

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

SUMMER INSTITUTE

JUNE 20-22, 2023

ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST

Ryan Raul Bañagale · Colorado College
Ross Elflin · Carleton College
Louis Epstein · St. Olaf College
Duchess Harris · Macalester College
Marion Hourdequin · Colorado College
Connie Kassor · Lawrence University
Andrea Kaston Tange · Macalester College
Meira Z. Kensky · Coe College
Mary I. Unger · Ripon College
Ron Watson · Beloit College

ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE SOUTH

Dayo Abah · Washington and Lee University
Judith Caballero · Millsaps College
Anene Ejikeme · Trinity University
Caroline Fache · Davidson College
Andrea C. Hatcher · Sewanee: The University of the South
Eric Henager · Rhodes College
Michelle S. Hite · Spelman College
Azita Osanloo · Centre College
Laura Senio Blair · Southwestern University
Eric Smaw · Rollins College

NEW YORK SIX

Danny Barreto · Colgate University
Kira Jumet · Hamilton College
Jennifer Mitchell · Union College
Oscar A. Pérez · Skidmore College
Jess Sierk · St. Lawrence University
Katherine Walker · Hobart and William Smith Colleges



RYAN RAUL BAÑAGALE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF MUSIC · COLORADO COLLEGE



Ryan Raul Bañagale is Associate Professor and Chair of Music at Colorado College. He received his Ph.D. at Harvard University with the support of the American Musicological Society's AMS-50 and Howard Mayer Brown fellowships. His research explores the realm of Arrangement Studies, having applied such approaches to a variety of American music subjects and genres. He is the author of "Arranging Gershwin: 'Rhapsody in Blue' and the Creation of an American Icon" (Oxford, 2014) and co-editor of "'We Didn't Start the Fire': Billy Joel and Popular Music Studies" (Lexington, 2020). Presently he is editing

the "Oxford Handbook of Arrangement Studies." Ryan's critical edition of the 1924 arrangement of "Rhapsody in Blue" was published as a part of the George and Ira Gershwin Initiative (Schott International, 2022). He is on the editorial board of the Gershwin Critical Edition, "Open Access Musicology," and serves as Digital and Multimedia Editor for the "Journal of the American Musicological Society." His current research project considers the music and career of Ben Folds.

Ryan is the former Director of Performing Arts at CC. In this faculty administrator role he amplified the role of the arts in the academic mission of the college, supporting the collaborative and creative impulses of the campus and community. Between the endeavors of the academic arts departments, the innovative co-curricular student groups, and the expansive programming of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, he facilitated the cross-disciplinary connections that remain an essential component of the liberal arts experience.

Fellowship Project: As Colorado College continues its work and commitment towards becoming an antiracist institution, I will lead a visioning process for our Crown Center for Teaching. The Crown Center mobilizes students, staff, and faculty to collectively cultivate a learning community that co-creates innovative, inspiring, inclusive, and equitable educational experiences. Current programming includes New and Visiting Faculty Orientations, a Mentoring Alliance Program, Instructional Coaching, and a variety of pedagogy-oriented workshops. At present, however, most of these opportunities focus on faculty. Since learning at a small liberal arts college takes place within and beyond the classroom, part of my charge will be to explore ways to provide support for the work of our academic, student-life, and athletics staff as well. I will undertake an appreciative inquiry process to bridge existing endeavors with new strategic initiatives to enhance antiracist pedagogies and learning experiences throughout the college.

Fun Fact: I enjoy trail running and have completed the Pikes Peak Ascent, a half-marathon that climbs nearly 8,000 feet to the top of a 14,115 mountain.



ROSS ELFLINE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY · CARLETON COLLEGE



Ross Elfline is Associate Professor of Art History at Carleton College, where he offers a range of courses on the history of art and architecture after World War II. His research focuses primarily on Radical Architecture practices in Europe in the 1960s and 70s. In brief, his work considers the many ways architects of the era sought to expand the definition of architecture to include media other than built form. He has published widely on the Italian architecture collective Superstudio, specifically on the ways in which their refusal to build was consistent with autonomist labor movements in Italy at the time. His current book project, titled “Common Ground, Common

Time: Architectural Performance in the 1960s and 70s” looks at the intersection of architecture and performance art in the neo-avant-garde era. By examining both architects who engaged in time-based performance and performance artists who intervened critically into the built environment of the city, this study argues that the medium of the “architectural performance” became a critical tool for questioning the power dynamics that inhere in public civic spaces. His research has been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Arts.

In recent years, Ross has collaborated with the Minneapolis-based public arts collective Confluence: An East Lake Studio for Community Design to initiate a number of community-engaged projects involving residents of South Minneapolis’s Ninth Ward and Carleton students. These actions propose models for how one might undertake holistic acts of community development that center the needs and interests of the racially and economically diverse people who live in the neighborhood. This ground-up method of community design prioritizes local knowledge and expertise along with creative means to catalyze residents to action.

Fellowship Project: During the fellowship period, Ross plans to work closely with the Provost’s Office to develop new models for collaborative teaching and learning at Carleton College. As a leading liberal arts college, Carleton prides itself on interdisciplinary modes of inquiry, and yet persistent barriers to collaborative teaching remain. This project seeks to identify these barriers and propose solutions to them. Some initial questions include: What models for collaborative teaching are possible beyond the standard team-taught course? What role might community partners play both in and beyond the classroom? How can we make these new initiatives sustainable so that faculty, departments, and community partners alike can both collaborate most effectively with one another and make such collaboration an integral part of the curriculum moving forward?

Fun Fact: Ross was a hair’s breadth away from being a contestant on the fourth season of The Great American Baking Show. He may very well audition again if taping of the show aligns with a future sabbatical. Fingers crossed.



LOUIS EPSTEIN

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC · ST. OLAF COLLEGE



Louis Epstein is Associate Professor of Music at St. Olaf College. His book, *The Creative Labor of Music Patronage in Interwar France* (The Boydell Press, 2022) reveals how collaborations between a variety of patrons and composers informed the distinctive sounds of French classical music between the world wars. His other research areas include the science of teaching and learning, and applications of digital mapping to musicology. With his students, he created The Musical Geography Project (www.musicalgeography.org), which won the American Musicological Society's Teaching Award in 2016. At St. Olaf, where he has taught since 2014, Louis has twice chaired the

Faculty Governance Committee and recently served on the Presidential Search Committee and Presidential Transition Team. He also co-directed St. Olaf's teaching and learning center, the Center for Innovation in the Liberal Arts. Active in his discipline, he co-chaired the American Musicological Society's Pedagogy Study Group and currently serves on the AMS Council. With his wife, Maggie, he co-chairs his family, including two kids and a mini Aussie named Barley. In his spare time he enjoys baking, biking, playing pickleball, and performing and recording music for families as one half of Louis and Dan and the Invisible Band.

Fellowship Project: St. Olaf has invested heavily in advising support, creating a net that can catch students who are struggling and that can help them find ways to succeed, with a goal of increasing student persistence. But a net catches students who are already falling, rather than preventing them from falling in the first place. This project would add an additional element to our wraparound advising initiative: a pre-emptive intervention strategy that structures students' classroom experiences to help them avoid the initial struggles that often lead to less success in class, lower grades, and lower retention. Collaborating with leaders and program directors in our student life and academic divisions, I will pilot high-structure, classroom-focused interventions that disproportionately benefit at-risk students with a goal of improving persistence, retention, and students' sense of belonging at the college.

Fun Fact: In my capacity as chair of the Faculty Governance Committee, I composed and performed an original song about shared governance at each of the college's faculty meetings over the past two years. I'm hoping to turn the material into the first (and last) musical about shared governance in higher education.



DUCHESS HARRIS

PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES · MACALESTER COLLEGE



Professor Harris was a Mellon Mays Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. She graduated with a degree in American History. In 1990, she was elected Student Body President, which made her the first Black woman to serve in this role at an Ivy League institution. She earned a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. While in graduate school, she worked for the late U.S. Senator Paul D. Wellstone. She did a Policy Fellowship at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and also completed Postdoctoral Fellowships at the University of Minnesota Law School and the University of Georgia.

Harris has advocated on the national level at the Congressional Black Caucus. Locally, she was appointed as a Minneapolis Civil Rights Commissioner by Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, appointed to the Governor's Council on Black Minnesotans by Governor Jesse Ventura, appointed to Co-Chair the Statewide Martin Luther King Holiday (twice) by Governor Mark Dayton; and appointed to the Board of Public Defense by Governor Tim Walz.

Her academic books include, *Racially Writing the Republic: Racists, Race Rebels, and Transformations of American Identity*, (2009), *Black Feminist Politics from Kennedy to Clinton*, (2009), *Black Feminist Politics from Kennedy to Obama*, (2011), *Black Feminist Politics from Kennedy to Trump*, (2018) and "Black Girl Magic Beyond the Hashtag: Twenty-First Century Acts of Self-Definition" (2019). She is also the proud curator of the Duchess Harris Collection, which has 120 written for 4-12 graders.

Her awards and recognitions include the 2023 Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal - 200 Black Leaders in the Twin Cities region, the Macalester College 2022 Trustee Award, the 2022 Canterbury School Thomas J. Sheehy III Distinguished Alumni Award, the 2022 Minneapolis YWCA "Woman of Power" Award, the 2021 Thomas Jefferson Award and the 2020 AARP Minnesota & Pollen 50 over 50 Honor as a "Disruptor" and "Narrative Shaper."

Fellowship Project: In 2021-2022, I was one of four faculty strategic planning champions. Our three initiatives are Curriculum, Culture, and Campus. Although they are intertwined, I have career aspirations of assisting the Senior Leadership Team with Curriculum and I would like to amplify experiential learning. I am interested in ensuring that all students have access to internships, community engagement, study away, and entrepreneurship experiences that prepare them for life after Macalester. I would also like to assess the feasibility of summer/January break programming to increase flexibility, grow opportunities for international experiences, and maximize use of our facilities and resources.

Fun Fact: I threw out the first pitch at the July 20, 2019 Minnesota Twins game against the Oakland "A"s.



MARION HOURDEQUIN

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY · COLORADO COLLEGE

Marion Hourdequin is a Professor of Philosophy at Colorado College. Her teaching and research focus on environmental philosophy, ethics, comparative philosophy, and philosophy of science, with particular interests in climate ethics and climate justice. She is the author of *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice* (Bloomsbury) and co-editor, with David Havlick, of *Restoring Layered Landscapes* (Oxford). She served on a National Academy of Sciences Study Committee that produced the 2021 report, *Reflecting Sunlight: Recommendations for Solar Geoengineering Research and Research Governance*, and she remains active in this area as a member of an Ethics Advisory Board



for the American Geophysical Union (AGU), in association with their work to develop an ethical framework for climate intervention research and development.

Professor Hourdequin is currently President of the International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE) and an Associate Editor for the journal *Environmental Ethics*. At Colorado College, she is a member of the Faculty Executive Committee, and her leadership experience also includes serving as chair of the Philosophy Department and Director of the Environmental Studies Program.

Fellowship Project: Marion Hourdequin's fellowship project focuses in three key areas: 1) Facilitating conversations about general education at Colorado College that have developed out of our recent strategic planning process (Project 2024), with the goal of affirming or updating existing general education goals and structures, 2) Partnering with the Colorado College Career Center, faculty, and advising systems to support CC students' "world readiness" (as described in the recent Boyer Report), and 3) Supporting Colorado College's emerging and ongoing climate- and sustainability-related initiatives. A lens of antiracism, diversity, equity and inclusion (ADEI) will inform work in all of these areas: of particular importance are issues of access and equity in relation to curricular structures, world readiness and career preparation, and institutional climate and sustainability efforts.

Fun Fact: I love to play both indoor and outdoor soccer.



CONNIE KASSOR

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES · LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Constance Kassor is an associate professor of religious studies at Lawrence University in Wisconsin, where she teaches courses on Buddhist thought and Asian religious traditions. She earned her B.A. in Philosophy and Buddhist Studies from Smith College, and her Ph.D. in West and South Asian Religions from Emory University.

Dr. Kassor's research focuses primarily on Tibetan Buddhist philosophy. Her forthcoming book, *Accounting for Awakened Awareness*, presents a comprehensive overview of the philosophy of Gorampa Sonam Senge, a prolific 15th-century Tibetan Buddhist



scholar and monk, whose work was censored by the 5th Dalai Lama. Her research has been supported by grants from organizations including the Fulbright Program, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Khyentse Foundation.

In addition to Dr. Kassor's work researching and translating Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, she is also interested in issues related to women and gender minorities in Buddhist traditions, as well as Buddhism and social justice. Over the past two decades, she has spent a total of several years living with Tibetan Buddhist communities in India and Nepal, working with the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, the Jamyang Foundation, the International Buddhist Academy, and the Rangjung Yeshe Institute. In addition to her scholarly publications, she has written for *Lion's Roar* and *Tricycle* magazines, recorded an audio course on Asian religious traditions for The Great Courses and Audible, and has a forthcoming video course on Tibet for the Wondrium platform.

Fellowship Project: Connie will lead an initiative to help ensure that Lawrence students are career-ready by graduation. She will work with offices and departments across campus to assess curricular and co-curricular issues that relate to career-readiness; to develop student networking opportunities with community members and alumni; and to embed these opportunities into the student experience in equitable ways, ensuring that everyone (including first-generation, BIPOC, and women-identified students) gains access to the "soft skills" related to succeeding in the workplace. She will also work with senior leadership in these and other areas of the university to assess current programming and identify opportunities for growth.

Fun Fact: The inside of one of my fingers is mostly metal and cadaver bone.



ANDREA KASTON TANGE

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH · MACALESTER COLLEGE



Andrea Kaston Tange is Professor of English at Macalester College and President of the Midwest Victorian Studies Association. She has served on and chaired the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom, Professional Rights and Responsibilities; spent one term as Director of Digital Liberal Arts and four years as department chair at Macalester; served on the Board for and as President of the Midwest Modern Language Association; and is an incoming member of the Associated Departments of English (ADE) Executive Committee. She has published widely on nineteenth-century British literature and culture, most recently on ephemera and visual images. She is currently working on a monograph entitled *Imagined Encounters: Public Impressions and Private Lives in the Age of Empire*.

In addition to scholarly work on a wide range of Victorian Studies topics, she is particularly interested in public discussions of the value of the humanities. Her public-facing work includes mainstream essays drawn from her research work in venues like Slate; a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education on how we think about "service" in academia; and forthcoming creative nonfiction.

Fellowship Project: Build an online "Student Pathways" project to help prospective students and their families, as well as current students, see the possibilities of pathways from a major to a career that are enabled by Macalester's unique combination of SLAC cross-disciplinary opportunities and Twin Cities location advantages. Such a multi-year undertaking would draw on campus support for web design and implementation, as well as cooperation with Alumni Relations. In the Fellow term I will pilot this project, including: creating set of interview questions for alumni; helping to design the website functionality (keys: make it searchable by major and by career area, so that people can start at either point and trace student paths); writing up alumni career path profiles based on survey responses; launching a limited version of the site, focusing on humanities and interdisciplinary programs across campus, with the longer-term goal of capturing alumni pathways for all departments.

Fun Fact: Because I teach nineteenth-century novels for a living, I can diagnose a surprising number of diseases on the basis of vague symptoms and modest euphemisms.



MEIRA Z. KENSKY

JOSEPH E. MCCABE PROFESSOR OF RELIGION AND DIRECTOR OF
ADVISING · COE COLLEGE

Meira Z. Kensky is currently the Joseph E. McCabe Associate Professor of Religion at Coe College, where she teaches a variety of courses for the Philosophy and Religion department and the First-Year Seminar Program. She regularly works with advanced students as they prepare Honors Theses and independent research. Kensky received her B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Biblical Studies (New Testament) from the University of Chicago.



Her first book, *Trying Man, Trying God: The Divine Courtroom in Early Jewish and Christian Literature*, was published by Mohr Siebeck in 2010, and was the inspiration for a conference on “The Divine Courtroom in Comparative Perspective” at Cordozo School of Law in New York. Currently, she is working on her second book for Mohr Siebeck, an examination of the figure of Timothy in Early Christian literature, and a book for Wm. B. Eerdmans on the Apocalypse of Peter and Early Christian tours of Hell. Recent publications include articles on the Acts of Timothy and on John Chrysostom’s Homilies on 1-2 Timothy (forthcoming). Kensky has lectured widely around the Chicago and Cedar Rapids areas, and gave the 29th Annual Stone Lectureship in Judaism at Augustana College, IL and the Winter 2016 Dean’s Craft of Teaching Seminar at the University of Chicago Divinity School. She was the recipient of Coe College’s C. J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award in 2013, and has served as Co-Director of the ACM Newberry Seminar in the Humanities and as Coe’s Director of First-Year Experience. She currently serves as Coe’s Director of Advising.

Fellowship Project: Kensky will be implementing Coe's new Academic Core Curriculum. This requires coordination between all departments at Coe, ensuring that students at all levels have equitable access to register for courses, including those whose categories have fewer courses populating them or whose courses are also required for many majors. Kensky will track which categories are the hardest to meet, working closely with department chairs, the Registrar’s office, and the Provost’s office to ensure that the Core is a central part of curricular planning and truly becomes the core, the intellectual and creative commons of the college. The spirit of the new Diversity Across the Curriculum requirement means that these must be courses across the curriculum and not just in discrete categories. Kensky will work with faculty and the Academic Policies Committee to design and integrate new courses at the introductory level that advance true diversity, maximizing opportunities for growth and development.

Fun Fact: Not being good at book report "projects," which my middle and high school teachers loved to assign, I once rewrote all the lyrics to *The Little Mermaid* to be about *Great Expectations*.



MARY I. UNGER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND CHAIR · RIPON COLLEGE

Mary I. Unger is an associate professor of English and Chair of the department as well as coordinator of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at Ripon College, where she teaches courses in American literature and literary theory, as well as in gender and sexuality studies. Her research interests include twentieth-century American literature, recovery work, women's reception practices and reading communities, middlebrow literature, literature of the Midwest, gender and sexuality, critical race theory, and pedagogy.



She is the recipient of the 2020 David D. Anderson Award for Outstanding Essay in Midwestern Literary Studies from the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature and the 2018 Katharine Newman Best Essay Award from the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States. Her current book project, *Reading the Renaissance: Black Women's Literary Reception and Taste in Chicago, 1932-1953*, is under advance contract with the University of Massachusetts Press as part of its Studies in Print Culture and the History of the Book series...and is due soon!

Fellowship Project: As an ACM fellow, Dr. Unger will lead diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts targeting three areas at Ripon College: (1) academic programming, (2) student retention and recruitment, and (3) faculty development. Her portfolio of responsibilities will include designing and implementing an inclusive STEM program with innovative science curricula, networking opportunities, and increased persistence to graduation for marginalized science students. In a similar way, she will work with faculty in the arts and humanities to create programming that promotes inclusive creative and performing disciplines on campus and that accesses new pipelines of traditionally underrepresented students in the arts and humanities. Finally, Dr. Unger will serve as Campus Lead for the CIC's new Belong initiative at Ripon to design inclusive learning, enhance faculty development opportunities, increase student belonging, and advance retention efforts.

Fun Fact: I weave (and currently own five looms)!



RON WATSON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HEALTH & SOCIETY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE · BELOIT COLLEGE



Ron holds a BA in religious studies, an MA in international peace studies and conflict resolution, and earned his doctorate in political science in 2013. He joined the faculty of Beloit College the same year with a dual appointment in Political Science and the Health & Society program, teaching courses in areas that include the role of race in U.S. governance and political life, U.S. health policy, comparative health systems, health inequalities and research methods. In addition to fluency in Japanese language, society and culture, Ron's research interests include the sociopolitical and health impacts of race and ethnicity, constitutional reform, domestic and global health inequalities, and public health policy. Ron is a co-founder of #Black Lives Matter Beloit and serves as a commissioner on the City of Beloit Police and Fire Commission.

Fellowship Project: The Fellowship Project (Director of Integrative Learning/Associate Provost) will involve:

- Programmatic buildout of Impact Beloit, an organizational point of contact for student-community internships and interaction, as well as community-campus relations.
- Launch of the Beloit Institute for Social Innovation, a “think tank” connecting students, faculty, staff and community organizations for research to produce white papers on topics important to the community.
- Organizing and convening of Community Summits- biannual gatherings designed to improve community-college relations, share awareness of pressing local issues, and increase student civic knowledge, awareness and connection with the city and surrounding areas.
- Aggressive promotion of equity and anti-racism in the career-readiness curriculum to reduce inequalities in employment, salary and other career areas post-graduation.

Fun Fact: I sang on stage with Destiny's Child (Beyonce's former group) in a packed arena back in the early 2000s.



DAYO ABAH

PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATIONS ·
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

Dayo Abah is a professor and head of the department of Journalism and Mass Communications at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. She teaches courses in law and communications, news media and society, strategic communication, and global communication. Her research interests include the First Amendment, digital media and the law, women and the media in Africa, and media and pop culture in Africa.



Her work has appeared in media and communications journals such as Communication, Culture & Critique, Media Culture & Society,

Journal of Media Law and Ethics, International Communication Gazette, Interactions: Studies in Communication and Culture, and edited books. Dayo has served on several university committees and in several leadership roles for the university including chairing the university-wide undergraduate research conference, Science, Society and the Arts in 2015. She was the at-large board member and the treasurer for the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Blue Ridge chapter. She is a member of the Community Board for Cardinal News, an independent online publication serving southwest and south side Virginia. She is also an editorial board member of Communication Law and Policy.

Fellowship Project: I believe all leadership styles should come with a DEI perspective otherwise, it becomes box-checking and something you do merely to satisfy stakeholders' expectations. Sustainable DEI initiatives are derived from a leader with a DEI perspective. This is not to say that leadership with a DEI perspective is easy. It is a very difficult form of leadership because it requires you to listen carefully, especially to those who are convinced that your perspective is the wrong one. The point of diversity is to give careful examination to everyone's viewpoints, including those with whom you disagree. How do you focus on solutions and act while also genuinely attentive to opposing viewpoints within the organization. My project is to locate how one develops a DEI perspective as a leader rather than a leader with DEI initiatives and achieve organization DEI goals without alienating those with opposing viewpoints on the issue.

Fun Fact: I cannot eat eggs unless I cook them myself.



JUDITH G. CABALLERO

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPANISH · MILLSAPS COLLEGE



Judith Caballero was born in San Luis Río Colorado, México and moved to the United States at the age of 13. She is Associate Professor of Spanish at Millsaps College. She earned her doctorate in Early Modern Peninsular Literature in 2011 and has a B.F.A in Theater Arts Education from the University of Arizona. She co-edited “Peculiar Lives in Early Modern Spain” and “Living the Comedia” (University Press of the South, 2020), a two-volume collection of essays honoring her mentor, Amy Williamsen. Her research focuses on the mother in Early Modern Comedias, gender issues, cognitive literary studies, sartorial relevance, marginalized voices, and gifting and commodity exchange. She is a founding member of the trilingual graduate journal

Divergencias: Revista de estudios lingüísticos y literarios.

She was member of a Mexican Folkloric dance group, which provided cultural programs about Mexican heritage in Tucson, Arizona, and a member of Borderlands Theater, an organization whose aim is to represent the art and struggles of all people within the borderlands in general but focusing mostly on the Latino/Chicano/Mexicano voices. She worked in the Arizona State Museum in the Office of Ethnohistorical Research as a paleographer and translator in a project that aimed to create a more accurate account of the Hopi and the Tohono O’odham lives during the Spanish presidio era based on archival documents and oral histories from the tribe’s elders.

At Millsaps, she volunteered to participate in the DiverCity Council, the Intercultural Affairs Task Force, and the Hispanic-Latinx Focus Group. She also initiated collaboration with the University of Mississippi Medical Center, to train majors and minors in Spanish to do health screenings, which they carry out in Spanish in underserved communities free of charge but under the supervision of a representative from the hospital.

Fellowship Project: I will act as the Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment. My responsibilities will be overseeing and improving the college’s processes for unit-based (office-level) assessment of effectiveness and the Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (ASLO) at the academic department and program level. I will report directly to the Provost and Dean of the College and serve on the President’s Cabinet.

I will work closely with members of the college’s Executive Staff, since all administrative units ultimately report to a member of that body. For the ASLO process I will work with department chairs and program directors, as well as the divisional deans, to review and provide feedback on the ASLO reports and identify additional areas for curricular improvement and pedagogical/curricular development.

Fun Fact: My last name means “gentleman.” When I was little, I saw “caballeros” in a bathroom sign, so I was very upset when my mom would not let me go into that bathroom.



ANENE EJKEME

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY · TRINITY UNIVERSITY

Anene Ejikeme is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. During her fellowship year Anene will work closely with Trinity's Academic Leadership Team, as well as students, former students and other stakeholders, to advance the university's strategic goals, with a particular focus on retention. Anene Ejikeme received her Ph.D. in History from Columbia University and her Master's from The Ohio State University. At Trinity Anene teaches courses on Africa, women, sports history, and food.



Before coming to Trinity University, Anene was Director of the Pan-African Studies Program at Barnard College (New York) where she taught courses on, amongst other subjects, Slavery in Comparative Perspective and the African Diaspora. Anene's research interests revolve around constructions of identity in colonial and postcolonial contexts, with a particular attention to gender and religion. Her publications include articles on elite Catholic women in Nigeria and the boxer Hogan Bassey. Anene is currently writing a biography of Bassey. Anene is also the author of Culture and Customs of Namibia and numerous essays in national and international news media, including The New York Times and The Christian Science Monitor. Anene has organized a number of major town-and-gown events on campuses across the country, including a "Roundtable on Black Feminisms" (Barnard College) and a 3 part-series on "Muslims Past and Muslims Present" (Albright College). Anene was the NEH Endowed Chair in the Humanities at Albright College, 2010-2011. From 2020 to 2023 she served as chair of the History department at Trinity. Since 2014 Anene has served as the Executive Director of the Africa Network, a consortium of liberal arts colleges.

Fellowship Project: As an ACS Mellon Academic Leadership Fellow, my task will be to support Trinity University's strategic goals. I will attend the regularly-scheduled meetings of Trinity's Academic Leadership team. Working with Trinity's Executive Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness and reporting to the Provost and VPAA, I will undertake a two-year project centered on the use of qualitative and quantitative data to identify trends and patterns that will inform strategic recommendations for student success, retention, persistence, and graduation efforts.

Expected project deliverables will be:

1. Building on published literature and past initiatives at Trinity to identify critical student academic performance and engagement data, making it readily available to leaders at all levels.
2. Developing qualitative practices and predictive models that can be used to identify and understand variables that impact retention, persistence, and graduation.
3. Recommending high-impact areas for intervention based on the qualitative analyses and predictive models.

Fun Fact: I wish I could speak Swahili, Yoruba and Hausa!



CAROLINE FACHE

PROFESSOR OF FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE STUDIES · DAVIDSON COLLEGE

Caroline Fache is a full Professor of French & Francophone Studies, Africana Studies, and Bacca Professor in the Humanities at Davidson College, North Carolina, where she has been teaching French and Francophone literature and film courses since 2007 and joined the Africana Studies department in 2013. In 2016, C. Fache became the Chair of Africana Studies, and in 2018 transitioned to chairing French and Francophone Studies, and since 2020, C. Fache has taught in the Humanities Program.



Originally from Lille, France, she first studied movie translation before working for a subtitling company in Paris. Then in 2000, C. Fache resumed her studies in Francophone literature, film and culture, and completed her PhD in 2007 at Indiana University Bloomington.

Fache's research interests include Métissage (Mixed Race Studies), West African film, immigration and transnationalism. She co-translated Boris Diop's *Africa Beyond the mirror* in 2012, she has published on Métissage and gender identity, immigration and memory, and most recently on francophone film production with her latest articles "Beur and banlieue TV comedies: new perspectives on immigration" (2018) and "Dis-integration: New Identity Formation Processes in 30° Couleur." Her current book project looks at immigration comedy as a subgenre in French film, and more specifically at the evolution of the representation of immigrants from tragic figures to comedy agents.

Her teaching interests span over a vast array of topics, and most recently she has taught "Africa Shoots Back," Black Paris, and a seminar on Josephine Baker besides the French language courses she teaches. She is also very involved with study abroad programs and has Davidson College students to France, Morocco, Reunion Island, and spent the fall 2019 leading the program in France again.

Fellowship Project: As the Academic Leadership Fellow and ADCI, Dr. Caroline Fache will investigate different possibilities for a more dynamic and inclusive future for the Humanities at Davidson, to strengthen the alignment of the values of the Humanities at large and the Humanities vision (and Division) to the College's mission of assisting students in developing humane instincts and disciplined and creative minds for lives of leadership and service and its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

To that end, she will pursue and promote the wonders of humanistic inquiry and learning alongside inclusive excellence; imagine a more inclusive future role, place and aspirations of the Humanities at Davidson, while honoring its rich humanistic legacy; explore transforming the Global Literary Theory major/minor into a Humanities major/minor that cultivates an inclusive community of curious, intrepid, compassionate, and socially-engaged learners; and strengthen the Global Humanities through the language departments and programs on campus and education abroad opportunities.

Fun Fact: I once went to a conference... in the wrong country! Let's just say that when colleagues casually say: "See you in Vancouver!" They should specify in which country. It did not cost me a whole new ticket since I figured it out during my stop in Minneapolis.



ANDREA C. HATCHER

ALFRED WALTER NEGLEY PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE ·
SEWANEE: THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Andrea C. Hatcher is the Alfred Walter Negley Professor of Politics and is the Director of the Pre-Law Program at the University of the South, where she teaches courses in American political institutions, constitutional law, and religion and politics.

She earned her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University where she trained in the study of Congress. Her book *Majority Leadership in the U.S. Senate: Balancing Constraints* (Cambria Press, 2010) is the first comprehensive study of the office of Senate Majority Leader. Her research has turned to religion and politics, particularly the

comparative political behaviors of American and British Evangelicals on which she published *Political and Religious Identities of British Evangelicals* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). Her most recent publication presents research on how American Evangelical leaders frame the January 6 Insurrection, and she has in progress a study of the politics of Black-majority churches in the UK.

She is a member of the Tennessee Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights, which is currently investigating hindrances to ballot access in Tennessee, with a particular focus on recent legislation that felonizes certain protest activity.

Fellowship Project: The Sewanee ACS Mellon Fellow will oversee various activities related to the recruitment and retention of faculty of diverse backgrounds at Sewanee, particularly:

- Research and make recommendations regarding inclusive hiring and retention practices, programs, and materials at Sewanee
- Assist efforts to address issues of salary equity
- Assist efforts to establish equity in promotion and tenure expectations across departments
- Design and implement activities of the cohort program for new tenure-track hires (e.g., setting up mentorship opportunities, writing groups, presentations) and assist in onboarding of faculty to create pathways for diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Oversee and train future groups of Equity Advocates (faculty group) and the Sewanee Academic Diversity Cohort (student group) to participate in tenure-track faculty searches

Fun Fact: Andrea is a political scientist because she remembers standing on her dad's shoes while he voted. Across hemispheres, her mother remains her most adventurous travel partner. Although she has seen Renee Fleming dozens of times around the world, Snoop Dogg has visited her backyard and Paramore has been her neighbor.



ERIC HENAGER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES · RHODES COLLEGE

In addition to courses in the basic and intermediate Spanish language/Hispanic cultures sequence, Eric teaches a wide range of courses in the advanced literatures and cultural studies curriculum. Many of the advanced courses he teaches are related in some form to his primary interests in contemporary Latin American narrative, popular culture in literature, literary representations of transculturation, and Spanish in the US.



His current research focuses on Spanish-language fiction set in the US Midwest and on the roles literature and journalism play in Latin America in modifying meanings associated with imported US cultural products, especially baseball. He has directed more than twenty summer courses in Ecuador, Argentina, México, and Spain. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and still suffers way more than he should with the fortunes of the university's mediocre athletic teams and with those of the (also perennially mediocre) Chicago Cubs. His wife Alicia teaches, elementary, middle, and high school Spanish. Eric and Alicia have three children: Paul Andrew, is a high school Spanish teacher and baseball coach; Liam is a recent college graduate who is starting a career in firefighting; Emma Paz is a student at Rhodes College who is considering a double major in International Studies and Educational Studies. In his free time, Eric plays tennis, does an amateurish job of keeping a garden, and plays with Tulip, a Cairn terrier-Lhasa Apso mix.

Fellowship Project: As Associate Dean for Global Initiatives, Eric will work with the Office of International Programs at Rhodes on a range of projects, all related to internationalization of the college. Among Eric's charges in the role are addressing obstacles for groups who are currently underrepresented in study abroad, facilitating development of new faculty-accompanied study abroad programs, assessing existing study abroad programs, extending Rhodes's reach in recruitment of international students and faculty, enhancing the integration of global education in the curriculum, and creating an organizational model for managing and sustaining the college's international initiatives.

Fun Fact: Stubbornly ignoring the fact that Eric and Alicia are not nearly old enough to be grandparents, their son and daughter-in-law are expecting a baby in July.



MICHELLE S. HITE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH · SPELMAN COLLEGE

Michelle S. Hite, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of English at Spelman College, where she directs the Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program, co-directs prestigious international fellowships, and serves as the Campus Coordinator for the UNCF Mellon Mays Program. In addition to her role as the Vice President of the Toni Morrison Society, Dr. Hite also serves as the Phi Beta Kappa President of the Epsilon Chapter of Georgia at Spelman College.



Dr. Hite's research often draws on figures in popular culture to meditate on humanist, civic, and spiritual concerns. This work began with her dissertation at Emory University, where she completed her doctorate. Dr. Hite's most recent publications use Beyonce and rapper Andre Benjamin to explore death and mourning in African American culture. NPR's Bottom of the Map podcast features Hite's interview on Benjamin and the Atlanta Child Murders as a special extended play titled "Survive and Advance." She can also be heard on NPR's a Closer Look with Rose Scott reflecting on the life and legacy of Toni Morrison, the subject of Dr. Hite's monograph currently under contract with McFarland Press. Dr. Hite's interview for Art Papers in collaboration with the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art with artist Amy Sherald further highlights her interest in race, citizenship, and art. Seeking opportunities to showcase the relevance of the humanities for public life, Dr. Hite began facilitating conversations between and among participants "from the shop floor to the c-suite" through Reflection Point.

Fellowship Project: Execute an institution specific project to review, update, and modernize the Spelman College faculty handbook.

Fun Fact: My great aunt, Shirlee Lewis, attended high school with Muhammad Ali, then Cassius Clay, and has a rare photograph of him from high school. In fact, there's a picture of her with Ali and another student in cap and gown that appears in the Ken Burns documentary, Muhammad Ali.



AZITA OSANLOO

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, FILM, CREATIVE WRITING ·
CENTRE COLLEGE



Azita Osanloo is Associate Professor of English, Film, and Creative Writing at Centre College. She teaches most areas of writing, but specializes in prose narrative forms, particularly Fiction Writing and Screenwriting. Additionally, her scholarly work includes narrative textile, Iranian film, and transnational literature. Since 2016, she has served as Director of The Writing Center at Centre College, for which she implemented an intensive practicum course that prepares new student-hires for peer mentorship roles. She earned a B.A. in Russian Studies and Creative Writing from Oberlin College, an M.F.A. from the University of Montana, and a Ph.D. from Florida State University.

"While much of my pedagogical and creative work stem from my instincts as a professional writer, (a relatively solitary occupation), my service and leadership experiences at Centre have largely been collaborative and intensive. During the 2018-2019 academic year, I was among six faculty members elected to overhaul and dramatically re-design Centre's General Education Requirements. The demanding yet joyful experience of re-designing a decades-old GenEd curriculum instilled in me an interest in academic leadership, one that directly led to my ACS application. Additionally, my service work has fostered an ever-increasing desire to collaborate with colleagues in fields dramatically different from my own. Since 2019, I have designed and team-taught courses with a biochemist ("The Scientist & The Storyteller"), an anthropologist ("Race, Gender, & The Civil War in American Film"), and a musicologist ("Storytelling in Music, Film, and Prose")."

Fellowship Project: Azita Osanloo's project for the ACS Mellon Leadership Fellow will focus on designing a cohesive model for Peer Mentorship Programs (PMPs) with the aim of making that model as inclusive and as impactful as possible.

How can Centre build a model for high-impact peer mentor programming that:

1. supports students' potential for academic and vocational success?
2. enriches campus culture, while fostering a sense of shared "ownership" for that culture?
3. prioritizes a mission to be inclusive of all students, from all backgrounds, at varied levels of learning and leadership capability?

Fun Fact: Ten years ago, I rode my bicycle from Oberlin, Ohio to Missoula, Montana. It took me about six weeks to ride the 2000+ miles. I camped six nights a week and carried all my gear on the bicycle. I make incredible campfire hash browns.



LAURA SENIO BLAIR

PROFESSOR OF SPANISH · SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY



Laura Senio Blair is professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, where she has worked since 2002. Since earning her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, her research agenda has centered on contemporary Hispano-American narrative, theater, and film. In 2012, Senio Blair served as a Fulbright Scholar in Chile, where she conducted research on exiled director Angelina Vázquez, and taught a course on Chilean theater at the Universidad de la Santísima Concepción. In 2014, she participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar titled “Jewish Buenos Aires,” directed by the late Dr. David William Foster. Authored chapters have been published in the books

Screening Minors in Latin American Cinema and *Nomadías: El cine de Mallet, Sarmiento y Vasquéz*. Her articles have appeared in *Letras Hispanas*, *Letras Femeninas*, *Studies in Hispanic Cinema*, *The Latin Americanist*, and *Aisthesis*. Her current research is on Chilean author Nona Fernández, and the Latin American Road movie. Laura grew up in San Diego and Seattle and spent her junior year of high school in Ecuador as an exchange student. Since then, she has lived in Spain, Mexico, Chile, and Argentina.

Fellowship Project: Professor Laura Senio Blair will begin a two-year appointment as Assistant Dean of Faculty Development and Strategic Initiatives with a focus on implementing programming for becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution. Dr. Senio Blair will create and manage a campus-wide HSI working group that includes representation from each University area including but not limited to the Center for Teaching, Learning and Scholarship, Athletics, Admissions, Student Life, University Advancement, Advising, and Academic Affairs, among others. She will work closely with Strategic Initiatives to secure grants and gifts, and participate in the University’s Advising and Retention working group, noting that HSI programming is deeply entwined with retention initiatives. She will report the HSI working group’s progress once a semester to the President’s senior cabinet team, attend academic affairs committee meetings with Southwestern’s Board of Trustees, and participate in one-on-one meetings with the VP of University Relations and the of Academic Affairs.

Fun Fact: While hiking in southern Chile, Laura missed the one and only weekly bus out of a remote forest because she got confused that daylight savings time in the southern hemisphere was opposite that of the US. She hiked an extra 40 miles than originally planned.



ERIC SMAW

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY · ROLLINS COLLEGE



Eric Smaw is a Professor of Philosophy at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida; a Clinical Ethicist at Florida State University, School of Medicine, Orlando campus; and the President of the Board of the Florida Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy of law and social and political philosophy from the University of Kentucky in 2006, after which he pursued post-Doctoral studies in international human rights at the University of Massachusetts in 2007. Some of his most recent publications include: (1) "Uterus Collectors: The Case for Reproductive Justice for African American, Native American, and Hispanic American Female Victims of America's Eugenics Programs" in Bioethics; (2) "Janus-Faced

Affirmative Action: Restorative Justice and the Transition to a Just Society" in Democracy and Education; and "Between Death and Donation: Ethical Considerations in Pediatric Heart Transplantation" in Bioethical Controversies in Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery.

In addition to publishing articles in law, politics, and human rights, Dr. Smaw has served as an Equity Officer for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Central Florida, and as a member of the National Board of the ACLU. He has participated in many public forums, radio, and television interviews to bring awareness to issues of justice and equality. Among the most recent interviews are: "Reparations for the Harms of Segregation and Slavery," sponsored by the ACLU of Volusia/Flagler County; Civics Education and Critical Race Theory, Spectrum News 13, March 18, 2021; and "Unique College Courses," Weekend Edition with LuLu Garcia-Navarro. National Public Radio (NPR), November 4, 2020.

Fellowship Project: In the fall of 2022, Dr. Smaw was selected by the Associated Colleges of the South to be an ACS Mellon Academic Leadership Fellow. For the next two years, he will serve as Special Assistant to the Provost for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) at Rollins College. Dr. Smaw will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the DEIB priorities that resulted from eighteen months of strategic planning by the college. Working closely with Rollins' strategic planning core group, strategic planning stewardship group, academic administrative leaders, and faculty across campus, he will be the key facilitator of the College's mission to become a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive community where everyone experiences a sense of belonging.

Fun Fact: I teach courses about zombies and serial killers.



DANNY BARRETO

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LGBTQ STUDIES · COLGATE UNIVERSITY



Danny Barreto is Associate Professor and Director of LGBTQ Studies at Colgate University. His research focuses on LGBTQ literature, film and activism in Galicia, a non-sovereign nation within the Spanish state. Specifically, his recent publications explore the productive tensions in Galician-language literature between emergent queer cultural movements and more institutionalized Galician nationalist discourses. During the 2022-23 academic year, he published an article on queer carework and aging in the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*, a new introduction to the novel 'Outono aquí' (2012) by Mario Regueira, and a special issue on feminist cultural production for the

International Journal of Iberian Studies, co-edited with Catherine Barbour (Trinity C, Dublin). As an undergraduate student at Hunter College (CUNY), his interests in Puerto Rican studies and sovereignty—and by extension, questions of migration, language and imperialism—led him to the field Galician studies, which remained the focus of his graduate studies. Danny completed his PhD in Hispanic Languages & Literatures and certificate in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Stony Brook University (SUNY) in 2010.

At Colgate, Danny serves as a member of the advisory boards for Women's Studies and Africana & Latin American Studies. He is an elected member of the Faculty Affirmative Action Oversight Committee and the Faculty Diversity Council, and has participated in numerous DEI-centered initiatives, such as the Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Coalition and Living Learning Workshop committee. Beyond Colgate, he has served on the Modern Languages Association's Delegate Assembly (2018-2021) and its Forum for Galician (2016-2021), and was the Vice President of the Asociación Internacional de Estudios Galegos (2018-2022).

Fellowship Project: Several years ago, Colgate began work on an Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan, which has become a major pillar of its broader Third Century Plan. This guiding document outlines initiatives that increase training and support for staff and students, enhance accountability structures, and strengthen efforts to recruit and retain a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. However, the curriculum is largely absent. Many see this as a glaring omission given that students and faculty are often drawn to a particular school because of the intellectual atmosphere and curriculum there. Reluctance to mandate DEI work in curricula is understandable, especially given national debates about whether DEI is incompatible with academic freedom. While I am not yet sure what shape my project will take, I aim to lead initiatives grounded in artistic and creative practice that would foster conversation about the role of the curriculum in meeting our other institutional goals.

Fun Fact: I know the lyrics to pretty much any song that played on the radio in Brooklyn in the 1990s.



KIRA JUMET

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT · HAMILTON COLLEGE

Kira Jumet is an associate professor in the Government Department at Hamilton College focusing on the Middle East and North Africa. She is also Director of the Middle East/Islamicate Worlds Studies Program and was recently awarded the NY6/Mellon Fellowship - Special Appointment to the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Dean of Faculty and the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Jumet is the author of *Contesting the Repressive State: Why Ordinary Egyptians Protested During the Arab Spring* published by Oxford University Press in 2018.



In addition to her work on social movements and Egypt, Jumet has also conducted fieldwork in Morocco related to national identity narratives and Imazighen (Berbers), North Africa's indigenous population. At present she is co-editing a book on the challenges faced by scholars native to repressive and/or illiberal states researching in their home countries.

Fellowship Project: My project examines two decades of faculty hires and departures at Hamilton College to understand why faculty of various demographics choose not to remain at the institution. In order to increase retention of diverse faculty, it is necessary to first identify why faculty are leaving.

Fun Fact: I ran my first 5K in October 2021.



JEN MITCHELL

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION ·
UNION COLLEGE



Jennifer Mitchell is currently Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Union College, where she's also Associate Professor of English and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's studies. She is the author of *Ordinary Masochisms: Agency and Desire in Victorian and Modernist Fiction* (University Press of Florida, 2020) and the co-editor of *The Female Fantastic: Gendering the Supernatural in the 1890s and 1920s* (Routledge, 2018). Her work has also appeared in *Feminist Modernist Studies*, *College Literature*, *The D.H. Lawrence Review*, *The Journal of Lesbian Studies*, and *The Journal of Bisexuality*. She is currently working collaboratively on a book about reading postures, gender, and the academy. At Union, she teaches courses like *Literature and Sexuality*, *Uncanny Texts*, *Queer Theory*, *Global Modernisms*, *Experimental Texts*, *Sex and Power*, and *Confronting the Canon*. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, she has two very charming cats and one not-so-charming-but-still-very-lovable cat.

Fellowship Project: There are two branches of the project I'll be working on during my fellowship. One is connected to DEI workflow reporting and the other to anti-bullying policies. At this point, Union is looking to improve its reporting structures around misconduct. While students who have issues with other students outside the classroom and staff members who have issues with other staff members have their respective procedures and offices to address their concerns--the Office of Community Standards and Human Resources, respectively--any issue that involves faculty members has been handled on a case-by-case basis with no real procedures or policies to guide the investigation and management of the complaints, outside of whatever might fall under the purview of Title IX. So during my fellowship year, I'll be working to develop both procedures and policies to help formalize this process.

Fun Fact: I went to high school across the street from a hospital and a jail and next to a golf course.



OSCAR A. PÉREZ

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPANISH · SKIDMORE COLLEGE

Oscar A. Pérez is an Associate Professor of Spanish and the director of the Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies program at Skidmore College. His research focuses on science, technology, and the environment in Hispanic literature and film. His work has appeared in various academic and he recently published the book *Medicine, Power, and the Authoritarian Regime in Hispanic Literature* (Routledge, 2022), which looks at the relationships between authoritarianism and medicine in the Spanish-speaking world from the perspective of literary studies.



Fellowship Project: Faculty retention project that will collect data from tenured and tenure-track faculty that have made the decision to leave the college in the last 15 years.

Fun Fact: Used to be an opera supernumerary (non-singing role).



JESS SIERK

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION · ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Jessica Sierk is an Associate Professor of Education at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, where she teaches Sexuality Education, Identity in Higher Education, Critical Whiteness Studies, and Critical Media Literacy. She received her B.S. in Secondary Mathematics Education and her Ph.D. in Education Studies with a specialization in Social Analysis, Educational Policy, and Reform from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and her M.S. in English as a Second Language Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her previous research about education in demographically transitioning communities has been featured in journals like *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies* and *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*. Her work has also been published in books like *The Price of Nice: How Good Intentions Maintain Educational Inequity* (edited by Angelina Castagno, published by University of Minnesota Press), *Pedagogical Translanguaging: Theoretical, Methodological, and Empirical Perspectives* (edited by Päivi Juvonen and Marie Källkvist, published by Multilingual Matters), and the forthcoming *Teaching and Learning in the New Latino Diaspora: Creating Culturally Responsive Practice* (edited by Edmund Hamann, Socorro Herrera, Enrique Murillo, and Stanton Wortham, published by Teachers College Press). She has several new research projects focused on higher education pedagogical innovations related to labor-based contract grading, undergraduate research experiences, and social media. She is also in the beginning phases of a long-term creative nonfiction project about how genealogical and family history research can help confront and challenge white supremacy and xenophobia. She hopes to one day be Associate Dean for Academic Advising Programs and/or Faculty Affairs.

Fellowship Project: In spring 2022, when I was serving as Vice Chair of Faculty Council, we conducted a survey of faculty and staff about well-being and hosted a follow-up conversation where we presented preliminary observations from the survey and facilitated small-group conversations to gather ideas for action items for the University. In spring 2023, the HEDS Campus Climate Survey for Diversity and Inclusion was administered on our campus for the second time (the first occurred in 2018). While this data collection has been invaluable to our understanding of faculty well-being and DEI, they treat the two as separate constructs. I contend that these are intimately intertwined and plan to conduct ethnographic interviews of faculty during fall 2023 (analysis in spring 2024) to better understand these concepts and how they intersect to impact the welfare and productivity of our faculty, with the goal of making data-informed recommendations for how to best proceed.

Fun Fact: I supplemented my research and teaching assistantships in graduate school with a side hustle as a Zumba instructor. At one point, I held six fitness certifications (Zumba, Aqua Zumba, Zumba Toning, Zumba Sentao, Turbo Kick, and NETA Group Exercise).



KATHERINE WALKER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC · HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

Katherine Walker serves as Associate Professor of Music at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, in Geneva, NY. Her research interests include eighteenth-century musical aesthetics and intersections of identity politics and popular music in the U.S. since 1920. Recent titles include "Leopold Mozart, the Rationalist? Humanism and Good Taste in Eighteenth-Century Performance Practice," "Remixing Western Music History," "Competitive Jamming in 1930s and 1940s Jazz," and "Eminem's Alter-ego and the New Authenticity."



Her current project is a book called, *Interpreting Music, Engaging Culture: Introduction to Music Criticism*, which is in contract with

Routledge. Walker holds dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Music and Psychology, as well as Master and Doctoral degrees in Musicology from Cornell University. She also earned a Performance Certificate in Double Bass from the François Rabbath Institute at the Nadia Boulanger Conservatoire de Paris, France and spent 2003 studying music of the African diaspora as a Rotary Ambassadorial Fellow in Cape Town, South Africa.

Fellowship Project: During my fellowship year, I will address four key action items in our institution's recently-updated Strategic Diversity Plan: these include updating the Faculty Handbook from the perspective of DEI; campaigning for changes to the Faculty Bylaws (which can only be amended with a majority faculty vote) to better support our under-represented and under-served faculty; updating our semi-annual climate survey to capture perspectives of invisible and marginalized communities on campus; and developing a student-based identity and inclusion training module to be implemented as part of our new Leadership Certificate Program.

Fun Fact: In my spare time, I am completing the certification training to become a board-certified Music Therapist.