DEAR COLLEAGUES,

It’s my pleasure to welcome you—or to welcome you back—to LSA. I am proud to work with such distinguished faculty, and I appreciate your support as I begin my term as interim dean of LSA. We have a lot to accomplish together. Seeing the new faces we’re adding to our already stellar faculty, I have no doubt that this academic year will be exceptional.

We have prepared this booklet to introduce our new faculty to the community. We hope that you enjoy learning a little about your colleagues and that it might help facilitate some real life connections as well.

Since joining the LSA faculty in 2000, I have served as both a department chair and an associate dean, and I can tell you we work diligently to recruit and retain world-class faculty so that our students are engaged with a cutting-edge curriculum taught by leading experts in their fields. Your research, teaching, and thought leadership make you the face of LSA in the eyes of our students. You personify our commitment to academic excellence.
At LSA, we are proud to be a leader and an innovator in liberal arts and sciences education, increasing access for all students and fostering greater diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) on campus. Our DEI programs, scholarships, and the LSA Opportunity Hub are all examples of the ways we are making it possible for more students, from diverse backgrounds and financial means, to learn from your research and scholarship, and then to apply their new knowledge in the real world during internships and other engaged-learning opportunities. We’re also moving ahead with projects to hire and promote even more faculty with expertise in DEI issues. As interim dean, I am energized to continue to work on these important strategic priorities for LSA.

There is so much to do, and so much to look forward to accomplishing together. It is inspiring to work with colleagues who share a passion for teaching and for helping our students excel. Thank you for your partnership and I wish you a successful and fulfilling year.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth R. Cole, Interim Dean
Bénédicte Boisseron
Associate Professor
AFROAMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES


Lydia M. Kelow-Bennett
Assistant Professor
AFROAMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

Lydia M. Kelow-Bennett received a B.A. in communication studies from the University of Puget Sound. Following several years working in education administration and advocacy, she received an M.A. in communication, culture and technology from Georgetown University. She received her Ph.D. in Africana studies in 2018. Her research examines black women’s intellectual history and black feminist thought in the post-civil rights era, as well as black popular culture.
SaraEllen Strongman

Collegiate Fellow
AFROAMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

SaraEllen Strongman’s current project, *The Sisterhood: Black Women, Black Feminism, and the Women’s Liberation Movement*, traces the development of second-wave Black feminism as an intellectual and activist tradition in the United States during the 1970s and 1980s. Drawing on extensive archival material, she argues that during this period a cohort of Black women novelists, poets, critics, and academics used their work and social networks to build a distinct Black feminist movement while also working with mainstream second-wave feminists and within their organizations to reshape and expand the predominantly white feminist movement’s political platform. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

American Culture

Bethany Hughes

Assistant Professor
AMERICAN CULTURE

Bethany Hughes is a cultural historian and performance scholar interested in how performance constructs culturally recognizable categories and offers possibilities to resist or remake those same categories. Her book project draws on the fields of Native American studies, theater, and performance studies, asking questions about racialization, representation, authenticity, and authority. Hughes is also interested in federal Indian law, musical theater, and how economic and organizational structures shape cultural production.
Jessica Kenyatta Walker

Collegiate Fellow
AMERICAN CULTURE

Jessica Kenyatta Walker’s manuscript, “Her Kitchen is The World: Black Women and the Culture of Soul Food,” traces the construction of soul food using cookbooks, USDA narrative reports, television, and film. The project conceptualizes soul food as a battleground for black representation within popular culture. These contestations often play out through representations of black womanhood and domestic space. “Her Kitchen Is the World” finds that these images often implicate shifting ideologies of citizenship and national belonging, race, nutrition, and gendered divisions of labor. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Su’ad Abdul Khabeer

Associate Professor
AMERICAN CULTURE

Su’ad Abdul Khabeer is a scholar-artist-activist whose work examines the intersections of race, religion, and popular culture. She is the author of Muslim Cool: Race, Religion and Hip Hop in the United States. She has a deep commitment to public scholarship and reaches diverse audiences through her one-woman solo performance, Sampled: Beats of Muslim Life, and in her leadership of Sapelo Square: An Online Resource on Black Muslims in the United States.
Melissa Burch

Assistant Professor

ANTHROPOLOGY

Melissa L. Burch comes to U-M with 18 years of scholarly and activist work on the prison industrial complex, with a focus on the experiences of former prisoners and how inequalities based in race and social position are reproduced through processes of criminalization and punishment. Burch completed her doctoral studies and postdoc at the University of Texas at Austin in the departments of anthropology and African and African diaspora studies.

Joseph T. Feldblum

Michigan Society of Fellows

ANTHROPOLOGY

Joseph Feldblum is a biological anthropologist studying the behavior and social structure of chimpanzees as part of the ongoing 58-year study of the chimpanzees of Gombe National Park, Tanzania. He investigates the forces shaping social relationships and social structure in our closest relatives, and is interested in applying insights from the study of chimpanzee behavior to better understand the evolution of human social behavior.
Asian Languages and Cultures

David Brick
Assistant Professor
ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

David Brick received his Ph.D. from University of Texas at Austin in 2009. From then until 2018, he was lecturer of Sanskrit at Yale. His research generally deals with various aspects of classical Indian law with a special focus on widows. His first book, *Brahmanical Theories of Gift*, was published in 2015 (Harvard). He is currently working on a translation of a major section of the Mahābhārata, Sanskrit literature’s greatest epic.

Biophysics/Complex Systems

Jordan Horowitz
Assistant Professor
PROGRAM IN BIOPHYSICS AND THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF COMPLEX SYSTEMS

Start date of 1/1/19. Jordan Horowitz holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Maryland. Before joining Michigan’s faculty, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Universidad Complutense de Madrid, University of Massachusetts Boston, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Physics of Living Systems Fellow. Jordan researches non-equilibrium thermodynamics, with a focus on the universal energetic constraints that underpin life. He has written numerous papers, with profiles in *New Scientist Magazine* and *Quanta Magazine*.
Markos Koutmos

Assistant Professor
CHEMISTRY AND BIOPHYSICS

Markos Koutmos earned his diploma in chemistry at the University of Athens, Greece, then trained in synthetic inorganic chemistry and protein crystallography with Professors Dimitri Coucouvanis, Martha Ludwig and Janet Smith at the University of Michigan. He began his independent career at the Uniformed University of the Health Sciences and moved to the University of Michigan in 2018. The Koutmos Lab studies enzymes in one-carbon metabolism and mitochondrial RNA processing.

Wenjing Wang

Assistant Professor, Research Assistant Professor
CHEMISTRY AND LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE

Wenjing Wang got her Ph.D. in bio-organic chemistry from Michigan State University in 2012 and did her postdoc in Alice Ting’s lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University from 2012 to 2018. Dr. Wang joined the University of Michigan in June 2018. Her research focuses on making a wide array of optogenetic tools to study biological questions.
Mitchell G. Newberry

Michigan Society of Fellows
THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF COMPLEX SYSTEMS

Mitchell Newberry is an assistant professor in the Center for Complex Systems at the University of Michigan. Mitchell studied physics at the University of Washington and marine ecology at Friday Harbor Laboratories. After a brief career in software engineering, he earned a master’s degree in biomathematics from UCLA and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Shane DuBay

Michigan Society of Fellows
ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Shane DuBay is an evolutionary ecologist and environmental scientist. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2018. His research leverages natural history collections to reconstruct historical environments. He has been recently quantifying soot deposited on bird specimens to estimate levels of atmospheric pollution during the industrial revolution. He also focuses on how these environmental conditions impacted the ecology and evolution of the organisms living within these environments.
María Natalia Umaña

Assistant Professor
ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Start date of 1/1/19. María Natalia Umaña received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 2017. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University and will join the faculty at U-M in January 2019. Her research utilizes field-based and statistical modeling approaches that provide insights into the processes that govern community structure in order to have a deeper understanding of how plant communities are assembled in tropical forests.

Economics

Lauren Falcao Bergquist

Assistant Professor
ECONOMICS

Lauren Falcao Bergquist studies interventions to improve the livelihoods of farmers and enhance the efficiency of agricultural markets in East Africa. Current projects include tests of the degree of competition among agricultural intermediaries and evaluations of financial and technological products designed to help farmers and intermediaries optimally market their produce. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.A. in economics and political science from Stanford University.
Zachary Brown

Assistant Professor

ECONOMICS

Zachary Brown studies issues related to industrial organization and regulation with a particular emphasis on how information can improve health care markets. He received his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and his Ph.D. from Columbia. In 2017-2018 he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He has also served as a staff economist for the White House Council of Economic Advisers under the Obama administration.

Amanda Kowalski

Gail Wilensky Professor of Applied Economics and Public Policy

ECONOMICS

Amanda Kowalski is a health economist who brings together theoretical models and econometric techniques to inform current debates in health policy. She has been honored with an NSF CAREER Award and the Yale Arthur Greer Memorial Prize. Her research has received the HCUP Outstanding Article of the Year Award, the Garfield Economic Impact Award, the NIHCM Research Award, and the Zellner Thesis Award. She holds a Ph.D. from MIT.

Ana Reynoso

Assistant Professor

ECONOMICS

Ana Reynoso received her Ph.D. in economics from Yale University in 2018. Her research focuses on how policy affects marital matching patterns and the gains from marriage for different groups in both developed and developing countries. She also studies the impact of policies affecting teaching practices and school schedules on children’s academic and non-academic outcomes. She received the George Trimis Prize for Distinguished Dissertation in Economics from Yale University in 2018.
English Language and Literature

Dana Murphy

Collegiate Fellow

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Readers have often fine-combed early African American poet Phillis Wheatley’s every word for signs of resistance, straining to hear a voice of protest. Wheatley’s adherence to neoclassical heroic couplets, the Puritan funeral elegy, and the conventions of occasional address have long been the subject of fierce debate: Why didn’t she free herself from her enslavers’ poetic forms? Dana Murphy’s current project interprets Wheatley’s poetics as strategies of quietness or reticence that act as a mode of address to a community of future readers who are compelled to voice what goes unspoken in her poems. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine.

Film, Television, and Media

James Burnstein

Professor

FILM, TELEVISION, AND MEDIA

Jim Burnstein, director of the University of Michigan’s Screenwriting Program since its inception in 1997, managed to succeed in Hollywood as a screenwriter without moving from his home in Plymouth, Michigan. Burnstein’s credits include Renaissance Man, directed by Penny Marshall and starring Danny DeVito; D3: The Mighty Ducks; Ruffian, starring Sam Shepard, co-written with Garrett Schiff; and Love and Honor, starring Liam Hemsworth and Teresa Palmer, also written with Schiff.
Mihaela Mihailova

*Michigan Society of Fellows*

**FILM, TELEVISION, AND MEDIA**

Mihaela Mihailova has published articles in *animation: an interdisciplinary journal*, *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema*, *Post Script: Essays in Film and the Humanities*, and *Kino Kultura*. She has also contributed chapters, co-written with John MacKay, to *Animating Film Theory*. She is currently working on a book manuscript, “Animating Global Realities in the Digital Age.”

Melissa Phruksachart

*Collegiate Fellow*

**FILM, TELEVISION, AND MEDIA**

Melissa Phruksachart is interested in the past and present politics of Asian American representation in screen media and the public sphere. Her first book project rethinks common claims about Asian American absence in U.S. media by working with counter-archives that highlight the liminal, yet abundant, presence of Asian-raced bodies circulating in the context of the civil rights movement, Cold War geopolitics, and the liberalization of U.S. immigration policies. Her next project investigates Asian American media in the age of Black Lives Matter. She received her Ph.D. from the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Henry Cowles

*Assistant Professor*

**HISTORY**

Henry Cowles is a historian of modern science and medicine. His research and teaching focus on the life and human sciences since 1800. He is completing a book manuscript on the psychology of the scientific method in the nineteenth century and beginning a new project on the history of habit. He comes to Michigan from Yale University, where he taught after receiving his Ph.D. from Princeton University.
Anna Bonnell Freidin

*Assistant Professor*

**HISTORY**

Anna Bonnell Freidin is a historian of the Roman world. She is currently preparing a book manuscript that explores how Romans constructed, understood, and mitigated the risks of childbirth. Her research and teaching interests include the life cycle, gender and the body, science and medicine, magic, the human-animal boundary, and Roman imperialism. She received her Ph.D. from Princeton University.

Raevin Jimenez

*Collegiate Fellow*

**HISTORY**

Raevin Jimenez’s work examines the gender history of Nguni-speakers in southern Africa between the 9th-20th centuries. Over a millennium, Nguni-speakers innovated and reconfigured masculine propriety and male relationships. The manipulation of masculinity mediated the extension of regional and global commerce into Southeast Africa in the 11th-13th centuries, and political centralization in the 13th-17th centuries. Her research provides a narrative of long-term historical transformation through the ideals and debates of households, and places 19th and 20th century gender politics in deep time context. She received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

Earl Lewis

*Professor*

**HISTORY AND AFROAMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES**

Dr. Lewis has held faculty appointments at the University of California, Berkeley (1984-89) and the University of Michigan (1989-2004), where he served as Vice Provost and Dean of Rackham. From 2004-2012, he served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of History and African American Studies at Emory University. He was appointed the sixth president of the Mellon Foundation in 2013. Dr. Lewis has recently returned to the College of LSA and will serve as director of the new U-M Center for Social Solutions that will address three core areas of social concern: diversity and race, water, and the future of work.
Ian Shin

Assistant Professor

HISTORY AND AMERICAN CULTURE

Ian Shin is a social and cultural historian of the United States. His research and teaching focus on the history of U.S. foreign relations and Asian American history between 1850 and 1950. He is completing a book manuscript on the politics of Chinese art collecting and the rise of the United States as a world power in the early twentieth century, among other projects. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Nicola Barham

Assistant Professor/Assistant Curator

HISTORY OF ART AND KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Nicola Barham is assistant professor and assistant curator in Ancient Art. She was previously an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow at both the Art Institute of Chicago and the American University of Beirut, and a Chester Dale Fellow at the National Gallery. Her research reconstructs aesthetic categories that are emic to the ancient Roman world and applies these categories to the interrogation of Roman art. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.
Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg

Assistant Professor

Judaic Studies

Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg studies the reception history of the Hebrew Bible. She received her Ph.D. in history of religions from the University of Chicago in 2015. She also has a master’s degree in Judaic studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She did her postdoctoral work at the University of Michigan as a fellow in the Society of Fellows from 2015-2018.

Zaher Hani

Associate Professor

Mathematics

Zaher Hani obtained his Ph.D. in 2011 from the University of California, Los Angeles. Afterwards, he joined the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at NYU as a Courant Instructor before becoming an assistant professor of mathematics at Georgia Tech in 2014. His research is in the area of nonlinear partial differential equations and mathematical physics. It often relies on tools from harmonic analysis, dynamical systems, and probability and number theory.
Jennifer Wilson  
Assistant Professor  
MATHEMATICS

Jenny Wilson obtained her Ph.D. in pure mathematics from the University of Chicago in 2014, and afterwards held a Szegö Assistant Professorship position at Stanford University. Her research interests include low-dimensional topology, algebraic topology, and geometric group theory, and her work frequently draws on tools from representation theory, algebraic combinatorics, and commutative algebra.

Philosophy

Maegan Fairchild  
Collegiate Fellow  
PHILOSOPHY

Maegan Fairchild’s current research focuses on a family of extraordinary answers to ordinary questions about the existence of material objects. She explores varieties of permissivism in ontology — that is, theories according to which there are vastly more material objects than we ordinarily recognize — and the role that concerns about “arbitrariness” play in motivating radical theories in metaphysics. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California.
Physics

Camille Avestruz

Collegiate Fellow

PHYSICS

Camille Avestruz’s research interests span astrophysics, cosmology, and computation, using simulations to make robust predictions and interpretations of observations of large-scale cosmic structure. Her primary focus is to understand the evolution of clusters of galaxies, the most massive gravitationally collapsed structures in our universe, comprised of hundreds to thousands of galaxies. Other aspects of her work prepare for the next decade of observations, which will produce unprecedented volumes of data. She incorporates big data methods, including machine learning, to extract gravitational lensing signatures that probe the mass distribution of massive galaxies and galaxy clusters. She received her Ph.D. from Yale University.

Political Science

Kenneth Lowande

Assistant Professor

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Kenneth Lowande studies American political institutions and policymaking. He has published research on congressional oversight, presidential power, and policy implementation. Lowande is a first-generation college student from Burbank, CA, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and has held research fellowships at Washington University in St. Louis. In the fall of 2018, he will teach an undergraduate course on the American presidency.
Angela X. Ocampo  
*Collegiate Fellow*

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Angela X. Ocampo examines how racial, ethnic, and religious minorities become politically incorporated, both as everyday participants and as political leaders in American institutions. Specifically, she investigates the factors that mobilize Latinos and other minorities to engage politically at different levels. Her current research on this topic investigates how perceived inclusion and a sense of belonging to U.S. society influence political participation among Latinos. Her research also explores how political parties and institutional forces shape the path of minorities into elected office. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Yuki Shiraito  
*Assistant Professor*

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Yuki Shiraito received his Ph.D. in politics in 2017 from Princeton University. Before joining the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in September 2018, he served as a postdoctoral fellow in the Program of Quantitative Social Science at Dartmouth College. His research interests include applications of large-scale computation to problems in political science and development of applied Bayesian statistical models.
Blake Gutt

*Michigan Society of Fellows*

**ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**

Blake Gutt recently completed a Ph.D. at King’s College, Cambridge, entitled “Rhizomes, Parasites, Folds and Trees: Systems of Thought in Medieval French and Catalan Literary Texts”. The dissertation examined a series of conceptual networks and the ways in which they underlie both text and its manuscript presentation. My next project investigates portrayals of gender transition and transformation in medieval French, English, and Latin literary texts in relation to modern transgender theory.

Margaret Frye

*Assistant Professor*

**SOCIOLOGY**

Margaret Frye is an assistant professor of sociology. Her research investigates the complex and often misaligned relationships between culture, ideas, and demographic patterns. Much of our shared culture is about what people do during key life junctures — finishing school, getting married, having a child, starting a career — but our beliefs, ideals, and expectations are imperfect reflections of these demographic regularities. Her research is located in sub-Saharan Africa, primarily in Malawi and Uganda. Prior to joining the faculty at Michigan, she spent three years as an assistant professor of sociology at Princeton.
Pablo Gastón
Assistant Professor
SOCIOLOGY

Pablo Gastón will be assistant professor of sociology starting in September 2018. A comparative historical sociologist, he investigates changing patterns of economic conflict in the American labor movement, with a focus on collective bargaining in hospitals. He obtained his Ph.D. in sociology from Berkeley in 2017. Before coming to Michigan, he was a postdoc at Rutgers University’s Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations.

Slavic Languages and Literatures

Ania Aizman
Michigan Society of Fellows
SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Ania Aizman holds a Ph.D from Harvard and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago, both in comparative literature. She is writing a book on anarchism in Russian culture. She has published essays on (and translations in) contemporary Russian theater and the Russian avant-garde.
Statistics

Snigdha Panigrahi
Assistant Professor
STATISTICS

Snigdha Panigrahi received her Ph.D. in statistics in 2018 from Stanford University and joined the University of Michigan as an assistant professor of statistics. Her research interests lie at intersections of selective-inference, causal inference, random fields and statistical genomics, and her work is broadly aimed at substantiating inferential pipelines in both well-adopted and contemporary procedures in data-science.

Women’s Studies

Andrea Bolivar
Collegiate Fellow
WOMEN’S STUDIES

Andrea Bolivar is a cultural anthropologist whose current project, “Somos una Fantasia’: Race, Violence, and Potentiality in Transgender Latina Sexual Economies of Labor,” examines the experiences of sex working transgender Latinas in the Chicago metropolitan area. She offers a new analytical framework, “fantasia,” for understanding how transgender Latinas are racialized and sexualized in sexual economies of labor. “Fantasia” indexes the ephemeral presence of these women and also encompasses forms of queer potentiality—trans Latinas use their bodies to produce resistant forms of labor, care, kinship, and space-making. She received her Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.
Hilary Archbold  
*Lecturer III, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology*

Matthew Bellamy  
*Lecturer I, American Culture*

Darcy Brandel  
*Lecturer I, Residential College*

Tupur Chattopadhyay  
*Lecturer I, Communication Studies*

Sascha Crasnow  
*Lecturer I, Residential College*

Fernanda Eberstadt  
*Lecturer I, English Language and Literature*

Margaret Echelbarger  
*Lecturer I, Psychology*

Dylan Ellefson  
*Lecturer I, Asian Languages and Cultures*

Daniel Ellman  
*Lecturer I (Start date 1.1.19), Sociology*

Lauren Eriks-Kline  
*Lecturer I, English Language and Literature*

Cathryn Fabian  
*Lecturer I, Psychology*

Lisa Fein  
*Lecturer III, Organizational Studies*

Dina Gohar  
*Lecturer I, Psychology*

Loubna Hanna  
*Lecturer I, Political Science*

Achirri Ismael  
*Lecturer I, Afroamerican and African Studies*

Jason Isbell  
*Lecturer I, Psychology*
Bairam Khan
*Lecturer I, Asian Languages and Cultures*

Akil Kumarasamy
*Lecturer III, English Language and Literature*

Caitlin Lawson
*Lecturer I, Communication Studies*

Jane Lynch
*Lecturer I (Start date 1.1.19), Residential College*

Brittany Maugeri
*Lecturer I, American Culture*

Lisa Neidert
*Lecturer I (Start date 1.1.19), Sociology*

Neill Owen
*Intermittent Lecturer, Earth and Environmental Sciences*

Geoffrey Packard
*Lecturer I (Start date 1.1.18), Residential College*

Esteban Peralta
*Lecturer I, Economics*

William Potter
*Lecturer I, English Language and Literature*

Mark Rulkowski
*Lecturer I, Statistics*

Elizabeth Schmuhl
*Lecturer I, Residential College*

Oren Segal
*Lecturer I, Middle East Studies*

Aisha Sabatini Sloan
*Lecturer III, English Language and Literature*

Avi Steinberg
*Lecturer I, Residential College*

Matthew Sullivan
*Lecturer I, Sociology*
Lecturers

Kate Tremel  
*Lecturer I, Residential College*

Sarah Trinh  
*Lecturer I, Psychology*

Logan Wall  
*Lecturer I, English Language and Literature*

Dongni Wan  
*Lecturer III, Economics*

Xiaxin Wang  
*Lecturer 1 (Start date 1.1.19), Economics*

Michael Yashinsky  
*Lecturer III, Judaic Studies*

Robert Yoon  
*Lecturer I, Communication Studies*