



# New Faculty 2021

English & Literary Arts

### **Sheila Carter-Tod**

*Associate Professor*

Sheila is the Executive Director of the Writing Program. She formerly served as director of curricular and pedagogical development in Virginia Tech's College Access Collaborative program. Her research/teaching/ service/ outreach focuses on writing program administration, race and rhetoric(s), composition theory, and writing pedagogy. She earned a bachelor's in English from Virginia Tech, a master's in English from Radford University, and a doctorate in English Education from Virginia Tech.

Center for World Languages & Cultures

### **Virginie Cassidy**

*Teaching Associate Professor*

Virginie was an Associate Professor of French at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse where she chaired the Other World Languages section in the department of Global Cultures & Languages. Her current research areas include approaches to the teaching and learning of languages, curriculum design, and French for specific purposes.

Sociology & Criminology

### **Jessica Garrick**

*Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor*

Jessica previously held a faculty position in the Sociology Department at Southern Methodist University. Her research seeks to understand whether and how laws that are meant to provide protections and resources for disadvantaged groups (e.g., "sanctuary" policies) actually do so.

Sociology & Criminology

### **Alana Inlow**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Alana received her PhD in Sociology from Washington State University in 2021. Their research examines how aspects of the built environment, gentrification, and the political economy affect neighborhood crime. Professor Inlow also specializes in the use of quantitative special methods.

Communication Studies

### **Youllee Kim**

*Assistant Professor*

Youllee completed her PhD in Communication Arts and Sciences at Penn State University this spring. She studies health communication, public health campaigns, social determinants of health, and community-based health interventions. Her dissertation was entitled, "Motivating health activism: Investigating the role of hope and neighborhood-related perceptions in solving neighborhood health issues."

Psychology

### **Kamilah Legette**

*Assistant Professor*

Kamilah received her PhD from UNC, Greensboro and was a postdoctoral fellow at UNC Chapel Hill. Her interdisciplinary research investigates individual and institutional racial biases in teachers and schools, the impact of these biases on youth, and the implications of these biases on teachers' curricular placement and discipline decisions.

Center for World Languages & Cultures

### **Polina Maksimovich**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Polina previously held a lectureship at Northwestern University and Loyola University Chicago where she designed and taught courses in composition, language, and the humanities. Her research focuses on proficiency-oriented instructional design, digital approaches to the humanities, and the intersection of politics and performance in contemporary Russia.

Music

### **Heidi Melton**

*Assistant Professor*

Soprano Heidi Melton has performed across the globe with major symphony orchestras (New York Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra) and opera companies (Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Bayreuth Festival, Oper Frankfurt, Deutsche Oper Berlin). She also is featured on recordings from Deutsche Grammophon, Naxos, and Musicales Actes.

History

### **Trishula Patel**

*Assistant Professor*

Trishula has a BA and MA in history from the University of Pennsylvania, an MS in journalism from Columbia University, and received her PhD in African history from Georgetown University in 2021. Her published and upcoming works include the history of cricket in Zimbabwe, Indian diplomats in Central Africa, Mahatma Gandhi's legacy outside the subcontinent, and xenophobia and nativism in 21st century Africa.

Psychology

### **Nicholas Perry**

*Research Assistant Professor*

Nicholas completed his doctoral degree in clinical psychology at the University of Utah. He completed his clinical internship and an NIH T32-funded postdoctoral fellowship in HIV prevention research at Brown University. His research focuses on the intersection of sexual and gender minority health and close relationships, particularly romantic relationships.

Art & Art History

### **Jing Qin**

*Phipps Visiting Scholar/Artist,  
Residence in Painting*

Jing received her MFA from the University of Tennessee and her BFA from Sichuan University, China. She uses painting, drawing, and installation to explore surrealism, cultural identities, and human narratives. Exhibiting nationally and internationally, she was an artist in residence at Vermont Studio Center and has been featured in New American Paintings and Friend of the Artist.

Communication Studies

### **Christopher Tietsort**

*Assistant Professor*

Cris earned his PhD in Human Communication Studies at Arizona State University in the spring. His research focuses on compassion at work, discursive leadership, the communication of emotions in organizations, and transformative pedagogy. His dissertation was entitled, "Discursive leadership, expressed suffering, and compassionate communication at work."

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## College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Languages, Literatures & Cultures

### **Michael Toole**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Michael has previously taught Japanese language and culture at Macalester College and the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His research interests include Japanese literature, visual culture, social justice approaches to language pedagogy, and queer theory. His current project explores how representations of queer sexualities and bodies shaped visibility in early modern Japan.

Political Science

### **Alena Wolflink**

*Assistant Professor*

Alena is a political theorist of democratic agency and identity. Her research examines the construction of narratives about democracy and citizenship through analyses of the undercurrents of race, gender, and sexuality discourses in the language of political economy. She has also taught at Beloit College and at CSU Stanislaus.

Emergent Digital Practices

### **Jullian Young**

*Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor*

Jullian is a multidisciplinary artist who works with various tools including 3D modeling and digital fabrication, data visualization, interactive technologies, algorithmic processes, animation and techniques in video art. Her work engages with the critical dialogue surrounding networked systems, and our participation as a species with the environment at large. Jullian received her MFA in Emergent Digital Practices at the University of Denver.

## Daniels College of Business

Management

### **Andy Cohen**

*Visiting Professor of the  
Practice of Management*

Andy's teaching and research is in the domains of organizational behavior, leadership, and human resource management. A founding partner of August Third Leadership Partners, he has 10 years of faculty and administrative experience at Georgetown, George Washington, and American Universities. He holds a PhD from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Brown University.

Accountancy

### **Beth Flambures**

*Assistant Professor of the Practice  
of Accountancy*

Beth is an Executive PhD student at DU (ABD) and her research interests include accounting, diversity, and barriers to entry. She has a MAcc from USC, an MPA from CU Denver, and a BSBA from Creighton University. Beth has more than 20 years of business experience specializing in accounting and family businesses.

Finance

### **Michael Jacobs**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Michael has extensive experience with Fortune 500 companies and Big Four Accounting firms culminating as Treasurer of First Data Corporation. He holds an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and a BS from Drexel University. Michael is a CPA, CFA charter holder and has a CTP certificate.

Business Information & Analytics

**Stefani Langehennig**

*Assistant Professor of the  
Practice of Business Analytics*

Stefani holds a PhD and MA in Political Science and Quantitative Methodology from the University of Colorado, and a BA in Government from the University of Texas at Austin. Stefani's consulting, research, training, and teaching experience in data science extends across the globe in various industries and applications including public policy.

Business Information & Analytics

**Kerry-Ann  
Lewis Pearcy**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Kerry-Ann has a PhD in Research Methods and Statistics from DU and an MS in Social Policy from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. She has over 17 years of experience as a program advisor and consultant for multiple international agencies including the US Agency for International Development. Kerry-Ann has been teaching statistics and analytics for over 5 years.

Entrepreneurship & Venture Management

**Neil Pollard**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Neil has taught business, management, marketing, entrepreneurship and product design/engineering courses and is passionate about helping entrepreneurs find the right path to their business goals. He supports entrepreneurial thought and action along the front range of Colorado by serving as a small business consultant for the Aurora-South Metro SBDC and serving on the board of a couple of different entrepreneurial organizations in the Denver Metro area.

Business Information & Analytics

**Holly Roof**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Holly has a PhD in Research Methods and Statistics and an MBA from DU and an MA in Gifted and Talented Education from UNC. Holly has professional experience in educational assessment and a passion for empowering students who want to make a difference in the world we live in.

Professional Psychology

**Erica Adkins**

*Assistant Professor*

Erica is an Army Reserve Psychologist and runs a group mental health practice in Colorado Springs. Her clinical focus is on treating traumatic stress reactions and disorders. Her research interests include women's experiences in the military, interpersonal violence in military families, and the use of yoga in healing trauma.

Professional Psychology

**Travis Heath**

*Associate Professor*

Travis is Co-Director of the International Disaster Psychology: Trauma and Global Mental Health program as well as the Director of DEI for GSPP. He practices narrative therapy and has interest in how therapists can shift from a multicultural approach to psychotherapy to one of cultural democracy.

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## Graduate School of Professional Psychology

Professional Psychology

### **John Holmberg**

*Research Associate Professor*

John completed graduate work at Baylor University and fellowship at the Yale Child Study Center. At CU Denver, he worked for evidence-based preventive interventions that impact risks and child resiliency. John will focus on student training, ethics, and developing father-targeted research and clinical interventions that impact child and family outcomes.

Professional Psychology

### **Tiamo Katsonga-Phiri**

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Tiamo is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in Colorado, with a doctoral degree from DePaul University in Chicago. Dr. Katsonga-Phiri works as Director of the Trauma Disaster Recovery Clinic and facilitates the mental health for Survivors of torture program. She specializes in trauma therapy, immigrant mental health and child psychology.

Professional Psychology

### **Noelle Lefforge**

*Clinical Associate Professor*

Noelle is the Professional Psychology Clinic Director. She has extensive expertise, leadership, and scholarship in group psychotherapy, community mental health prevention and intervention, suicidality, and social justice promotion in professional psychology.

Professional Psychology

### **Margaret Ottley**

*Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor*

Margaret received her PhD and MA degree from Temple University in Sport and Exercise Psychology, another MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (WCU), and a BA degree from Spelman College in Child Development and Family Studies. She is a Certified Mental Performance Consultant and a National Certified Counselor.

Professional Psychology

### **Maria Vukovich**

*Research Assistant Professor*

Maria joins the International Disaster Psychology: Trauma & Global Mental Health Masters Program. She directs the CRC and serves as PI on projects for newcomers, torture survivors, and targeted violence prevention. Her research includes a Randomized Control Trial, cross-cultural measurement, and community-engaged studies in global and U.S. settings.

## Graduate School of Social Work

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. They aim to increase representation of multiply marginalized individuals in eating disorder treatment and research.

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## Graduate School of Social Work

Field Faculty

### **Emily Saltzman**

*Assistant Professor of the Practice  
of Social Work*

Emily organized for reproductive justice, HIV/AIDS advocacy, and built antiracist social work communities in NYC and Minneapolis. Most recently, she fostered liberatory spaces for LGBTQ+ folks in Jewish communities across the US and Canada. Emily's current research examines intersections of gender, queerness, white nationalism, and antisemitism.

Field Faculty

### **Michele Smith**

*Assistant Professor of the Practice  
of Social Work*

Michele spent 12 years in higher education and non-profit work. The non-profit work focused on women and teens in crisis, specifically related to mental health and domestic violence. Her current research interests are improving online pedagogy in higher education and evidence-based solutions-focused coaching.

## Josef Korbel School of International Studies

International Studies

### **Alvin Jason Camba**

*Assistant Professor*

Alvin received his PhD in sociology from Johns Hopkins University. He is also a faculty affiliate at the Climate Policy Lab at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, and a non-resident fellow at the Stratbase-Alberto Del Rosario Institute in the Philippines and the Paramadina Public Policy Institute in Indonesia.

Public Policy

### **Ajenai Clemmons**

*Assistant Professor*

Ajenai is a DU alumna. She researches policing inequality in democratic contexts and helped establish a Denver government agency monitoring police and sheriff internal affairs investigations. Ajenai served as policy director for a national association of state legislators and helped build multi-ethnic coalitions across the U.S. and Europe.

International Studies

### **Josiah Hatch**

*Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor*

Josiah is an international business lawyer with close to 50 years of experience in government service and private practice, concentrating in international finance, political economics, and security issues. He is acting degree director for Global Economic Affairs and teaches courses on political risk, corporate governance, and international investment.

International Studies

### **Abigail Kabandula**

*Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor*

Abigail is a Research Scientist at Pardee Center for International Futures. Her research focuses on global governance and human security in the African context, particularly the drivers of conflict and fragility; terrorism and prevention of violent extremism/countering violent extremism; and multilateral responses to crises and regional organization for peace and security.

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## Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Public Policy

### **Matthew Kazan**

*Associate Professor of the Practice of Public Policy*

Matt is an alumnus of the University of Denver and served for over a decade on the staff of the United States Senate Committee on Finance, from 2008 to 2019. During this time, Matt was involved in major health care legislation including the Affordable Care Act and other Medicare policy changes.

International Studies

### **Hilary Matfess**

*Assistant Professor*

Hilary is a Research Fellow at the Research on International Policy Implementation Lab, a Senior Associate (non-resident) at the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Africa Program, and a Fellow with the George Washington University Program on Extremism. Her research focuses on gender and political violence, particularly in Africa.

International Studies

### **Linda Mendez Barrientos**

*Assistant Professor*

Linda focuses on power asymmetries and inequality in the implementation of sustainability reforms. Her research has focused on California, South Africa, and Ecuador. At Korbel she'll be expanding her work on environmental justice to Colorado and Latin America.

## Morgridge College of Education

Teaching & Learning Sciences

### **William Anderson**

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

William's history includes teaching in Denver Public Schools for over a decade, and being an Adjunct Professor at Colorado College. He serves on the EdLoc Leadership Board and National Geographic Teacher Advisory Counsel. His interest areas include raciolinguistic ideologies and identity development.

Counseling Psychology

### **Clark Ausloos**

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Clark is a licensed school and clinical counselor and has extensive experience working with under-served populations. His scholarly foci include LGBQA+, trans and gender-expansive issues, and clinical best-practices with youth, adolescents, and families.

Counseling Psychology

### **Lisa Brownstone**

*Assistant Professor of the Practice of Psychology*

Lisa completed her PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill followed by her predoctoral clinical internship at Denver VA Medical Center and postdoctoral fellowship at Eating Disorder Care (EDCare) of Denver. Her areas of clinical and research specialization include disordered eating and body distress, LGBTQ+ health, anti-stigma, and trauma. She identifies as a social justice advocate psychologist and is passionate about non-value neutral practice.



Counseling Psychology

### **Kelly Gentry**

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Kelly's previous positions include adjunct instructor at Montclair State University and manager of career services and alumni relations at Mount Sinai. Kelly operates a private counseling practice and specializes in gender-based issues.

Counseling Psychology

### **Lindsay Harman**

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Lindsay is a former elementary and middle school counselor and counseling director at Berkeley County School District. She is passionate about the impact that school counselors have on the academic, career and social/emotional growth and development of PK-12 students. She is a National Certified Counselor and National Board-Certified Teacher.

Teaching & Learning Sciences

### **Samuel Kim**

*Assistant Professor*

Sam is a former associate professor at Texas Woman's University. His research interests include positive psychology, psychological measurement, bullying, and Korean American mental health. He was also a former president of the Korean American Coalition - DFW chapter and started his own YouTube channel (Joon & Dr. Sam).

Counseling Psychology

### **Sage Rian**

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Sage is a clinical mental health counselor, former school counselor, and former visiting assistant professor of practice at MCE. Their research interests include ecotherapy, nature and health, and neurodiversity in adults. Sage is a member of ASCA, ACA, and ACES.

Higher Education

### **D-L Stewart**

*Professor*

D-L has been faculty for 20 years at various institutions focused on the study of higher education with an emphasis on college students, history, and philosophy related to DEI. In addition to serving as 2021 president for the ASHE, D-L has worked with both ACPA and AERA.

Biological Sciences

### **Karen Krukowski**

*Assistant Professor*

Karen researches how the immune system regulates neuronal function in various states including healthy aging and traumatic brain injury. Karen will be teaching courses in aging and neuroimmunology.

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## College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Chemistry & Biochemistry

### **Melissa Pope**

*Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor*

Melissa is passionate about identifying student learning needs and cultivating their interests in chemistry. Her background includes experience in biotechnology research and work to support learning of first-generation students and students from under-represented groups.

Biological Sciences

### **Dhaval Vyas**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Dhaval has research expertise in animal behavior ranging from elephants to fall web worm and parasitic wasps. Dhaval's primary teaching focus is non-majors biology.

Biological Sciences

### **Sarah Willis**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Sarah has research expertise in exercise physiology and will be teaching in support of a new major and new clinical MS in exercise physiology.

## Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

Computer Science

### **Donald Dalton**

*Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor*

Don began teaching as an adjunct teaching for a telecommunication Master's program at DU's University College. In his work, his technical expertise included engineering wireless networks to developing analysis tools to measure network performance. As the tools became more sophisticated, the need for improved analytics led him to pursue his MS in Analytics. Mr. Dalton received a BS in Engineering Physics and MBA in Finance from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Master of Science in Analytics from Georgia Tech.

Computer Science

### **Wojciech Kossek**

*Visiting Teaching Associate Professor*

Wojciech holds a PhD in mathematics and a master's degree in Electrical Engineering. He joins the Computer Science department this fall as a Visiting Teaching Associate Professor after having taught at the University of Denver since January of 2019. He taught several courses for our Master of Science in Data Science program as well as for the Engineering and Mathematics Departments. He considers himself an educator and a problem solver. His teaching philosophy in a nutshell is: understand more, memorize less.

Mechanical & Materials Engineering

### **Graham Parkinson**

*Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor*

Graham is joining DU as a visiting teaching assistant professor. He is not new to Colorado having earned his BS in Chemical Engineering from CU Boulder. He then attended Georgia Tech where he earned his PhD in Materials Science and Engineering. He has worked as a research engineer and post-doctoral fellow for Wyonano and the University of Wyoming. He is also the co-founder and CEO of Atramento which developed award-winning microneedle patches for permanent tattoos.

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## Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

Mechanical & Materials Engineering

### **Moira Pryhoda**

*Research Postdoctoral Fellow*

Moira is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Center for Orthopedic Biomechanics. Her research interests are related to athlete injury prevention and performance, biomechanics of the shoulder joint, and concussion. She completed her PhD in Engineering at DU working in biomechanical assessments of balance for athletes with concussions. Moira also earned a BS in Chemistry from DU and an MS in Geochemistry from Mines. Her interests in sport biomechanics stem from her experiences competing in and coaching gymnastics and diving.

Computer Science

### **Ben Wander**

*Assistant Professor of the Practice of Computer Science*

Ben is a game developer with over a decade of industry experience. He has independently released the BAFTA-nominated sky city builder Airborne Kingdom and the historical narrative mystery A Case of Distrust. Prior to going indie, Ben worked at AAA studios Visceral Games and BioWare, and mobile houses XMG and EA Mobile.

## Sturm College of Law

Law

### **LaQunya Baker**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of the Practice of Law*

LaQunya has been fighting for the rights of those who find themselves tangled in the justice system for years. LaQunya attended the College of Charleston and studied Communications and African American Studies. LaQunya worked alongside the then United States House of Representatives Majority Whip, Jim Clyburn, as a community organizer in South Carolina. LaQunya was honored with the Presidential Legacy Award for Outstanding Public Service while for her participation in humanitarian efforts.

Law

### **Randy Robinson**

*Visiting Assistant Professor*

As a DU Law alumnus, Randy is excited to return to the law school as a visiting professor. Over the past several years, he has taught courses at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Law (formerly The John Marshall Law School). His scholarly agenda continues to focus on the intersection between technology, law, and individual privacy. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at DU as a student and later as a teaching fellow, and is excited by the opportunity to return to such a robust intellectual community.

Law

### **Colleen Scarola**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of the Practice of Law*

Colleen is the founder of Scarola Law, LLC which specializes in estate planning, probate and trust administration and business law and has more than a decade of legal experience representing individuals and businesses. Colleen has worked as a Career Consultant and as externship faculty. She established strong relationships with students, helping them reflect on their values and career goals, determine appropriate externships, and educated them on fundamental practice skills and knowledge.

Law

### **Sarah Schindler**

*Professor of Law and Maxine Kurtz Faculty Research Scholar*

Sarah is nationally recognized for her scholarship, which focuses on property, land use, local government, and sustainable development. Professor Schindler was awarded a prestigious Law and Public Affairs (LAPA) Fellowship from Princeton University, where she spent the 2016-17 academic year. She was also named as Pace Environmental Law Center's Distinguished Young Scholar of 2013.

Graduate Tax

**Sabrina Strand**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of the Practice of Taxation*

Prior to joining the Graduate Tax Program faculty, Sabrina has been in private practice since late 2015, focusing on civil and criminal tax controversy. Before entering private practice, she clerked for The Honorable Judge Paris at the U.S. Tax Court in Washington, D.C. Professor Strand received her Tax LLM from the Sturm of College Law in 2014 and was a student attorney in the Low Income Tax Clinic.

Law

**Zahra Takhshid**

*Assistant Professor*

Before joining DU, Zahra was the Lewis Fellow for Law Teaching and Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School. She teaches and writes about torts, contracts, privacy, social media, technology and the law. Part of her scholarship explores how to use tools from torts and contracts in resolving challenges with emerging technological developments.

Law Library

**Lewis Zimmerman**

*Assistant Professor and Head of Access Services, Westminster Law Library*

Lewis was previously at the State of Oregon Law Library as the sole reference librarian where he conducted legal research for the Oregon Judicial Department judges and staff. He received both his JD and MLS from the University of Illinois at Urbana.

Writing

**Russell Brakefield**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Russell received his MFA from the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program. For the last ten years, he has taught literature, creative writing, and composition, including four years at the University of Denver. His poetry has appeared in numerous publications, and he has been awarded over a dozen prizes and grants for his work.

Writing

**Veronica House**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Veronica holds an MFA from University of Maryland and a PhD from University of Texas at Austin. Before joining the University Writing Program, Veronica was the Faculty Coordinator of Community-Engaged Writing at the University of Colorado Boulder where she taught for the last six years. She is co-editor of the Community Literacy Journal and founding director of the Conference on Community Writing.

Writing

**Jesse Stommel**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

After earning his PhD from University of Colorado Boulder, Jesse held appointments at the University of Wisconsin and more recently at the University of Mary Washington, where he was the Director of Teaching and Learning Technologies. Jesse is the co-founder of Hybrid Pedagogy and Digital Pedagogy Lab, and he has co-authored three books and numerous articles on teaching.

University College

**Jeffrey Weide**

*Teaching Assistant Professor*

Jeff is a healthcare leader, project manager, educator, and leadership coach. By utilizing technology, analytics, training, and strategy, Jeff enhances an organization's abilities, workforce, and relationship with clients.

He is also an Air Force Veteran and educator for over a decade in healthcare, project management, business, and computer programs.





UNIVERSITY *of*  
DENVER