



UNIVERSITY OF  
DENVER

New Faculty 2025

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## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### Andie Anderson

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Center for World Languages & Cultures

Andie earned an MA in Spanish with a focus in Second Language Acquisition from the University of Cincinnati. She previously taught basic Spanish at the University of Cincinnati and has experience in both in-person and online settings. Her research has focused on incorporating game-based activities and assessments into language courses.

### Quinton Bosse

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Center for World Languages & Cultures

Quint earned his Master's from the University of Kentucky and previously held teaching positions at the University of Kentucky and the University of North Alabama in their foreign language departments. His teaching philosophy centers on the equal exploration of all francophone cultures along with the idea that language and culture are intrinsically linked.

### Joey Brink

Assistant Professor of the Practice  
Music

Joey Brink studied carillon at Yale University, Bok Tower Gardens in Florida, and the Royal Carillon School in Belgium. An award-winning performer and composer, he has released two albums for carillon, composed over thirty original works for carillon, and performed on over 100 carillons worldwide.



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## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### **Brandon Bruce**

Assistant Professor  
Theatre

Brandon Bruce (Assistant Professor, Theatre) is an award-winning theatre director, actor, playwright, sound designer, and fight choreographer. Brandon previously taught at Utah Tech University, University of Montevallo, and Grinnell College. Brandon's research interests include the "athletic" disciplines of Suzuki, Grotowski, and Michael Chekhov, as well as augmented reality performance.

### **Christopher Byrne**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Media, Film and Journalism Studies

### **Phillip Cabeen**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Languages, Literatures & Cultures



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## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### **Deborha Campbell**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Media, Film and Journalism Studies

### **Laura Frank**

Visiting Professor of the Practice  
Media, Film and Journalism Studies

### **Ana Gonzalez Barragan**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
School of Art & Art History



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## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### **Samantha Grabowska**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
School of Art & Art History

Dr. Sam Grabowska earned their PhD in architecture from the University of Michigan, with a cognate in cultural anthropology. Their art practice centers on sculpture and installation, exploring new materialism and the body's sensory relationship to the built environment.

### **Kacey Grauer**

Assistant Professor  
Anthropology

Kacey is an anthropological archaeologist who studies inequality and water access in Mesoamerica through community-engaged research. She earned her PhD from Northwestern University, and prior to joining DU, she was a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University.

### **Madoka Hammine**

Teaching Assistant Professor  
Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Madoka Hammine earned her PhD from University of Lapland in Finland and previously held a faculty position at Meio University in Okinawa Japan. Her research work includes language revitalization, Indigenous education and Indigenous studies in Asian contexts with a comparative lens with European contexts.



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## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### Andrew Johnson

Assistant Professor  
English

Andy earned his MFA from the University of Alabama and has previously taught at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He writes magical realist fiction.

### Ashlie Johnson

Teaching Assistant Professor  
Psychology

Ashlie earned her PhD in Applied Social and Health Psychology from Colorado State University and taught at Linfield University before coming to DU. She is passionate about accessible and inclusive teaching and her research centers on promoting positive body image among trans populations and disrupting weight stigma in healthcare.

### Andrew Kaplan

Assistant Professor  
English

Andrew earned their PhD from Emory University and is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of English. Their research traces the apocalyptic, messianic, and mystical logics in 20th-century Black poetics. Their work has been published or is forthcoming in journals such as Political Theology, The Comparatist, and Prose Studies.



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## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### Rezwan Masud

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Political Science

Rezwan is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Colorado, Boulder, whose research interests lie at the intersection of non-Western political thought and comparative politics. He previously held the position of Lecturer at the Department of International Relations at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Graduate Instructor of Record at the Department of Political Science at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He earned a "Best Should Teach" and a "Teaching Excellence" award at the University of Colorado, Boulder, for his commitment to advancing inclusive pedagogy.

### Brian Neal

Assistant Professor  
Music

Brian Neal, Emmy Award-winning trumpet virtuoso, former Principal Trumpet of the Miami City Ballet Orchestra and a longtime member of the renowned Dallas Brass. Celebrated for performances worldwide, Neal's artistry spans orchestral, solo, and chamber settings, while his dedication to education inspires young musicians across the globe.

### Hannah Paul

Assistant Professor  
Political Science

Hannah earned her PhD in Political Science from University of Colorado Boulder and previously held an assistant professor position at University of Missouri. At DU, she is contributing to the Political Science and CRES programs. Her research examines public opinion about forced migration, refugee political behavior, and women's political representation.



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## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### **Brian Perti**

Associate Professor  
Music

### **Abbey Peters**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

### **Annie Robinson**

Teaching Assistant Professor  
Center for World Languages & Cultures

Annie Robinson will earn her PhD in 2027 from Georgetown University in Spanish Literary and Cultural Studies. Before entering her career in higher education, she taught K-12 in Denver Public Schools. She researches contemporary cultural production in Colorado and Mexico, with an emphasis on the environmental humanities. She is passionate about community-engaged teaching, and has been involved with CCESL and DPFF while at DU in her previous position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Teaching.



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## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### Rocio Rubio Moiron

Teaching Assistant Professor  
Center for World Languages & Cultures

Rubio Moiron earned a PhD in Medieval Spanish Literature from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She previously served as Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor at the University of Denver, and as Assistant Professor at the Missouri Western State University.

### Bhavya Sinha

Assistant Professor  
Economics

Dr. Sinha earned her PhD in Economics from Colorado State University with a specialization in international economics, development economics, and political economy. Her scholarship focuses on the political economy of development in global value chains, analyzing the uneven development of labor with respect to capital and of developing countries with respect to developed countries.

### Zoe Smith

Assistant Professor  
Psychology

Dr. Smith earned her PhD in clinical psychology and focuses on culturally responsive mental health services. She works with Black and/or Latiné youth with ADHD and examines how systemic/interpersonal trauma effect youth. Dr. Smith uses community-based participatory action research methods. She is a statistical consultant and provides workshops on culturally responsive work.



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## College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### Roma Sur

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Media, Film and Journalism Studies

Sur is a filmmaker, with fourteen years of teaching scriptwriting and film production. Her works are on Amazon, NDTV, India, and on Apple TV +. She holds an MA in Film and Video Production from the University of Denver and is an MFA candidate at Emerson College.

### Tanika Vigil

Teaching Assistant Professor  
Sociology & Criminology



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## College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

### Calum Buchanan

Visiting Assistant Professor  
Mathematics

Calum is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics. He earned his PhD in mathematics from the University of Vermont. His research largely focuses on extremal and algebraic problems in graph theory but extends to other areas of combinatorics.

### Matthew Cross

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Geography & the Environment

### Jennifer Jones

Visiting Assistant Professor  
Mathematics



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## College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

### John McGuire

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Chemistry & Biochemistry

### Chase Meadors

Visiting Assistant Professor  
Mathematics

### Riva Riley

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Mathematics

Riva earned her PhD from the University of Cambridge and was previously a faculty member in the University Honors program at the University of Maryland. Her research focuses on a delightful little fish, Cory catfish, in which she discovered a novel tactile communication behavior.



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## College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

### **Sean Tierney**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Mathematics



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## College of Professional Studies

### Wendy Charles

Teaching Assistant Professor  
Health Informatics and Management

Wendy earned her PhD in Clinical Science with a specialty in Health Information Technology from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Her research focuses on digital health implementation and governance, specializing in blockchain for healthcare. She also teaches digital health and ethics at CU Denver and CU Anschutz.



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## Daniels College of Business

### Orkun Baycik

Assistant Professor  
Business Information and Analytics

Orkun earned his PhD in decision sciences and engineering systems at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He was previously a clinical assistant professor at the Boston University Questrom School of Business. His research and teaching interests are in analytics, operations and supply chain management, focusing on both business and societal problems.

### Deepika Chhillar

Assistant Professor  
Management

Deepika earned her PhD in business administration from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Gies College of Business. Her research is in human resource management, sustainability and digital governance, with a focus on the implications of AI. Prior to academia, Deepika worked across industry and consulting in leadership development and analytics.

### Arkadiy Lenchak

Assistant Professor  
Finance

Arkadiy earned PhD in finance at the University of Alberta. His research is in corporate governance, information disclosure and firm valuation, with a focus on the effects on financial market efficiency. Arkadiy's work highlights the relevance of language as a source of insight into firm behavior and investor reaction.



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## Daniels College of Business

### Sheryl Moriarty

Assistant Professor of the Practice  
Accountancy

Sheryl earned her Executive PhD from DU. Sheryl has over 30 years of business experience in financial, accounting and consulting positions for KPMG, BDO, RSM and others. The focus of her 20-year consulting career was to advise the office of the chief financial officer on an array of matters.



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## Graduate School of Professional Psychology

### **Danielle Jackman**

Associate Professor

Danielle Jackman (she/her) earned her PhD as a Developmental Scientist at Colorado State University. She served over 19 years in various capacities as the main lead for building engagement, advocacy, and belonging. Her research interests integrate culture, intersectionality, and belongingness across the developmental gamut.

### **Joshua Francis**

Visiting Assistant Professor

### **Alyssa Oland**

Associate Professor

Alyssa Oland, Ph.D. earned her Ph.D. in Clinical and Developmental Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and earned a post-doctoral master's degree in Clinical Psychopharmacology from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She has worked in the PsyD program since 2021 and is active with the Colorado Psychological Association.



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## Graduate School of Professional Psychology

### Talia Thompson

Assistant Professor

Talia earned her PhD in Child, Family, and School Psychology from the University of Denver and previously held a faculty position at CU School of Medicine. She is a licensed psychologist specializing in child and adolescent behavioral health. Her research is rooted in community-engaged and strengths-based methodologies to advance meaningful clinical outcomes for children and families.



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## Graduate School of Social Work

### Marianne Anderson

Assistant Professor of the Practice

Marianne Anderson is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and holds an MSW degree from the University of Denver and a BSW degree with a minor in Psychology from Colorado State University. Marianne has dedicated her professional life to improving the well-being of children and families navigating complex systems such as foster care, adoption and the juvenile justice system. Marianne's passion and commitment as an MSW Field Instructor for 2 decades prepared the next generation of social workers, fostered their professional development, ensured the delivery of high-quality care and promoted social justice. Marianne has been a GSSW Adjunct Faculty Field Liaison since 2021 and supervised liaisons during the 24-25 academic year.

### Colleen Fisher

Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and  
Inclusion and Professor

Colleen Fisher earned her PhD from Washington University in St. Louis. She will be joining GSSW as Professor, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and lead the Global Certificate. Her research focuses on global health equity in low-resource contexts, anti-oppressive/anti-extractive research approaches, intervention research, and global social work education.

### Shetal Vohra-Gupta

Associate Professor

Shetal Vohra-Gupta earned her PhD from the University of Houston. She will join GSSW as Associate Professor and Executive Director of Equity Labs. Her research draws on critical theories, intersectionality, and socio-ecological frameworks and integrates policy analysis, community engagement, and clinical insight to advance justice-centered



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## Graduate School of Social Work

### Nora Welden

#### Assistant Professor of the Practice

Nora Welden is a University of Denver GSSW Alumni who graduated in 2008. Nora held a longstanding position at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Denver for twelve years and worked as a clinical social worker in both the inpatient medical setting as well as in the community completing home visits with veterans as a member of an interdisciplinary primary care team. Nora joined the Field Team in 2021 and is entering her fifth year as a Field Liaison for Denver Campus students. Nora expanded her role on the Field Team as a Field Liaison Supervisor in 2025 and will continue to serve the team in that capacity, as well as opening field agencies, and doing field advising in the year ahead.



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## Josef Korbel School of Global and Public Affairs

### Carol Spahn

Assistant Professor of the Practice  
International Studies



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## Daniel F. Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

### **Ryan Dunagan**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Computer Science

### **Ahmed Hamed**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Computer Science

Dr. Ahmed Abdeen Hamed, visiting professor of computer science at the University of Denver. He holds a PhD in computer science and Biomedical Informatics from University of Vermont. He is currently teaching data science courses for graduate and undergraduate cohorts. His research integrates computational medicine methods and clinical data to advance drug discovery and cancer research.

### **Ismail Hossain**

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Computer Science



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## Daniel F. Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

### Sydney Petrehn

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Computer Science

Sydney earned her Master of Engineering in Cybersecurity from the University of Colorado: Colorado Springs. She previously worked as a Data Scientist with the Federal Government supporting digital transformation, cloud security and data-centric decision making.

### Tania Taami

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor  
Computer Science

### Benji Xie

Assistant Professor  
Computer Science

Benjamin designs techniques for equitable uses of data and AI in computer science classrooms and local communities. Previously, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow with Stanford University's Graduate School of Education, Human-Centered AI Institute, and McCoy Center for Ethics in Society. He received his PhD in information science from the University of Washington, Seattle.



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## Sturm College of Law

### David Akerson

Visiting Assistant Professor of the Practice

### John Hathaway

*Graduate Teaching Assistant*

John graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2016. He has represented immigrants in removal defense and related litigation before immigration, state, federal, and appellate courts, focusing on immigration-criminal law. His practice has focused on the intersection of immigration and criminal law.

### Karey James

Associate Professor

Professor Karey L. James joins the faculty with over a decade of teaching experience in legal education. Formerly Chair of the Paralegal and Criminal Justice Programs at the Community College of Denver, she designs inclusive curricula, leads statewide initiatives, and mentors underrepresented students as they prepare to become future legal professionals who serve and thrive in the broader legal community.



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## Sturm College of Law

### Elizabeth Jordan

Assistant Professor

### Maria Guadalupe Martinez

Associate Professor

Guadalupe earned her law degree summa cum laude from Universidad Nacional de Córdoba and holds LLM and JSD degrees from Yale Law School. She previously taught at IE University in Madrid and Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires. Her research focuses on tort theory, comparative private law, consumer law, and punitive damages, drawing on both legal doctrine and insights from social psychology.

### Jason Pedraza

Assistant Professor of the Practice

Jason teaches in the Lawyering Process Program at the Sturm College of Law. Before joining DU, he practiced at Holland & Hart as a litigator, served as an assistant attorney general counseling Colorado's higher education institutions, clerked at the Colorado Supreme Court, and worked as a Skadden Fellow at the Education Law Center. He earned his JD from New York University School of Law, as a Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholar, MA in higher education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and AB from Princeton University.



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## Sturm College of Law

### Rebecca Plevel

#### Reference Librarian

Rebecca Plevel, citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, is a Research Librarian at the Westminster Law Library. She earned her JD and MLIS from the University of Arizona. Prior to joining DU, she was a Reference Librarian for the University of South Carolina, Rice School of Law Library, and taught legal research in the 1L Legal Research, Analysis & Writing program.

Before becoming a law librarian, Rebecca practiced law in Arizona for 30 years, and is still a justice pro tem for the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court of Appeals.

### Katelin Shugart-Schmidt

#### Assistant Professor of the Practice

Katelin earned her JD from The George Washington University Law School and her MS in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from Virginia Tech. She teaches Lawyering Process to first-year law students and focuses outside the classroom on environmental law and appellate practice.

### Andrew Stamm

#### Librarian and Assistant Professor

Andy received his JD and MLS from Indiana University and was previously a librarian at Georgetown, NYU, and Emory. His research interests include foreign, comparative, and international law; non-profit law; and social justice.



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## Sturm College of Law

### Heather Tanana

#### Assistant Professor

Heather Tanana is an assistant professor at the Sturm College of Law. She is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and nationally recognized expert in Federal Indian Law, with particular expertise in tribal water rights and the intersection of the environment, health, and Indigenous peoples.

### Jamie Triggs

#### Library

Jamie earned her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of Louisiana Lafayette and her Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center. She is a Fellow, assisting students with reviewing for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam, while also co-authoring a Louisiana Evidence Treatise with the Louisiana Practice Series.



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## University Libraries

### Jennifer Cox

Assistant Professor  
Library & Information Science

Jenelys holds an MLIS from the University of Denver. She has previously served in multiple roles, including Access Services Technician, Application Technician, and Institutional Repository Manager. Her research interests include copyright and open access, research information management, and publication and self-archiving practices.

### Emily Espanol

Library

### Yue Hao

Assistant Professor  
Data Services Librarian

Yue is a PhD Candidate (all but dissertation) in Informatics at Penn State, with an MS in Spatial Data Science (USC). Her research employs human-centered design and user studies to uncover learning challenges and improve geospatial systems. She draws on 4 years as a teaching assistant to investigate student needs.



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## University Libraries

### Elizabeth Mawhinney

Library  
Digital Initiatives Librarian

Beth earned her MLIS from the University of Denver. Her background includes IT roles specializing in metadata, digital asset management, and software development projects, along with work in artist archives and studios. Her scholarship focuses on equitable digital user experiences and open-source, replicable tools that advance research.

### Uzoamaka Nwaiwu

Assistant Professor  
Digital User Experience Librarian

Uzo holds an MSc in Human-Computer Interaction from Indiana University Indianapolis, where she began working in an academic library as a Research and Design Partner. She is the Faculty Affairs Fellow for Accessibility, and her research/service interests include inclusive design of digital technologies, user experience design, and user research.





for edits or changes, please email [provost@du.edu](mailto:provost@du.edu)