, Northridge. As an activist-scholar, Johnny is currently working collaboratively with Denver's Gang Rescue And Support Project (GRASP) to develop Critical Participatory Action Research (CPAR) projects focused on hip-hop youth interventions and positive youth development outcomes of trauma-informed Indigenous ways of youth healing and empowerment.

Music

Sean Friar

Assistant Professor

An award-winning composer/pianist, Sean's works range from traditional ensembles to a junk-car percussion concerto. He has received commissions from the LA Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic and other major ensembles worldwide. He holds a PhD in music composition (Princeton University) and undergraduate degrees in music and psychology (UCLA).

Music

Gillian Gower

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Gillian is a musicologist and medievalist specializing in the cultural history of England and Scotland. Her current book is “Music and Queenship in Medieval England.” She holds a PhD in musicology (UCLA), MA in music (City University of New York) and BA in writing seminars (Johns Hopkins University).

Music

Richard Harris

Assistant Professor

Richard has been a regular guest with renowned orchestras in the United States. He has performed in Broadway orchestras and recorded with stars from Sting to Snoop Dogg to Luciano Pavarotti. He also is a founding member of Decoda. His degrees are from the Royal Academy of Music and Indiana University.

Political Science

Randolph Wagner

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Randy has moved to the political science department from the Sturm College of Law, where he was director of strategic initiatives and coordinated academic advising, assessment and accreditation reporting and, with Associate Dean Catherine Smith, developed a robust pipeline program serving undergraduate, high school and middle school students from groups underrepresented in law school and the legal profession. Randy is director of the socio-legal studies program at DU.

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Sociology & Criminology

Rachel Lautenschlager

Assistant Professor

Rachel received her PhD in 2020 from the University of Miami. Her research draws on diverse data sources to evaluate how racial, ethnic and class inequalities are produced and reproduced in the criminal justice system, particularly during the stage of policing. Additionally, Rachel studies how recent developments in the law shape on-the-ground policing practices.

Theatre

Ryan Conarro

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Ryan is an interdisciplinary artist who creates multiplatform story-sharing experiences, with particular focus on working collaboratively to amplify voices that have been silenced by racial and cultural hegemony. His practice includes documentary performance; creative placemaking and civic engagement; devising original work; audio production; and Queer performance.

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Biological Sciences

Jonathan Velotta

Assistant Professor

Jon was an NIH postdoctoral fellow at the University of Montana. His research combines evolutionary biology, ecology and physiology to study adaptation to high altitude.

Biological Sciences

Ann Wehman

Assistant Professor

Ann was most recently faculty at the Rudolf Virchow Center of the University of Würzburg. She uses advanced molecular and cellular techniques to study release extracellular vesicles that carry signals to alter development or disease response. This research could also lead to new strategies to monitor or influence disease severity.

Chemistry & Biochemistry

Brady Worrell

Assistant Professor

Brady previously held a postdoctoral research associate position at the University of Colorado Boulder. His research interests focus on the invention of new materials with practical applications including novel polymers, materials and light-induced reactions. His projects will be collaborative, entrepreneurial and directed toward commercialization.

Mathematics

Eleanor Dannenberg

Teaching Assistant Professor

Ellie was previously a visiting assistant professor of mathematics at Pomona College. Her mathematical interests include circle packings and geometric structures on surfaces as well as mathematics outreach to middle and high school students.

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Mathematics

Sabine Lang

Teaching Assistant Professor

Sabine previously worked as a graduate student instructor at the University of Utah. Her thesis topic was in representation theory, but she is also interested in mathematics education. In particular, she is eager to work on creating more inclusive classrooms.

Mathematics

Kang Lu

Visiting Assistant Professor

Kang obtained a PhD from the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Purdue University, Indianapolis. His current research is focused on the interaction between representation theory, quantum algebras and integrable systems.

Daniels College of Business

Accountancy

Steven Petrie

Teaching Assistant Professor

Steve brings to the University of Denver 30 years of accounting experience, the last 20 years helping companies maneuver through troubled financial times. Having retired after 17 years as chief operating officer and partner of an opportunistic investment company, Steve desires to share his real-world experiences with the students of DU, hoping to better prepare them as they begin their careers.

Graduate School of Professional Psychology

Management

Charles Dhanaraj

Professor

Charles is the new chair of the Department of Management, and the Evelyn & Jay G. Piccinati Endowed Chair in teaching excellence. He comes to Daniels from Temple University's Fox School of Business, where he was the H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest Professor of Strategy and the executive director of Translational Research Center. Prior to that, he was a faculty member at IMD in Switzerland, Indiana University and Temasek Polytechnic in Singapore.

Professional Psychology

Kathryn Barrs

Clinical Associate Professor

Katy worked within the Department of Veteran Affairs Healthcare System for about 10 years, focusing on psychological assessment and trauma before returning to GSPP in 2016 to create the Sturm Specialty in Military Psychology. She is involved with supervising and educating students within the military specialty.

Professional Psychology

Travis Heath

Visiting Clinical Associate Professor

Travis is visiting as an associate professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He previously worked as a clinician, researcher and taught classes at Pepperdine University. His fields of expertise focus on addiction, relationships, therapeutic change, psychopathology, sports psychology, communication, and sex and gender.

Graduate School of Professional Psychology

Professional Psychology

Laurie Ivey

Clinical Associate Professor

Laurie worked as director of behavioral health at University of Colorado's Swedish Family Medicine Residency, as well as holding clinical faculty appointments at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Her research and publications are in the area of primary care and integrated primary care.

Graduate School of Social Work

Social Work

Sarah Bexell

Clinical Associate Professor

Before assuming this role, Sarah held positions within GSSW and the Institute for Human-Animal Connection where she is director of humane education. Prior to DU, she worked for the U.S. and China for the conservation of nature. Her research includes evaluating humane and sustainability education to support the health and well-being of humans, other species and the natural world.

Social Work

Amity Good

Clinical Assistant Professor

As an alumna of GSSW, Amity spent 20 years in clinical practice promoting social justice and wellness for families within the health care system. Amity's research and teaching interests are in best clinical practices in pediatric health care, trauma-informed care, pediatric caregiver stress, health disparities of marginalized groups and sustainable resiliency of interdisciplinary providers.

Social Work

Erin Harrop

Assistant Professor

Erin's research is informed by six years' experience as a medical social worker.

Erin's research focuses on the intersections of mental and physical health, specifically regarding eating disorders, substance abuse, patient-provider communication and weight stigma. Erin aims to increase representation of marginalized individuals in eating disorder treatment and research.

Social Work

Christie Moore

Assistant Professor of the Practice
of Social Work

Prior to joining GSSW, Christie spent several years as an adjunct faculty member in higher education. As a licensed clinical social worker, Christie's professional social work experience has largely focused on at-risk populations and integrated care. In addition to clinical work, she has agency-management and program-development experience.

Social Work

Lisa Reyes Mason

Associate Professor

Lisa studies and teaches at the intersection of climate change and social justice. Her work is highly interdisciplinary and community-engaged. Lisa co-edited the book "People and Climate Change: Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Social Justice." She also co-leads the social work profession's grand challenge to create social responses to a changing environment.

Graduate School of Social Work

Social Work

Sophia Sarantakos

Assistant Professor

Sophia's work aims to facilitate the reduction of the size, scope and power of the prison-industrial complex. Their current research focuses on the decision-making processes of prosecutors deemed "progressive," and how these actors may or may not be conceptualizing risk and need differently from their traditional counterparts.

Social Work

Kaipeng Wang

Assistant Professor

Prior to joining GSSW, Kaipeng spent three years as an assistant professor at Texas State University School of Social Work. Kaipeng's research interests include health and mental health disparities among older adults, immigrant and minority health, and quantitative research methods.

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

International Studies

Lilian Chimuma

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Lilian earned her doctorate from the research methods and statistics program at the University of Denver in spring 2020. She has vast teaching experience in quantitative methods coupled with a strong quantitative background. Her research interests center on critical methodologies including culturally sensitive, Indigenous, and equitable research and evaluation methods.

International Studies

Sachin Desai

Teaching Assistant Professor

Sachin has developed and taught a wide variety of quantitative courses over the past 16 years in previously held teaching positions at DU, first at Daniels and then at Korbel. His myriad quantitative interests include the application of analytics in several domains, statistical computing, econometrics and financial modeling.

International Studies

Kara Neu

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Kara has been an adjunct in the international studies school since graduating from Korbel with her PhD in 2018. Her research focuses on civil-military relations and especially military political intervention during protests and its impact on democracy.

Public Policy

Naazneen Barma

Associate Professor

Naazneen is a political scientist whose areas of expertise include economic development and institutional reform, peace building, foreign aid and the evolution of global liberalism. Previously, she was associate professor of national security affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School School, and prior to that, she was a development practitioner at the World Bank.

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Public Policy

Hinckley Jones-Sanpei

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Hinckley joins us from Brigham Young University where she taught public ethics, applied statistics and public policy courses. She is passionate about public policy and developing political communities. Her research interests are in public ethics—prioritizing an ethics of care over traditional distributive and rights-based justice models—and program evaluation.

Morgridge College of Education

Counseling Psychology

Hannah Koch

Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor

Hannah earned her bachelor's degree with honors at the University of Chicago in psychology and biological sciences and her doctorate at the University of Denver's Graduate School of Professional Psychology with a focus area in couples therapy and systems theory. Hannah is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Denver teaching graduate-level courses including couples therapy.

Counseling Psychology

Joseph Johnson

Clinical Assistant Professor

Joe holds a PhD in counselor education from the University of Florida, an MA in counselor education from Western Michigan University, and a BA in business from Saginaw Valley State University. He is a highly regarded educator and international speaker on unleashing individual purpose and social justice. Joe's book, "The College Kids," is the only bilingual book in the country about college for elementary students.

Educational Leadership & Policy Studies

Jayson Richardson

Professor

Jayson received his BA in mathematics education from Purdue University, his MS in curriculum and instruction from Indiana University, and his PhD in philosophy in education policy and administration from the University of Minnesota. He is the director of the University Council for Educational Administration Center for the Advanced Study in Technology Leadership (CASTLE). Additionally, he serves as the editor of the journal of educational administration.

Library & Information Science

Spencer Acadia

Clinical Assistant Professor

Spencer holds a PhD in sociology from the University of North Texas, an MA in psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, an MLS in library science and a BA in psychology. Spencer's research includes libraries as dysfunctional organizations and workplaces and digital sociology in LIS. Spencer's second book, "Library and Information Studies for Arctic Social Sciences and Humanities," is published by Routledge and will be released in December 2020.

School Psychology

Korrie Allen

Clinical Assistant Professor

Korrie received her undergraduate degree in psychology and sociology from the University of Notre Dame and her doctorate in psychology from St. John's University. She was an associate professor of pediatrics at Eastern Virginia Medical School and founded Innovative Psychological Solutions. She received the Outstanding Research in Counseling Award from the American Education Research Association and the Distinguished Alumni Award from St. John's University.

Morgridge College of Education

Teaching & Learning Science

Amy McDiarmid

Clinical Assistant Professor

Amy received her doctorate from the University of Denver and is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. She worked as a behavior specialist through the CDE. She worked as a school psychologist with DPS and is currently a practitioner. Amy is a member of the National Association of School Psychologists, American Psychological Association and Colorado Society of School Psychologists.

Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

Computer Science

Sanchari Das

Tenure Line Assistant Professor

Sanchari has recently obtained her PhD in security informatics from Indiana University Bloomington. She also worked as information security engineer at American Express. Her teaching and research interests include cybersecurity, usable privacy and security.

Computer Science

Saúl Blanco Rodriguez

Teaching Assistant Professor

Saúl obtained his PhD in mathematics from Cornell University. Prior to joining DU, he held the positions of visiting assistant professor and lecturer at DePaul University and at Indiana University Bloomington. His teaching and research interests are in combinatorics, discrete mathematics, machine learning and theoretical computer science.

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Ali Arab

Research Assistant Professor

Ali obtained his PhD in industrial engineering from the University of Houston. Prior to joining DU, he held positions with the World Bank in Washington D.C., and Protiviti, the global management consulting arm of Robert Half International in New York City. His teaching and research interests include blockchain for smart grid applications, risk management, system resilience and operations research.

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Kumar Ghosh

Research Assistant Professor

Kumar obtained his PhD in theoretical physics from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany. Prior to joining DU, he was a postdoctoral researcher at Purdue University. His teaching and research interests are in quantum computing, machine learning, theoretical physics and quantum chemistry.

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Prachi Sharma

Teaching Assistant Professor

Prachi obtained her PhD from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in electrical engineering. Prior to joining DU, she was a lecturer in Electrical, Computer, & Energy Engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her teaching and research interests are in the areas of nanomaterial-based UV photodetectors, VLSI and IC design and fabrication.

Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Zhihui Zhu

Assistant Professor

Zhihui obtained his PhD from the Colorado School of Mines. Prior to joining DU, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Mathematical Institute for Data Science, Johns Hopkins University. Zhihui's teaching and research interests are in data science, machine learning, optimization and signal processing.

Mechanical & Materials Engineering

Rachel Horenstein

Teaching Assistant Professor

Rachel recently obtained her PhD from Northeastern University in mechanical engineering. She also holds BS and MS degrees in biomedical engineering, from Boston University and the University of Southern California, respectively. Her teaching and research interests are in biomechanics and mechanical engineering.

Sturm College of Law

Law

David Cleveland

Visiting Professor of the Practice of Law

David received his JD from Georgetown University Law Center and is the dean and professor of law at Valparaiso University Law School. He is joining us this year as a visiting professor of the practice in the Lawyering Process Program, where he brings extensive experience and enthusiasm for teaching lawyering process to students.

Law

Christopher Engle–Newman

Visiting Assistant Professor of the
Practice of Law

Chris received his JD from DU's Sturm College of Law in 2015 and is excited for an appointment as a visiting assistant professor of the practice of law in the legal externship program. Chris has worked extensively over the last few years with the Bar Success program both as a writing coach and by providing guidance to students taking the bar exam.

Law

Jenipher Jones

Visiting Clinical Teaching Fellow

Jenipher received her JD from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and will be a visiting clinical teaching fellow in the Civil Rights Clinic. Jenipher's focus and expertise include complex civil and human rights litigation as well as state and federal civil and human rights impact litigation involving employment discrimination, law enforcement misconduct, prison litigation and voting rights.

Law

Lois Lupica

Visting Professor of the Practice of Law

Lois received her JD from Boston University School of Law and was a recent Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Melbourne in Australia. In her appointment as a visiting professor of the practice of law, Lois will teach and launch an associated program in Legal Innovation during the spring 2021 academic term.

Sturm College of Law

Law

Hans Meyer

Visiting Professor of Law

Hans received his JD from DU's Sturm College of Law in 2006. As a visiting professor of law, he looks forward to co-leading the Immigration Law & Policy Clinic and contributing in the Criminal Defense Clinic.

University College

University College

Molly Smith

Teaching Assistant Professor

Molly is the academic director for the Organizational Leadership and Strategic Human Resources programs at University College and a teaching assistant professor. She attended the University of Denver as a Boettcher Scholar, earning a BA in communication and an MBA. In addition to her MBA, she holds a master of education and organizational performance from Colorado State University and a PhD in curriculum and instruction from the University of Denver.





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