San Diego State University

New Faculty 2022
Alvin Henry, Ph.D. (University of California, Berkeley 2012) Dr. Henry is working on two projects. The first explores how creative writers, comedians, and filmmakers work through the tensions between race ("Asian American") and ethnicity (e.g., Filipino or Vietnamese). It argues that these artists invent new storytelling techniques. The second project looks at how Asian Americans experience higher education and how, in turn, higher education shapes Asian American identity. His recent book, Black Queer Flesh: Rejecting Subjectivity in the African American Novel, argues that African American novelists challenged dominant, humanist models of the self and experimented with radical new forms of selfhood.

Anthony Merritt, Ph.D. (Union Institute and University 2006) Dr. Merritt is a socio-cultural historian specializing in Africana studies. His areas of interest include African American and African history, Politics of the African diaspora, Africana social and religious systems, Ethiopian Studies, Rastafari studies and Martial arts of the African diaspora. He has an Afrocentric, interdisciplinary research focus on the political, historical, and interactional cultural experiences of African descended people of the U.S. and the Caribbean. He is presently working on a case study on the beneficial effects of practicing African Diaspora martial arts, as practiced by inner city African American youth.

Charmane M. Perry, Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin Milwaukee 2017) Dr. Perry is an Africana social scientist specializing in the Haitian diaspora. Her areas of interests include Haitians in The Bahamas (focusing on citizenship, identity, and stigma among second generation Haitians), global practices of antihaitianism, the global stigma of being Haitian, and the relationship between antiblackness and antihaitianism. She is currently researching antihaitianism in The Bahamas and Black Philadelphia and the efforts to desegregate Girard College, a private boarding school created for white orphaned boys in 1848.

Brittani R. Orona, Ph.D. (University of California, Davis 2022) is a scholar of Native American Studies and Human Rights specializing in environmental justice, public history, and the history of California and the American West. Her areas of interest include repatriation, federal Indian law, cultural resources management, Indigenous environmental justice, and environmental history as they relate to California Indian tribes and Indigenous people around the world. Her current research focuses on Hupa, Yurok, and Karuk perspectives of visual sovereignty, memory, human and water rights on the Klamath River Basin. She is an enrolled member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe in Northwestern California.
Oliver Paine, Ph.D. (University of Colorado Boulder 2019) is a paleoanthropologist interested in early hominin feeding ecology. He currently investigates the nutritional and mechanical properties of wild plants growing in African savannas and to inform broader debates about human evolution. Dr. Paine is particularly interested in the grasses and sedges that our early ancestors potentially ate and how their consumption may have influenced the distinct morphological adaptations revealed by the hominin fossil record. Though early hominins are his primary focus, he also studies the nutritional ecology of savanna baboons and African ungulates.

DEPARTMENT OF CHICANA AND CHICANO STUDIES

Lilia Soto, Ph.D. (University of California, Berkeley 2008) associate professor, joins the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies from UC, Berkeley. From a historical and ethnographic position, her research focuses on the tensions and contradictions surrounding migration. Soto’s first book, Girlhood in the Borderlands: Mexican Teens Caught in the Crossroads of Migration, couples temporalities of migration with age, gender, and sex as intersecting categories of analyses. Her second project situates unlikely characters in four key moments in Napa’s historiography. Soto’s awards include the NEH Summer Seminar, Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, and the University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship.

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND HUMANITIES

Kishauna Soljour, Ph.D. (Syracuse University 2019) Dr. Soljour is a socio-cultural historian and curator specializing in migration, community organization and activism. Her areas of interest include modern French history, oral sources, public and digital humanities, transnational migration, and social justice using qualitative methodologies. Her research concentrates on the nexus of cultural, political, and social change for francophone diasporic communities in the twentieth and twenty-first century. She is developing an oral history archive of migration narratives from West Africa to France post World War II.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Thiago de Lucena Coelho, Ph.D. (University of California, Davis 2022) Dr. de Lucena Coelho is interested in development economics, labor economics, and political economy. His work seeks to understand the relationship between the gender of institutional/political leadership and the gender gap in top positions. He has also done other works in political economy, race and labor. Thiago will be teaching courses in Econometrics and Migration on the Economics Department.
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**Abikal Borah, Ph.D.** (The University of Texas at Austin 2021) Dr. Borah is a historian of Africa with a specialization in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean World. His areas of interest include history of violence, history of migration, memory studies, and postcolonial theory. His research focuses on entangled histories of race and violence in modern South Africa. His current book project, titled *Aftertaste of Empire: Amandiya and Racial Violence in South Africa, 1843-1949*, explores histories of migration, land, and labor in the province of Natal since the mid-nineteenth century to explain the social origins of the racial violence in the port city of Durban in 1949.

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Stephen Goggin, Ph.D.** (University of California, Berkeley 2016) Dr. Goggin's research centers on partisan polarization in American politics, particularly its role in shaping voters' ability to hold politicians accountable. He focuses on how information from media and electoral campaigns can distort public perceptions of politicians and governing institutions, and, in turn, affect the strategic behavior of those inhabiting those institutions. His research has been supported by grants, including from the National Science Foundation, and has appeared in journals such as The Journal of Politics, Political Behavior, Political Psychology, and Election Law Journal.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Stephen Cho Suh, Ph.D.** (University of Minnesota 2016) Dr. Suh is a sociologist and Asian Americanist whose scholarly interests lie at the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, migration, and culture, especially in relation to the Korean diaspora. His current book project examines the culinary entrepreneurship of 1.5 and 2nd-generation Korean Americans in the U.S. and South Korea. He is co-editor of Koreatowns, the first volume to provide a global and interdisciplinary examination of Korean spatial formations, published by Lexington Books.

**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES**

**Priya Kandaswamy, Ph.D.** (University of California, Berkeley 2006) Dr. Kandaswamy's work explores how race, gender, sexuality, and class have shaped ideas of national belonging and practices of state violence in the United States. She is the author of *Domestic Contradictions: Race and Gendered Citizenship from Reconstruction to Welfare Reform* (Duke University Press, 2021), and her work focuses on welfare rights, domestic workers’ rights, reproductive justice, prison abolition, and liberatory education. Prior to joining the faculty at San Diego State University, she was professor and chair of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Mills College and the academic program director at Mt. Tamalpais College, a community college that serves incarcerated students at San Quentin State Prison.
Christine Knott, Ph.D. (Memorial University of Newfoundland 2017) is an interdisciplinary scholar with degrees in Anthropology (BA), Women’s Studies (BA and MWS), and Sociology (Ph.D.). She is an incoming assistant professor in the Department of Women’s Studies at San Diego State University. She is also an Ocean Nexus Center Research Associate. Dr. Knott’s current research builds on her previous work aiming to better understand the broader social and ecological ramifications of current gendered and racialized labor processes within resource extraction and processing industries. Her research aims to investigate interactions among climate justice, resource-dependent communities, government policies, global corporate capitalism, labor mobility regimes, and animal enclosure and commodification to better understand the broader social and ecological ramifications within blue economy industries.

FOWLER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

CHARLES W. LAMDEN SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

Stefan Slavov, Ph.D. (University of Tennessee, Knoxville 2022) Dr. Slavov will arrive at the Fowler College of Business’ Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy where he will teach three sections of ACCTG-431 (Auditing) during the fall 2022 semester. His research focuses in the areas of auditing, financial reporting, and corporate governance. Before entering his Ph.D. program, Stefan earned his CPA license and was an audit senior with Deloitte in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is presently researching whether audit quality varies between the Big 4 and other firms that provide audits of initial public offerings. Stefan enjoys spending time with friends and family, soccer, food, culture, and the outdoors.

Lin Wang, Ph.D. (Florida Atlantic University 2022) Dr. Wang is a chartered accountant with over 10 years of experience in the areas of auditing and corporate tax. She is passionate about accounting education. She will join the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy, teaching intermediate accounting and corporate tax. Her research interests are in the areas of corporate governance, tax avoidance, audit partner and audit committee characteristics, and the consequences to the accounting practice.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Isaac Green, Ph.D. (Cornell University 2022). Dr. Green is an empirical researcher in the field of finance, specializing in financial intermediation. His research focuses on the interaction of financial intermediaries (including banks, securities firms, and newer “fintech” lenders) and the macroeconomy. His research has explored the way that financial innovation and regulation have affected financial stability and the transmission of monetary policy.
**DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT**

**Yue Song, Ph.D.** (Virginia Tech 2017) Prior to joining the management department at the Fowler College of Business, Yue Song served as an assistant professor at Auburn University for the past five years. Song earned her Ph.D. in strategic management and entrepreneurship from Virginia Tech, and her master's degree in finance from Claremont McKenna College. Her research interests include innovation, ecosystems, and entrepreneurship, and she will be teaching two sections of MGT-358 (Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship) during the fall 2022 semester.

**Yun Dong Yeo, Ph.D.** (University of Texas at Dallas 2022) Dr. Yeo is a management scholar specializing in firm strategy and international business. His areas of interest include firm risk-taking, risk management, entrepreneurship, and energy sector. He is currently researching how large firms and new ventures respond to competition in the market. He is also examining the investment activities of oil and gas firms.

**DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**Hossein Shirazi, Ph.D.** (Colorado State University 2021) Dr. Shirazi is a computer scientist specializing in cyber-security, attack prevention, and anomaly detection. His research vision is to make the world safer and more secure using machine learning and deep learning.

**Shengjie Xu, Ph.D.** (University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2019) Dr. Xu is an assistant professor in the Management Information Systems Department at Fowler College of Business. His research focuses on cybersecurity, trustworthy AI and machine learning, and secure edge computing. He has received research grants and contracts from the National Science Foundation to promote cybersecurity research and education. He is a recipient of the IET Journals Premium Award for Best Paper in 2020, and the Milton E. Mohr Graduate Fellowship Award from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2017. He serves as a Technical Editor for IEEE Wireless Communications Magazine. He holds multiple professional certifications in cybersecurity and computer networking.
Tanya J. Gaxiola Serrano, Ph.D. (she/her/ella) (University of California, Los Angeles 2019) is a queer first-generation Latina immigrant and college student from the Tijuana-San Diego borderlands. Her research explores the racialized and gendered experiences of Communities of Color when navigating education to expose the functions of oppression. Currently, a large part of her research agenda focuses on the inequities faced by Latina/o/x students when navigating community college in the US-Mexico border region. In 2019, Dr. Gaxiola Serrano earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Graduate School of Education and Information Studies with a specialization in Race and Ethnic Studies.

Wendy Ochoa, Ph.D. (University of California, Irvine 2019) earned her PhD in Education with a specialization in Human Development in Context. Dr. Ochoa’s research primarily focuses on fostering the wellbeing of low-income, ethnoracially minoritized young children, particularly Latine children. She does this by trying to understand and center the voices of their families, including their developmental goals and childrearing experiences (and knowledge). Dr. Ochoa’s goal of adopting a strengths-based lens when working with low-income, minoritized families was inspired by her lived experience of growing up in a low-income, Spanish-speaking immigrant home in Los Angeles.

Juan Camarena Ph.D. (Widener University 2016), pronouns el, he, him, his. Dr. Camarena is a California Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, and nationally certified Sex Therapist. His areas of interest include Latinx sex therapy, Latinx/Afro-Latinx/Black same-sex attracted men and how they navigate multiple identities, and BIPOC Trans/Non-Binary/Gender diverse people’s experiences in psychotherapy. He is presently investigating the experiences of BIPOC drag performers and the curative/disruptive experiences of non-Binary people in psychotherapy. Dr. Camarena also oversees the DEI and Mentorship committees in his role on the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists Board of Directors.

Travis Heath, Ph.D. (University of Northern Colorado 2010) Travis is a licensed psychologist and has been in community practice for nearly two decades in Los Angeles and then Denver. His scholarship has included looking at shifting from a multicultural approach to counseling to one of cultural democracy that invites people to heal in mediums that are culturally near. Other writings have focused on the use of rap music in narrative therapy, working with persons entangled in the criminal injustice system in ways that maintain their dignity, narrative practice stories as pedagogy, and a co-created questioning practice called reunion questions. He has presented his work in 10 countries to date.
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

**Vincent Pompei, Ed.D.** (San Diego State University 2014)

Dr. Pompei is an educational leader and social justice advocate with expertise in using anti-bias and culturally responsive approaches to promote equitable outcomes for all learners. His primary area of interest includes leveraging policies and practices to transform school climates while meeting the social, emotional, and mental health needs of each student. His most recent research involves identity safe school approaches and their impact on learning and engagement. Dr. Pompei has been nationally recognized for his extensive work on creating LGBTQ+ and gender-inclusive schools.

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Ana Dueñas, Ph.D.** (Michigan State University–East Lansing 2019) is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D) and assistant professor at Lehigh University and soon to be assistant professor at San Diego State University who earned a doctorate in special education from Michigan State University and a master’s in autism and transition to adulthood from San Diego State University. Dr. Dueñas has published her work in the Exceptional Children, Autism, Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Behavior Analysis Research and Practice, Journal of Special Education Technology, Education and Treatment of Children and Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals. Her primary research interests are in identifying and validating social communication interventions delivered by natural change agents to individuals on the autism spectrum and related developmental disorders. She is also interested in the application of technology to broaden accessibility to services for underserved individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

DEPARTMENTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION DUAL LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LEARNER EDUCATION

**Melina Melgarejo, Ph.D.** (University of California, Santa Barbara 2017) Dr. Melgarejo received her doctorate degree in Education With an emphasis in Special Education, Disabilities, and Risk Studies from UCSanta Barbara. She began her career working as a clinical supervisor, working primarily with Latinx families of children with developmental disabilities. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at SDSU and was also a lecturer in the SPED and CFD departments. Dr. Melgarejo is currently an investigator at the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC) and serves on the executive leadership team for the California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN), a statewide multi-agency collaboration of providers with the common goal of scaling up the use of evidence-based practices for individuals with autism. Dr. Melgarejo specializes in improving intervention effectiveness and access for dual language learners with disabilities. Her research interests include implementation and cultural adaptation of evidence-based practices, serving culturally and linguistically diverse communities, forming community partnerships to facilitate change, early childhood education, and autism.
Mónica Baldonado-Ruiz, Ph.D. (Arizona State University 2021) is a veteran English Educator who believes that the power of stories connects us to others around us. She has used her own voice as an advocate for students and to celebrate the communities of those students. Her research interests include literacy education, Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy, equitable practices of teaching writing and Lat-Crit theory of education, specifically testimonio. As a first-generation college going student, and award-winning PhD recipient, she is dedicated to cultivating literacy education that is more reflective for historically marginalized student populations. As a teacher educator, she hopes to provide a sound pedagogical foundation for her students that is rooted in joy and an understanding of the complex and ever diversifying U.S educational landscape. Dr. Baldonado-Ruiz holds a PhD in English Education from Arizona State University, a Master's Degree in English from Northern Arizona University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education from the University of New Mexico. Her work in English Education has been featured in the Explicator, by the National Writing Project, by the National Council of Teachers of English, in the Arizona English Teachers Journal, and in English Leadership Quarterly.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL, CONSTRUCTION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Hanyang Li, Ph.D. (The Ohio State University 2020) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering. She received her B.A. in Civil Engineering from Northeast Forestry University in China, her M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder, and her Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the Ohio State University. After graduating, she worked as a postdoctoral research associate for two years at the University of California, Davis Air Quality Research Center. Dr. Li’s research interests include air quality monitoring, environmental injustice along the US-Mexico border, and the application of data-driven methods to extend the fundamental understanding of aerosol properties.

Dongye (Don) Zhao, Ph.D. (Lehigh University 1998) Dr. Zhao is an internationally recognized scholar in environmental engineering. His research area encompasses water and wastewater treatment, soil and groundwater remediation, and photocatalytic degradation of persistent organic pollutants. After serving on the faculty at Auburn University for more than 21 years, he is starting at SDSU as a professor and chair of the Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering Department. His current research focuses on developing innovative photocatalysts for destruction of PFAS in contaminated water and wastewater.
**Tong Huang, Ph.D.** (Texas A&M University 2021) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of ECE at SDSU. Before joining SDSU, he was a postdoctoral associate at MIT. He received his Ph.D. degree from Texas A&M University in 2021. His industry experience includes an internship with ISO-New England in 2018 and an internship with Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories in 2019. As the first author, he received two Best Paper Awards at the 2020 IEEE PES General Meeting and the 54-th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences. His research focuses on data analytics, cyber security, and modeling and control of power grids with deep renewables.

**Sara Adibi, Ph.D.** (National University of Singapore 2015) was an Assistant Research Professor at Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems (CAVS) at the Mississippi State University (MSU). She is leading the computational modeling and simulation research group at CAVS and is involved in various projects in the data-driven and physics-based multiscale material modeling area as a PI, or senior investigator. Before joining CAVS, she was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the mechanical engineering department at Texas A&M University, College Station, Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, and a postdoctoral research fellow at the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at University of Houston. Sara obtained her PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in collaboration with the Institute of High-Performance Computing (IHPC) in 2015. She received Master’s and Bachelor Degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Isfahan University of Technology (IUT), Iran.

**Meysam Heydari Gharahcheshmeh, Ph.D.** (University of Houston 2017) Dr. Heydari Gharahcheshmeh did his Postdoctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He specializes in texture and nano-structural engineering of advanced functional materials and advanced conductors for energy and biocompatible device applications. His areas of interest include advanced manufacturing based on Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD), texture and nano-structural engineering, thin film deposition, conducting polymers, superconductors, energy and electronic devices, and materials characterization.
**Ashleigh Johnson, DrPH, MPH** (University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston 2019, 2014) Dr. Johnson is a physical activity and public health researcher specializing in physical activity intervention development. Her areas of interest include physical activity promotion, with a focus on community- and school-based interventions, youth populations, organized sports, qualitative research methods, and geographic and economic disparities. She is presently researching opportunities for increasing access to sport-based physical activity, and she is investigating methods for using sport-based activities within the community to increase physical literacy, social and emotional health, and physical activity levels among youth populations.

**Leonardo Nogueira, Ph.D.** (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2008) Dr. Nogueira is an Exercise Biochemist specialized in skeletal muscle biology at the cellular level. His areas of interest include the study of the intracellular mechanisms of skeletal muscle contractile function, fatigue resistance, and regulation of muscle regeneration after injury in health and in chronic inflammatory diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He is presently researching the mechanisms of myofiber contractile dysfunction and the changes in regenerative capacity of muscle stem cells (i.e., muscle satellite cells) in response to chronic cigarette smoke exposure and environmental factors (e.g., hypoxia and pollution).

**Jing Zhao, Ph.D.** (University of Kentucky 2012) Dr. Zhao is a food chemist specializing in food proteins functionalities and flavor. Her research interests include agricultural by-products utilization, novel protein development, food protein characterization and utilization, and flavor characterization of protein-rich foods. She is currently researching rice bran protein extraction and utilization in gluten-free pasta, stabilization of the blue pigment, C-phycocyanin, derived from spirulina, and characterization and synthesis of seafood flavor.

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Benjamin Aceves, Ph.D., MPH, MA** (University of Arizona 2020) Dr. Aceves’ health services research centers around building equity within health care delivery to address chronic disease disparities. His research focuses on developing interventions that address individual-, organizational, and system-level factors contributing to health disparities through partnering with clinics, government, and community organizations. He has previously and continues to work with Latina, Latine, and Latino communities located throughout the border region. He is particularly interested in conducting mixed-methods research on topics related to diabetes, social care within clinical settings, implementation science, and health equity among diverse populations.
Elana Elkin, Ph.D., MPH (University of Michigan 2019) Dr. Elkin is a toxicologist specializing in reproductive and placental toxicology. Her research seeks to understand how exposures to environmental and occupational pollutants during pregnancy contribute to elevated risk of developing adverse birth outcomes. Dr. Elkin studies how exposure to pollutants disrupt normal physiological processes in the placenta during pregnancy. She currently employs both traditional laboratory-based techniques and ‘omics’ approaches to investigate placental toxicity using in vitro and in vivo models. Other areas of interest include: the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) paradigm, endocrine disruptors, male reproductive toxicology and developmental toxicology.

Nicolas Lopez-Galvez, Ph.D. (University of Arizona 2020) Dr. Nicolas Lopez-Galvez has over a decade of experience evaluating environmental exposures to carcinogens such as pesticides among underserved and vulnerable populations, including low-wage immigrant workers, farm workers, children, and those who live near the U.S.-Mexico border region. He utilizes innovative and non-invasive exposure assessment tools in field studies to monitor chemical and physical hazards in occupational and community-based settings to better understand their connection with chronic health diseases. His experience as first-generation Latino immigrant in the U.S. has influenced his commitment towards addressing health disparities related in minority populations.

Corinne McDaniels-Davidson, Ph.D., MPH (San Diego State University/University of California, San Diego 2017) Dr. McDaniels-Davidson is a community-engaged public health and cancer disparities researcher. She serves as Associate Director of Public Health Practice for the SDSU School of Public Health and Director of the SDSU Institute for Public Health. Her areas of interest include HPV vaccination, cervical cancer inequities, and the social needs of Latinx cancer patients. Since spring 2020 she has also focused on COVID-19 inequities. Her funded research seeks to understand population health needs, describe patterns of cannabis use in cancer patients, promote community engagement in cancer research, and reduce inequities in COVID-19 vaccination and testing.

SCHOOL OF SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING SCIENCES

Laura Coco, AuD, Ph.D., CCC-A (University of Arizona 2021) is an audiologist who is invested in improving hearing healthcare access and equity for adults with hearing loss. As a clinician/researcher, Dr. Coco focuses on improving communication for hard-of-hearing adults by developing, implementing, and evaluating innovative and culturally relevant service delivery models and interventions. Dr. Coco’s specialty is using a Community Based Participatory Research approach and leveraging technology, including telehealth, to address access barriers. Dr. Coco is currently researching hearing healthcare access issues impacting rural Veterans within the Veterans Health Administration, and is investigating how to improve hearing aid use among hard-of-hearing Hispanic/Latino adults.
**COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES AND FINE ARTS**

**SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN**

**Yin Yu, Ph.D.** (University of California, Santa Barbara 2022) Dr. Yu is an artist, designer, and engineer. Her research investigates the potential of interactive multimedia environments and the intersection of architecture, music, and emerging technologies. Her design practice spans furniture, architecture, interactive multimedia, art, and wearable design. She has more than five years industry experience in the US and Asia, such as hospitality projects in Hawaii, and Apple Campus projects in China. Dr. Yu’s research has been published and exhibited in international venues, such as the Human-Computer Interaction, the Haptic and Audio Interaction Design, and the Xenakis22 Symposium.

**SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION**

**Rebecca T. de Souza, Ph.D.** (Purdue University 2007) is a communication scholar with expertise in health and organizational communication. Her work is interested in how language and communication influence policy, environments, and everyday institutional practices. Specifically, her work is concerned with how political and economic systems impact access to food, health, and social wellbeing. Her areas of interest include hunger and food insecurity, food justice, health/health disparities, culture and identity, stigma, racism, and whiteness studies, and qualitative research methods. She is currently studying how food shelves can better respond to the lived realities of food insecure people by providing trauma-informed food support, healthy food access, and addressing spatial isolation.

**Rati Kumar, Ph.D.** (Purdue University 2013) Dr. Kumar is a critical health communication scholar specializing in health inequities and culturally situated health interventions. Her work draws on the strand of “health in displacement”, conceptualizing displacement both as spatial displacement induced by voluntary and forced migratory processes, as well as a meta-level systemic displacement of disenfranchised communities. Her research focuses on centering the cultural knowledge of marginalized communities within mainstream health spaces as agents of structural and policy change. Dr. Kumar’s recent scholarship focuses on the broader migration and health experience including her work with refugees, migrant-workers, and in communities and families affected by mass incarceration.

**Katrina Pariera, Ph.D.** (University of Southern California 2014) is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication at San Diego State University, where her research centers on difficult conversations in interpersonal and health contexts. Her primary expertise is in sexual communication, interpersonal/family communication, and health disparities, and she has published in Health Communication, Journal of Family Communication, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, and Journal of Family Theory and Review. Dr. Pariera received her PhD from the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication, her M.A. in Communication, Culture and Technology from Georgetown University, and her B.A. in Applied Linguistics from Portland State University where she was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar.
Brandon Mastromartino, Ph.D. (University of Georgia 2020). Dr. Mastromartino’s research is focused on understanding the psychological aspects of sport fan communities and how socio-cultural factors contribute to sport marketing strategy. In his studies, he has adopted theories based in behavioral sciences, social economics, social capital, and consumer psychology. His research has aided sport organizations in sponsorship strategy, social media campaigns, program development, and marketing/sponsorship ROI measurement. With his research, Dr. Mastromartino aims to analyze critical issues in sport consumer psychology to develop and achieve long-term marketing strategies for sport organizations and advance the academic field of sport marketing.

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES

Jiyoung (Karen) Han, Ph.D. (The University of Texas at Austin 2016) Dr. Han is an assistant professor of advertising in the School of Journalism and Media Studies. Before joining the SDSU faculty, she was an assistant professor in the Department of Media at Ball State University. She is primarily interested in digital advertising effectiveness. Other research interests include digital media technologies and audience engagement, big data and artificial intelligence, and influencer marketing. Her work has been published in the International Journal of Advertising, Asian Journal of Communication, and Journal of Media Ethics, among others.

Xiaohan (Catherine) Hu, PhD (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2022). Dr. Hu is a researcher specializing in advertising, media, and mass communication. Her research interests include interactive and digital advertising, media psychology, and consumer behavior. Her current research projects investigate the role of user control in affecting digital advertising effectiveness.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Tina Chong, DM (Indiana University 2021) Dr. Chong is an international award-winning pianist and teaching artist. Tina performs a wide range of genres such as classical, jazz, pop, Broadway, and film music with the San Diego Symphony. She is a passionate advocate of alternatively-sized keyboards and is responsible for the acquisition of two reduced-sized piano keyboards at SDSU, the first of its kind in a university on the west coast. Tina is currently commissioning Asian American female composers for her debut recording. This breadth of creative activity continues to inspire Tina’s engagement and cross-pollination with a wide community of musicians and audiences.
**Travis Sherwood, DMA** (University of Southern California 2013) Dr. Sherwood is a teacher of singing specializing in voice pedagogy and vocal literature. Dr. Sherwood researches artistic literacy, the master-apprentice tradition, and student-centered pedagogy. Further, he frequently performs on the operatic, musical theatre, concert, and recital stages. Recent engagements include presentations for the ICVT and NATS conferences, and recitals on the Music in the Alps concert series.

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**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Justina Jose, Ph.D.** (Georgia State University 2022). Dr. Jose is a public policy scholar specializing in public financial management. Her main area of interest lies in the financing of public infrastructure. This includes financing mechanisms such as borrowing from the capital markets and the use of public funds to finance water, sewer and climate resilient infrastructure. Her dissertation examines the institutional structure established by state governments to oversee their local government borrowing. Dr. Jose has also actively participated in projects that provided evidence-based policy advice to the City of Atlanta and the State of Georgia on the financing of public services.

**Tereza Trejbalová, Ph.D.** (University of Nevada, Las Vegas 2021) Dr. Trejbalová is a criminologist specializing in correctional research. Her research interests specifically include examining institutional misconduct and recidivism of different system-impacted populations (especially individuals on death row, individuals with severe mental illness, and women), as well as the prison experiences of those incarcerated. Aside from correctional topics, she is also interested in pedagogical research in the context of criminal justice classrooms.

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**SCHOOL OF THEATRE, TELEVISION AND FILM**

**Jessica McGaugh, MFA** (Syracuse University 2008) Ms. McGaugh is an award-winning filmmaker. Her work celebrates diversity and inclusion through her use of underrepresented characters, storylines, and project collaborators. Her films have screened internationally including the Mumbai International Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, Denver Film Festival, NDTV and Rocky Mountain PBS. Ms. McGaugh’s feature films “Red Pearl” and “Three Worlds, One Stage” are available through video-on-demand services including iTunes, Amazon, Roku and Walmart. Her recent project, “Womanhood: The Series” is a collection of comedic short films designed to challenge taboos associated with women’s bodies and gender expectations.

**Mary Posatko, M.F.A.** (University of Southern California 2007) has directed and produced award-winning films including TARGET ZERO, ALL FALL DOWN, AIN’T IN IT FOR MY HEALTH: A FILM ABOUT LEVON HELM, and content for clients from the Rutgers Protein Data Bank to Josie Maran to Didi Hirsch. She is an alumna of IFP Spotlight on Documentaries, Good Pitch, and the Chicken & Egg Labs; has received support from the IDA Pare Lorentz Award, Chicken & Egg, the San Francisco Film Society, and the Abell Foundation; and has screened in theaters and US and international film festivals including SXSW, LAFF, IDFA, and CPH:DOX.
**Maya Capelson, Ph.D.** (Johns Hopkins University 2006) Dr. Capelson is a molecular cell biologist specializing in mechanisms of gene regulation and epigenetic memory. Epigenetic memory constitutes the ability of cells and organisms to remember which genes need to be expressed vs. silenced, with defects in such memory underlying many human diseases. Her research interests include nuclear genome organization and how elements of nuclear structure help maintain correct gene expression states, X chromosome dosage compensation, transcriptional memory of previous cellular exposures, and aging-associated loss of epigenetic memory. She is currently investigating molecular mechanisms underlying these gene regulatory and epigenetic processes.

**Gena Sbeglia, Ph.D.** (Stony Brook University 2017) Dr. Sbeglia is a biologist specializing in Discipline-Based Education Research. Her research program focuses on quantitative studies of biology learning. She uses sophisticated statistical and psychometric approaches to investigate the complex interplay of cognitive, affective, psychosocial, environmental, and institutional factors that promote and inhibit meaningful learning of fundamental biological concepts. The broad goals of this work are to improve the degree, quality, equity, and assessment of biological learning. As such, this work is integrally linked to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity efforts related to undergraduate education.

**Catherine Schrankel, Ph.D.** (University of Toronto 2017) is a developmental biologist with a background in immunology. Her research interests lie in the cellular defense systems of the developing embryo. The Schrankel Lab studies how ABC transporter proteins work in two cell types: 1) The gut epithelia (and their interactions with bacterial-derived products), and 2) The primordial germ cell lineage (the stem cells for egg and sperm). The lab uses transgenic sea urchins and mammalian cell lines to explore the regulation, function and evolution of ABC transporter proteins. Dr. Schrankel is an advocate for increasing the long-term representation of underserved and minoritized communities in STEM and SciComm. Outside of the lab she enjoys cooking, painting, and spending time with her partner and their dog, Bandit.

**Yuezhi Mao, Ph.D.** (University of California, Berkeley 2017) Dr. Mao is a theoretical and computational chemist who leverages physics-based theories and computational tools to facilitate the understanding of chemistry. His research focuses on the development and application of new theoretical frameworks encompassing electronic structure methods, multiscale modeling techniques, and machine-learning based approaches to elucidate the structure, property, and reactivity of chemical systems as well as dynamical processes in complex environments. He is currently developing computational methods to investigate chemical problems such as noncovalent interactions in molecular catalysis, design of metal-free photoredox catalysts, environment effect on light-driven chemical processes, etc.
Hyunjong Choi, Ph.D. (University of California, Riverside 2021) His areas of interest include real-time, embedded, and cyber-physical systems. Specifically, he aims to achieve the design and implementation of safe, predictable, and efficient computing systems under uncertain environments, which is a critical research area for the widespread intelligent autonomous technologies including self-driving cars, IoT-based smart homes, and structural health monitoring. He is currently working on developing novel system software, algorithms, modeling and analysis techniques to build reliable, efficient, and usable systems in practice for the modern parallel computing platforms.

Kai Li, Ph.D. (Syracuse University 2022) Dr. Li is a computer scientist specializing in computer systems and cybersecurity. His areas of interest include distributed system security and network security. He strives to identify vulnerabilities and implementation bugs in critical components in computer systems. He is presently researching the security of Blockchain and Cloud storage.

Miranda Parker, Ph.D. (Georgia Tech 2019) Dr. Parker is a computer science education researcher, specializing in access, assessment, and achievement. Her areas of interest include identifying and lowering barriers to computer science access, developing equitable valid and reliable assessments for all levels of computer science learning, and analyzing factors that affect student learning and achievement in the classroom. Her research focuses on broadening participation for groups historically disadvantaged in computing, including women, low socioeconomic status students, and English Language learners. She is presently researching assessment development and replication for different computer science learners with differing levels of prior knowledge and across different programming languages.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Gordon Rojas Kirby, Ph.D. (UC Santa Barbara 2020) is a mathematician specializing in combinatorics and geometric group theory. He is particularly interested in research directions where geometry, topology, algebra, and combinatorics interact such as Coxeter groups and Artin groups. Gordon is also interested in the combinatorics of parking functions and their generalization. Currently, in the summer of 2022, he is organizing the Summer@ICERM research experience for undergrads in computational combinatorics and mentoring teams of undergraduate students on research analyzing parking functions by leveraging computational techniques and theory.
Xin Wang, Ph.D. (Iowa State University 2018) Dr. Wang has broad interests in research related to statistical theories, methods, and applications, including spatial data analysis, Bayesian statistics, survey sampling, and clustering. She has developed new statistical methods and algorithms applied to different types of data sets, such as spatial data, survey data, and longitudinal data. She is presently researching spatial clustered coefficient regression models with temporal effect selection, and she is developing algorithms for grouping variances of toxicity tests.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Sanjay Behura, Ph.D. (Pandit Deendayal Energy University 2014) Dr. Behura is a condensed matter physicist specializing in photo physics of quantum materials. His areas of research interest include large-scale growth, structure-property characterization, and light-matter interactions in atomically thin quantum 2D materials and engineered heterostructures. He is presently studying the quantum light emission phenomena in van der Waals materials for quantum information science (QIS) technologies. He is also investigating the physics of quantum materials for the development of green energy technologies. He is developing next-generation photovoltaics such as dye-sensitized solar cells, organic solar cells, and 2D materials-based homo and heterojunction solar cells.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Jessica McCurley, Ph.D., MPH (San Diego State University/University of California, San Diego 2018) Dr. McCurley is a clinical psychologist with specialization in Behavioral Medicine/Health Psychology. Her research utilizes behavioral economics, implementation science, and community-based participatory methods to develop behavioral interventions that reduce health disparities in cardiometabolic diseases (e.g., obesity, type 2 diabetes) and mental health conditions (e.g., depression) in Hispanic/Latinx individuals and low-income populations. Dr. McCurley is currently developing a telehealth intervention to reduce depression and increase physical activity in low-wage hospital service workers, and evaluating the implementation of a new Massachusetts state health policy to address food and housing insecurity in Medicaid patients.

Arianna Stickel, Ph.D. (University of Arizona 2019) Dr. Stickel earned her doctorate in clinical psychology with an emphasis in neuropsychology from the University of Arizona. She completed a geropsychology clinical internship at the West Los Angeles VA and postdoctoral training in the Department of Neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego. Throughout her training, Dr. Stickel has received support from multiple sources, including the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Ford Foundation. She primarily examines the impact of cardiovascular disease risk factors on brain aging and cognition among middle-aged and older adults. Her recent investigations have focused on characterizing risk factors for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias among Latinos/es/xs.
Rashida Scott Blades, MLIS (University of Arizona 2022). Rashida (she/her) is an academic librarian specializing in business and communications. Her areas of interest include business librarianship, critical librarianship, finance in libraries, and a focus BIPOC perspectives in librarianship in all aspects of her work. She is presently researching network sovereignty in relation to business practices and functions and how these practices create barriers to accessing information resources.

Sarah Tribelhorn, M.S. (Rhodes University 1995), MMLIS (University of Southern California 2022). Ms. Tribelhorn is a Science Librarian, with a background in Ichthyology and Fisheries Science. Her areas of interest include enhancing information literacy and scholarship, particularly in the Sciences, while ensuring information availability, accessibility, and dissemination. She has extensive experience in metadata and indexing, editing, and building scientific bibliographic research databases, and writing and editing scientific research. She is deeply interested in sustainability and developing sustainable processes for academic libraries.

Helina Hoyt Ph.D., RN, PHN (San Diego State University/Claremont Graduate University 2018) Dr. Hoyt is a nurse-educator specializing in rural-border health, immersive technologies, and nursing education. Her areas of interest include fostering multi-sector, rural, border health disparities research, use of immersive learning experiences within undergraduate and graduate nursing education, building community based participatory research within Imperial County, and exploring high impact educational practices to foster nursing student success. She co-founded the SDSU Imperial Valley RISE (Research, Innovation, Student Engagement) Center in 2021 and serves on two multidisciplinary research councils within Imperial County, the SDSU HealthLINK Center advisory committee, and the SDSU FUERTE Internal Advisory Committee.

Linda Lara-Jacobo, Ph.D. (Institut National De La Recherche Scientifique/Queen's University 2020) Dr. Lara-Jacobo holds a PhD in Toxicogenomics from the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Quebec, Canada. Linda has more than ten years of research and teaching/mentoring experience, including work with indigenous and rural communities. Her work is aimed at connecting health, environment, gender equality, social inclusion, and diversity towards a sustainable future. She's also a member of the HB Women in STEMM Leadership program, acting against climate change on a global scale by observing its effects in Antarctica and increasing women’s leadership. In 2021, she received the Hispanic Women of the Year Merit Award (QC, Canada).
Shiloh Williams, Ph.D., MSN, NPD-BC, CNE (Walden University 2020) is a health disparities and equities researcher with a unique interest in health literacy in diverse, rural-border populations. She has an extensive background in nursing care delivery, nursing and healthcare leadership and administration, nursing education and clinical trial management. She is presently researching health literacy in a predominantly Hispanic and underserved population in Imperial County, California with the goal of developing educational interventions and materials for patients who suffer from low health literacy and English as a second language. Dr. Williams has also successfully developed an institutional research oversight council and a fully integrated multidisciplinary clinical research department in a rural border acute care facility. Other interests include strategies for student success in diverse nursing student populations, rural healthcare policy development and nursing leadership.

Miguel Zavala, Ph.D. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2007) Dr. Zavala is an atmospheric scientist investigating the environmental and health impacts of air pollution and climate change. His areas of interest include chemical transport air pollution modeling, air quality monitoring, exposure assessments, emissions inventories, air toxics, biomonitoring, source apportionment, portable emission measurements, short-lived climate forcers, low-cost sensors, and the analysis of the meteorological processes that drive air pollution. He is presently researching the environmental and health impacts relevant to disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups in Imperial Valley and the US-Mexico border region.