



UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER

New Faculty 2026

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Meriah DeJoseph

Assistant Professor
Psychology

Meriah earned her PhD from the University of Minnesota and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University's Center on Early Childhood. Her research examines how children's everyday experiences in the context of poverty shape how they pay attention, behave, and learn, and how these patterns reflect adaptation to their environments.

Sok Song

Visiting Professor
Art and Art History

Katharen Wiese

Assistant Professor
Art and Art History

Katharen is a multidisciplinary artist and assistant professor in painting. She holds a B.F.A. from the University of Nebraska and an MFA from Yale University. Wiese was a Community-Engaged Fellow at the University of New Haven. Her painting approach situates the patchwork as a conceptual and formal lens.



College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Emily Williams

Visiting Professor
Media, Film & Journalism Studies

Yi Qun Xu

Assistant Professor
Music

Yi Qun earned her DMA from The Juilliard School and is Assistant Professor of Cello at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. She also serves on the faculty of The Juilliard School, The Perlman Music Program, and Heifetz International Music Institute, and is cellist of the Cassatt String Quartet.



College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Nicholas Jamnick

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor
Biological Sciences

Danbee Kim

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor
Biological Sciences

Danbee is a Korean-American neuroscientist, community organizer, and performing artist. They earned their BSc from MIT and their PhD from the International Neuroscience Doctoral Programme at the Champalimaud Foundation (Lisbon, Portugal). Danbee mentors and teaches for numerous learning communities, including Terrascope, Neuronautas, and the Appalachian Institute for Creative Learning.



Daniels College of Business

Amanda Cahal

Teaching Assistant Professor
Marketing

Hangu Chen

Visiting Assistant Professor
Accountancy

Hangu earned her PhD from the University of Texas at Dallas. Her research examines how information is produced and processed by firms, investors and policymakers, with interests in financial disclosure, capital markets, monetary policy and organizational design.

Tyson-Lord Gray

Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor
Business Ethics and Legal Studies



Daniels College of Business

Lauren Simon

**Professor
Management**

Lauren earned her PhD from the University of Florida and was previously Full Professor at the University of Arkansas. Her research focuses on topics in organizational behavior and human resources including new employee onboarding and adjustment, individual differences (e.g., personality, neurodiversity) at work, workplace relationships, performance feedback, and career success.

Kathryn Thomas

**Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor
Business Ethics and Legal Studies**

Katie has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Southern California and her M.B.A. and J.D. from DU. Previously, she taught as an Adjunct Professor in Daniels and the Sturm College of Law. Katie dedicated her legal career to the nonprofit sector and assists nonprofits with transactional legal needs.

Jill Zimorski

**Professor of the Practice
Hospitality Management**



Graduate School of Professional Psychology

Chase Ayock

Assistant Professor

Chase earned his PsyD from Wheaton College and previously held a variety of clinical, academic, and leadership positions as an active duty clinical health psychologist in the US Air Force for over 10 years. His research and practice focuses on improving the sleep and health behaviors for service members and veterans.

Pamela Buckley

Research Associate Professor

Pamela earned her PhD from the University of Denver and previously served as an associate research professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her work focuses on evidence-based programs and translating research into practice, with an emphasis on helping decisionmakers apply rigorous scientific evidence to improve services, systems, and human well-being.

Beau Houston

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Beau is a Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor in the Kinesiology and Sport Studies program. She holds a PhD in Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Her research explores how sport policy, institutional systems, and social identities shape lived experiences for student-athletes.



Graduate School of Professional Psychology

Alysia McElvain

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor
Kinesiology & Sports Meds

Alysia holds a PT and DPT and is a Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor and practicing physical therapist specializing in neonatal and neuromuscular rehabilitation. She is pursuing an EdD in Educational Leadership. Her academic and research interests include biomechanics, movement analysis, motor learning, clinical reasoning, and integrating foundational sciences into health professions education across the lifespan.

Laura River

Assistant Professor
Professional Psychology

Laura is an Assistant Professor in DU's Graduate School of Professional Psychology at DU. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from DU and completed specialized postdoctoral training in perinatal, infant, and early childhood mental health. She teaches and supervises doctoral students on clinical work with children, adolescents, parents, and families. Her research interests include how childhood trauma and current stress shape family adaptation during the transition to parenthood, as well as the buffering impact of accessible family interventions.

Kristin Yeager

Assistant Professor
Professional Psychology

Kristin is a graduate of University of Denver's master's in forensic psychology program and earned her doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology, with an emphasis in Forensic Psychology from Pacific University (Oregon). She completed her predoctoral internship at Utah State Hospital and a forensic postdoctoral fellowship with Denver FIRST. Her research interests include practitioner bias, forensic evaluations, quality and reliability of forensic mental health reports, competency restoration, and social justice related topics within the judicial system.



Graduate School of Social Work

Lorenzo Benavides

Assistant Professor Social Work

Lorenzo earned his PhD from The Ohio State University College of Social Work and previously worked as a pediatric emergency room social worker at Nationwide Children's Hospital, a Level I pediatric trauma center. His research includes work with child maltreatment and the providers who serve affected children and families.

Aaron Rodwin

Assistant Professor Social Work

Dr. Aaron Rodwin earned his PhD from New York University's Silver School of Social Work. His research focuses on investigating social-ecological factors that contribute to mental health outcomes among marginalized young adults diagnosed with serious mental illness, and developing psychosocial interventions (e.g., music-based interventions) to improve treatment engagement and recovery.

Tracy Vozar

Visiting Research Professor Social Work

Tracy is a clinical psychologist who earned her MA from Washington University in St. Louis, her PhD from University of Iowa and her pre/postdoctoral fellowships at Tulane University. Her clinical applied research focuses on perinatal, infant, and early childhood mental health, with an emphasis on cultural and community-based adaptations to evidence informed programs.



Josef Korbel School of Global and Public Affairs

Meredith Deboom

Assistant Professor
International Studies

Meredith researches energy transition, green development, and Africa-China relations. Prior to joining Korbel, she was an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of South Carolina and a policy analyst with the U.S. Department of State, EPA, and Iowa Legislature. She earned her PhD in Geography from the University of Colorado-Boulder.



Morgridge College of Education

John O'Malley

Clinical Professor
Counseling Psychology

John earned his PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of Wyoming and returns to the University of Denver as Clinical Professor and Director of the Counseling and Educational Services Clinic. He chaired the Counseling Department at Regis University, helping launch one of the first doctoral programs in the university's history.

Laura Meyer

Clinical Professor
Counseling Psychology

Laura is a 2008 graduate of the Morgridge College of Education's Quantitative Research Methods program (now RMS). She taught courses on statistics, methods, and evaluation for MCE. Her research interests include animal maltreatment and its effects on children who witness it. Laura also conducts program evaluations for multiple organizations.



Daniel F. Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

Ryan Dunagan

Visiting Teaching Professor

Julia Dunn

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor
Mechanical Engineering

Julia earned her PhD from the University of Utah in Biomedical Engineering. Following the completion of her degree, she came to DU for a Postdoctoral Fellowship continuing her research on how upper extremity function affects whole-body motion and motor control, and understanding overuse injury in high level athletes. She is excited to continue her career with DU, now spending more time in the classroom to focus on project-based learning and helping engineering students learn to communicate the impact of their work.

Amber Hu

Visiting Teaching Professor

Amber is an interdisciplinary scholar of computer science education. Their PhD dissertation involved co-designing lessons with K-12 teachers that ask students to take a critical perspective on the role of computing in society. They have previously taught Computer Science at University of Washington, Seattle where they also completed their undergraduate double major in Computer Science and Education, Communities, and Organizations



Daniel F. Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

Juan Malaver

Visiting Teaching Professor

Sydney Petrehn

Visiting Teaching Professor

Jordan Sinclair

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor
Computer Science

Jordan is a PhD candidate in computer science at the University of Denver and holds an M.S. in electrical engineering. Her research interests include human-centered AI, representation and preference learning, AI evaluation, and the development of intelligent systems that better understand and adapt to human preferences.



Sturm College of Law

Christopher Engle-Newman

Associate Professor

Solomon Greene

Research Professor

Solomon Greene is founding Executive Director of the Center for Housing Research and Innovative Solutions (CHRIS), with appointments as Research Professor in the Provost's Office and Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Sturm College of Law. He previously led HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research. His research focuses on housing policy, land use, building innovation, sustainable urban development, and climate resilience. He holds a JD from Yale, an MCP from UC Berkeley, and a BA from Stanford.

Meralee Hoffelt

Visiting Assistant Professor

Meralee earned her JD from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law where following graduation, she clerked for the Honorable Timothy J. Schultz of the Colorado Court of Appeals and the Department of Law in the Civil Litigation and Employment Law section and the Employment Practices and Civil Rights unit. She previously served as the president of her educational consulting firm, which primarily provided data-driven teacher and administrator professional development to support instructional change efforts.



Sturm College of Law

Kristin Ladd

Assistant Professor of the Practice

Melissa Randall

Visiting Assistant Professor

Before joining the faculty, Melissa practiced employment and labor law, worked for multiple judges in the judiciary, and taught law classes to undergraduate students. In addition to her teaching, Professor Randall serves on the Licensed Legal Paraprofessional (LLP) Education Working Group of the Colorado Supreme Court.

Michael Rollin

Visiting Instructor



Sturm College of Law

Amanda Savage

Assistant Professor

Amanda earned her JD from Harvard Law School. Amanda previously taught at Sturm as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Prior to teaching, Amanda was in practice as a public defender. Amanda teaches the Criminal Defense Clinic and researches in the area of policing, fourth and second amendments, and criminal procedure.

Jordan Youngstrom

Library Assistant

Library and Information Science

Jason served as the Systems Librarian at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) for fifteen years. At NREL he managed two ILS migrations, while providing expert level reference support for laboratory research scientists. His teaching centers around the role technology and especially AI impacts the practice of law.



University Libraries

Beth Denker

Assistant Professor

Emily Espanol

Assistant Professor

Emily earned her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) at San José State University while working with one foot in a public library and the other foot in an academic health sciences library. After graduation, she chose to work in academic libraries, researching the information needs and behaviors of students as well as mentorship in libraries.

Liz Kellermeyer

Associate Professor

Liz joins DU following her tenure as Library Director at National Jewish Health. Her research encompasses impostor syndrome, behaviors influencing referrals to medical libraries, and systematic reviews supporting clinical guidelines. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Medical Library Association and as a liaison to their AI Committee.





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