



ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FELLOWS
SUMMER INSTITUTE

JULY 20-23, 2026

ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST

Anthony Bateza · St. Olaf College
Rebecca Brückmann · Carleton College
Jacqueline Clark · Ripon College
Catherine Denial · Knox College
Nora Lewis · Lawrence University
Nick Phillips · Grinnell College
Monica Rico · Lawrence University
Amber Shaw · Coe College
Daniel Youd · Beloit College
Ben Zeller · Lake Forest College

ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE SOUTH

Dania Abreu-Torres · Trinity University
Genny Ballard · Centre College
Miriam G. Clinton · Rhodes College
Olivier Delers · University of Richmond
Kimberly Dennis · Rollins College
Melissa M. González · Davidson College
Mimi Hanaoka · University of Richmond
Lucas Morel · Washington and Lee University
Garbiñe Vidal -Torreira · Hendrix College

NEW YORK SIX

Laura Free · Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Lisa Jackson-Schebetta · Skidmore College
Ani Maitra · Colgate University
Elena McGrath · Union College
Alexandra Plakias · Hamilton College
Angela Sweigart-Gallagher · St. Lawrence University



ANTHONY BATEZA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGION; CHAIR OF RACE, ETHNIC,
GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES · ST. OLAF COLLEGE

Anthony Bateza is a specialist in Martin Luther, moral theology, and Christian ethics. Luther's political theology is his primary area of research, focusing on the reformer's understanding of human agency and his relationship with the virtue tradition and Augustinian thought. He is also personally and professionally invested in questions of race, identity, and social justice. He has written on Black liberation theology and connections between Lutheran teaching and confronting racism in the United States.



Dr. Bateza has earned degrees from Iowa State University (B.S., 2002), the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (M.Div., 2006), and Princeton Theological Seminary (Ph.D., 2017).

Dr. Bateza teaches a variety of courses in the religion department that connect theological and historical questions with contemporary challenges. He has taught in the Enduring Conversations program and currently serves as the chair of the Race, Ethnic, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department (REGSS).

In addition to his regular teaching, Dr. Bateza also serves as the Co-Director of the Honest Storytelling Project, a collaborative writing effort to retell the college's history by highlighting untold and under-told stories that is supported with funding from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE). Beyond the college, Dr. Bateza is the co-chair of the ELCA Task Force commissioned to draft a new social statement on Civic Life and Faith.

Fellowship Project: Dr. Bateza's project is entitled, "*Collaborating to Become a Community of Leadership and Character*." He will take steps to implement the college's strategic plan goal of creating an Academy for Leadership and Character. This Academy will make the teaching, practice, and assessment of character development a central feature of the college's curricular and co-curricular opportunities at the college. This will entail programmatic responsibilities, dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders across the college, as well as exploring funding opportunities through grants and donor relations.

Fun Fact: Recently started piano lessons as an adult to learn alongside my children. In my free time I enjoy cooking, biking, and board games. My favorite TV show is *The Good Place*, and I am a fan of Superheroes (I teach a class on comics and religion).



REBECCA BRÜCKMANN

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY · CARLETON COLLEGE



Rebecca Brückmann (pronounced *Brookman*) is originally from Germany. She is an associate professor of History at Carleton College and specializes in African American and transnational Black history, the history of white supremacy, gender history, and Southern history. She completed her Ph.D. in modern and contemporary history at Free University Berlin, Germany, in 2014. She has taught at Free University, the University of Cologne, and Central Michigan University. She is the author of the book *Massive Resistance and Southern Womanhood: White Women, Class, and Segregation*

(University of Georgia Press, 2021), which analyzes white supremacist women's resistance against Black Freedom activism in Arkansas, Louisiana, and South Carolina from the 1940s to the 1960s. Her research on the Black Freedom Movement, Black Women's History, the history of the Black Diaspora, and the history of white supremacy has been published, e.g., in the *Southern Quarterly*, the *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, the *European Journal of American Studies*, and *Picturing Black History*. She is currently working on a book project on the transnational history of Black concert dance in the 20th century.

Fellowship Project: Rebecca will explore ways to expand interdisciplinary work on campus among humanities programs that study racialization and ethnicity (Africana Studies, American Studies, Latin American Studies, Indigenous Studies). Desired outcomes are to: a) identify shared interests and potential for interdisciplinary collaboration and curricular development pertaining to the study and teaching of racialization, ethnicity, and intersectionality; b) further integrate the academic expertise of faculty regarding DEI into projects and structures across campus; and c) enhance the visibility of these faculty and programs. Her second project will be to lead outreach to historically underrepresented faculty and assess their evaluation of community, equitable resources, creating and sustaining inclusive structures, and retention efforts across fields.

Fun Fact: I once was trapped in my third-floor apartment because the door lock broke, and I had no access to my phone. I flagged down a person on the street from my window, who called the fire department. The fire department had to break down the door to free me.



JACQUELINE CLARK

PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY AND CULTURAL STUDIES & CHAIR OF
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY · RIPON COLLEGE



Jacqueline Clark is a qualitative sociologist who studies social inequalities, health and illness, as well as visual sociology. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from North Carolina State University and completed her M.A. in Sociology and a minor in Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University. In her spare time, Jackie likes to scout thrift stores, flea markets, auctions, and antique stores for quirky collectibles. She has combined these interests in her research, which has focused on how and why some people collect contemptible collectibles or racist objects from the past, as well as

how they use these objects to reframe the meanings of racialized experiences and create counter-narratives. Jackie is in the process of starting a new project which examines how women from different generations experience everyday sexism. In addition to conducting semi-structured interviews, she will also photograph participants in the project. She teaches classes on social inequalities, medical sociology, death and dying, as well as sociology through film and research methods, among others.

Fellowship Project: Jackie will collaborate with members of the student affairs division to help develop a study away opportunity for students to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, to tour the Legacy Sites of the Equal Justice Initiative organization in Montgomery, as well as visit historical sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement in Selma. The trip will be paired with a 2-credit course to expose students to academic materials about events and issues that will be addressed by the exhibits and other sites. She will also work on faculty development projects for the Catalyst program, Ripon's general education program, as well as the SOAR (Summer Opportunities for Advanced Research) program.

Fun Fact: Jackie is a licensed auctioneer in the state of North Carolina.



CATHERINE DENIAL

BRIGHT DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN HISTORY ·
KNOX COLLEGE



Cate Denial is the Bright Distinguished Professor of American History and Director of the Bright Institute at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. Her new book, *A Pedagogy of Kindness*, was published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 2024. Her historical research has examined the early nineteenth-century experience of pregnancy, childbirth, and child-rearing in Upper Midwestern Ojibwe and missionary cultures, research that grew from Cate's previous book, *Making Marriage: Husbands, Wives, and the American State in Dakota and Ojibwe Country* (2013). From July 2022 to December

2023, Cate was the PI on a \$150,000 Mellon-funded grant bringing together thirty-six participants from across higher education in the United States to explore "Pedagogies, Communities, and Practices of Care in the Academy After COVID-19." Cate consults on teaching in higher education with individuals, departments, and institutions in the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, and Australia.

Fellowship Project: Cate's project seeks to develop thought leadership efforts at Knox College, particularly in relation to the college's mission and values. Such efforts include "challenging each other to explore, understand and improve ourselves, our society and our world," and living up to the founders' vision of a college that would "increase access to all qualified students of varied backgrounds, races and conditions, regardless of financial means." In contemporary terms, this encompasses our mission of access, active liberal arts learning, community, student mentorship, and a broad commitment to diversity. This project will raise the visibility of this work in local and national media and enhance the reputation of the college. At zero cost, this program will strengthen local, national, and international name and brand recognition for the college, further faculty career goals, and aid in recruiting a diverse pool of new students, staff, and faculty members.

Fun Fact: I was a member of the MTV Music Awards academy for two years.



NORA LEWIS

ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC ·
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY



Nora Lewis serves as Associate Dean of the Faculty and Associate Professor of Music at Lawrence University, where she will transition to a full-time role as Associate Provost beginning July 1, 2025. In her current administrative capacity, she oversees faculty development and mentorship. Her teaching includes applied oboe and a range of musicology and music theory courses, including *Aesthetics of Music* and *Music in Fin-de-Siècle Paris and Vienna*. Her recent scholarly contributions include the book, *Notes for Oboists: A Guide to the Repertoire* (Oxford University Press, 2025).

Nora's performance career includes appearances as a guest oboist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's MusicNOW series, and WFMT's "Live from Studio B." She has performed with Alarm Will Sound, International Contemporary Ensemble, and Boston Lyric Opera, and was a founding member of Chicago-based Ensemble Dal Niente. From 2010-2019, Lewis was a founding member of the PEN Trio with clarinetist Phillip O. Paglialonga and bassoonist Eric Van der Veer Varner. The ensemble commissioned new works and performed across the United States and 14 countries. Their album, *Found Objects: New Music for Reed Trio* (2019), was released on Summit Records.

She has contributed presentations, performances, and papers at conferences including the Midwest Clinic, International Double Reed Society, and College Music Society in Finland, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Lewis serves as consulting editor for *The Instrumentalist* magazine and has been recognized with a Big-12 Faculty Fellowship, honorary membership in Sigma Alpha Iota as a National Arts Associate, Pi Kappa Lambda, and a Yale Alumni Ventures Grant. She is a graduate of Lawrence's dual-degree program in oboe performance and philosophy and received a Master of Music degree from the Yale University's School of Music and a Doctor of Music degree from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music.

Fellowship Project: In her new role as Associate Provost, Nora will take on additional responsibilities and oversee a project, both in faculty affairs. The additional responsibilities will include supervision of the hiring of contingent faculty across the University, the management of external and internal academic program reviews, and the supervision of several academic staff. Her project will entail a full review and revision of policies for the evaluation, promotion, and mentorship of contingent faculty, policies which we presently lack at Lawrence. Working with the Provost, the Faculty Committee on University Governance, Human Resources, and other offices on campus, she will research best practices among peer institutions and will produce and implement a proposal to institutionalize equitable policies that will benefit contingent faculty and the University alike. Aligning practices in the Conservatory and the College will be an especially important goal.

Fun Fact: Several years ago, I used Lawrence's December Term to walk 500 miles following the Camino de Santiago from Lisbon, Portugal, to Santiago de Compostela, Spain.



NICK PHILLIPS

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF CURRICULUM & ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPANISH · GRINNELL COLLEGE



Nick Phillips is Associate Professor of Spanish, and since July 2024 has served as Associate Dean for Curriculum and Academic Programs at Grinnell College. He was Spanish Department chair from 2021-24 and currently chairs the Curriculum Committee and the Tutorial and Advising Committee. He has published several articles on contemporary Spanish detective fiction and continues to develop and integrate Digital Humanities projects with undergraduate students in his upper-level classes. In 2022, Nick traveled with 17 students from his Spanish seminar to Barcelona, Madrid, and Seville during the

college's two-week spring break, where students mapped detective novels in Spanish cities and then incorporated their findings into their final research projects for the course. Nick also contributes to the Film and Media Studies concentration and chaired the program during 2022-23.

In his current role as Associate Dean, Nick oversees the first-year Tutorial program and continues to develop enhanced training opportunities for faculty who teach and advise first-year students, in coordination with campus partners. He works closely with the Registrar in reviewing registration, the creation of new curricular programs, and helps guide departmental external reviews. He is also involved in planning initiatives to expand Grinnell's capacity to recruit and advise transfer students. Additionally, he works closely with Dean's Office staff to coordinate term and adjunct faculty hiring, and supervises staff partners in the Writing, Reading, and Speaking Center, as well as the Liberal Arts in Prison Program.

Fellowship Project: Nick's project focuses on developing curricular structures to support and enhance multi-departmental and interdisciplinary majors and other academic programs at Grinnell College in order to meet the needs of our current and future students, especially in the areas of Global and International Studies, Film and Media Studies, and the Health Professions. His project will work towards producing a curricular playbook that can aid in the creation, assessment, and revision of these curricular structures, while also linking key areas of campus such as the Institute for Global Engagement and the Health Professions Advisory Committee with established departments and disciplines. Additionally, his project will study how Grinnell's individually advised curriculum and liberal arts focus can serve as organizing principles for assessing curricular projects and in orchestrating discussions on how to implement curricular and structural change.

Fun Fact: I'm currently in my second year of coaching boys' travel soccer (U12) and will gladly accept any tips or advice!



MONICA RICO

ROBERT S. FRENCH PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES AND
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY · LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Monica Rico is the Robert S. French Professor of American Studies and Professor of History at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. A scholar of early America and the nineteenth-century United States, her research focuses on cultural, environmental, and gender history. She is the author of *Nature's Noblemen: Transatlantic Masculinities and the American West* (Yale University Press, 2013) and is the recipient of fellowships from the American Philosophical Society, the Smith Library at George Washington's Mount Vernon, and the Bright Institute at Knox College.



Rico's academic leadership is extensive. She has directed Lawrence's Environmental Studies Program, chaired the History Department, and currently leads the university's first general education curriculum revision in over two decades. Locally, she has served on the board of the Outagamie County Historical Society for over a decade, including nine years as president, and has contributed to civic initiatives in Appleton and the Fox Cities. Her professional service extends nationally. She chairs the Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity for the American Society for Environmental History."

Fellowship Project: As Special Assistant to the Provost and Director of the Humanities Center, Rico will establish and lead Lawrence's new Humanities Center. She will be responsible for the Center's programming, budget, space, and community partnerships. She will also advise the Provost on efforts to strengthen and coordinate curricular and co-curricular efforts across our humanities programs.

Fun Fact: I was once profiled in a book called *What Are You Doing After College?* but to this day, I'm still working on my answer to that question.



AMBER SHAW

HENRY AND MARGARET HAEGG ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
ENGLISH & NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP ADVISOR · COE COLLEGE

Amber Shaw is an Associate Professor of English at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she teaches courses in nineteenth-century American and transatlantic literature. Her research primarily focuses on nineteenth-century factory literature and transatlantic literary responses to the textile mills of Lowell, Massachusetts. Her recent articles have appeared in journals such as *ESQ*, *Women's Studies*, and *Symbiosis*. She regularly works with advanced students as they prepare honors theses and co-directed the Fall 2018 ACM Advanced Seminar in the Humanities at the Newberry Library. She earned her



B.A. from Rhodes College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia.

In addition to her research and teaching, Shaw serves as Co-Chair of the English, Creative Writing, and Communication Studies Department and as Coe's National Fellowship Advisor. In this role, she oversees all aspects of the campus application process for highly competitive awards—including the Truman, Goldwater, Rhodes, and Fulbright—from the initial recruitment of qualified students to publicizing news of finalists and awardees. She enjoys working with students from across the College and learning about their diverse academic interests.

In her free time, Shaw enjoys cooking, reading cozy mysteries, and spending time with her family—her husband Matt, their toddler Henry, and their dog Charlie. On weekends, the family often explores children's museums within a reasonable drive from their home in Iowa City.

Fellowship Project: Amber's project will develop an Office of Fellowships, Research, and Grants designed to serve both students and faculty. This office will organize and centralize existing funding and experiential resources available across campus, while also expanding access to external fellowships and grants that align well with Coe's community. A key component of the initiative will involve creating a dedicated section of Coe's website to highlight internal and external opportunities. This new web presence will serve internal audiences effectively and act as a valuable tool for showcasing Coe's commitment to enriching student and faculty experiences to external audiences. Additionally, Shaw will contribute to the College's institutional grant writing team by collaborating with the Office of Grants and Sponsored Research and assisting with institutional funding applications.

Fun Fact: My college friends and I have taken a trip (to a new destination!) together every Labor Day weekend since 2005. This year: Lake Minnetonka near Minneapolis.



DANIEL YOUNG

PROFESSOR OF MODERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES AND
ASSOCIATE DEAN · BELOIT COLLEGE



Daniel Michael Youd has always been fascinated by languages, as reflected in his teaching and research. At Beloit, he teaches classes in various levels of Modern Standard Chinese. Learning Chinese gives students insights into language's role in shaping how we think and experience the world. He also offers courses on topics related to Chinese literary and cultural history. In recent years, his teaching has grown to include courses that introduce students to research in the Digital Humanities (DH). Students in his courses use a variety of quantitative tools and methods to explore texts as data. He is

particularly intrigued by the ways in which we can apply computational tools and methods to the study of literature. Additionally, Youd enjoys mentoring students interested in literary translation, something he pursues in his scholarship. Currently, he is working on a translation of the eighteenth-century Chinese language novel *Lüye xianzong* (working title: *The Worldly Adventures of Master Leng Yubing, Daoist Immortal*). His latest published research can be found in *History Retold: Premodern Chinese Texts in Western Translation* (Brill, 2022; Leo Tak-hung Chan and Zong-qi Cai, eds.) Titled *The 'Double Effect' of Translation in Jean-Pierre Abel-Rémusat's lu-Kiao-Li*, his contribution to this volume describes how a work of narrative fiction from seventeenth-century China came to be translated into French in the early nineteenth century. It also explores what its readers understood themselves to be reading.

Fellowship Project: As a Mellon Academic Leadership Fellow, Daniel will have three key responsibilities in his portfolio:

- 1) He will serve as liaison for the Provost's Office for the college's new Center for Integrative Inquiry and work closely with the center's director to build out and implement the new humanities "block" curriculum.
- 2) He will assume the lead role in building out inter-institutional academic partnerships, one of the college's current strategic priorities.
- 3) He will serve as Accreditation Liaison Officer for the college's comprehensive review by the Higher Learning Commission in spring 2027, for which he will collect the data and write the report.

Fun Fact: I am an avid amateur piano player and a middle-aged runner.



BEN ZELLER

PROFESSOR OF RELIGION, INTERIM ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE
FACULTY AND CHAIR OF RELIGION · LAKE FOREST COLLEGE



Ben Zeller is the Irvin L. & Fern D. Young Presidential Professor of Religion at Lake Forest College, and Interim Associate Dean of the Faculty. At Lake Forest, he teaches on North American religious history, new religious movements (“cults”), and comparative topics like religion and food, and religion and science. Past elected shared governance roles include chairing the faculty policies committee and curricular oversight committee, and administrative duties include co-managing the College’s most recent reaccreditation assurance argument process. He is currently project director for the College’s Mellon Foundation funded grant on AI and the humanities, HUMAN.

Ben is the author of *Heaven’s Gate: America’s UFO Religion* (NYU Press, 2014), *Prophets and Protons: New Religious Movements and Science in Late Twentieth-Century America* (NYU Press, 2010), and co-editor of *Religion, Attire, and Adornment in North America* (Columbia University Press, 2022), *Religion, Food, and Eating in North America* (Columbia University Press, 2014), *The Bloomsbury Companion to New Religious Movements* (Bloomsbury, 2014), and *Bloomsbury Handbook of Religion and Food* (Bloomsbury, 2026). He also designed the Sacred Chicago project, a digitalization project involving Chicago’s sacred spaces, funded as part of the College’s past Mellon grant, *Digital Chicago: Unearthing History and Culture*. He serves co-general editor of *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, and series editor for the *Brill Handbooks on Contemporary Religion*. Zeller holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina and an M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School.

Fellowship Project: Ben will build on the College’s Office of Faculty Development (for which he served as a past Associate), and spearhead the creation of a Center for Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship on the Lake Forest College campus. The proposed center will combine support for teaching with support for scholarship, and in doing so, foster a community of teacher-scholars that benefits the campus as a whole. Ben will be studying best practices in such centers, assess what current instructional support we have at Lake Forest College for a center, collaborating with campus constituencies, and develop resources for the new center.

Fun Fact: My family and I go to the Renaissance Festival every summer, and I have a whole outfit of period appropriate clothing. Plus a wizard’s hat, which is just for fun.



DANIA ABREU-TORRES

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SPANISH · TRINITY UNIVERSITY



Dr. Dania Abreu-Torres is a Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Trinity University, San Antonio, TX. Her leadership roles at Trinity include being the co-director of the Women and Gender Studies program and the director of the Mexico, the Americas, and Spain (MAS) Program. Dr. Abreu-Torres's research focuses on national identities, racial discourses, and gender representation in Latin American and Caribbean literature and cinema. She has taught courses related to Afrolatinidad, Puerto Rico in current times, racial readings in Latin American cinema, the First-

Year Experience on Inventing Mexico, and the Beyond the Classroom Experience in Cuba. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Centro Journal*, *A Contracorriente*, *Hispania*, and *Afro-Hispanic Review*. Her co-authored publication *Latinidad and Film: Queer and Feminist Cinema in the Americas* was published in 2024 with Palgrave Macmillan, and she is currently working on a manuscript tentatively titled *Reescribiendo el Caribe: La escritura cimarrona como instrumento de liberación* [Rewriting the Caribbean: Maroon Writing as a Freedom Instrument]. With the Trinity University Archivist, Dr. Abreu-Torres created the *Conmemorando a la comunidad: Latinx Experiences at Trinity University* archival and oral history project, in which she has mentored and worked with student researchers to bring Latinx history to the forefront of Trinity University's institutional history.

Fellowship Project: Dr. Abreu-Torres is the new Associate Dean for the Carlos Alvarez School of Arts and Humanities, a new position at Trinity University. Her main goal is to create a new approach to advising in the arts and humanities by considering career readiness and relevance after the college experience, and by opening spaces for conversation regarding AI use in the classroom, guidelines, and policies. The objective is to create spaces for students to articulate how their Humanities majors make sense in the real world and help them understand the immense capacities—in skills, critical thinking, and adaptability—they bring to the job market as Humanities majors.

Fun Fact: Dania was a singer in high school, won a regional talent show, and performed nueva trova songs with a band called Sondas de Mar. She still performs with her daughters in their own version of Carpool Karaoke, especially on road trips, which they love to do.



GENNY BALLARD

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR CAREER ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY AND
DIRECTOR OF CENTREWORKS · CENTRE COLLEGE

Genny Ballard, Ph.D. is Assistant Dean for Career Access and Opportunity, Director of CentreWorks, and Professor of Spanish at Centre College in Kentucky. She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and a U.S. Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Ballard also served as a Fulbright Specialist in Colombia, where she worked with faculty and administrators on international collaboration and academic program development.



Dr. Ballard is actively engaged in international education, community-based learning, and student internships. She has extensive study abroad experience and has directed several academic programs in Latin America. Ballard is also an active contributor to international research groups that focus on intercultural competence and language teaching.

Fellowship Project: As the Diversity Career Connections Program Coordinator, I will lead efforts to expand career opportunities and mentorship for underrepresented students at Centre. I will build a strong network of alumni and diverse professionals to offer guidance and direct mentoring. I will support academic advisors in helping first-year students identify their internship and research interests early on. I will also develop partnerships with diversity-focused businesses, nonprofits, labs, and government agencies to create pathways into fields like STEM, finance, and law—areas where minority representation is still too low. I'll seek out paid research opportunities for URM and First-Gen students and support grant applications for on-campus, mentored projects. I will collaborate with the Career Exploration Communities to bring professionals into diversity-tagged classes, and I'll organize career-readiness panels with student groups like Black Student Organization, Centre Pride, and the Latine Club.

Fun Fact: I love running—yes, on purpose, and not because someone is chasing me. My running group is my bunch of intense, slightly unhinged early risers. We travel to races together, because nothing says “vacation” like paying to suffer in a different zip code.



MIRIAM CLINTON

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY · RHODES COLLEGE



Miriam G. Clinton is an active field archaeologist specializing in the architecture of the ancient world, especially Bronze Age Greece. Her research currently focuses on 3D modeling of Minoan (and other ancient) buildings for online and scholarly use as tools to study the ancient use of architecture. Her online game is available at rhythahouse.com - it is based on a 3D model of the House of the Rhyta on Pseira, off the coast of Crete, a house used in approximately 1450 BCE. She has extensive fieldwork experience on excavations in both Greece and Italy and has served as an architectural and digital archaeology specialist for projects associated with the Institute for

Aegean Prehistory's Study Center for East Crete. She is on the architectural publication teams for the Megalos Peristeres Cave Excavation and the Bays of East Attica Regional Survey. She has been awarded numerous grants and fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Center for Helladic Studies, Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation, the Betancourt Grant, and others.

Clinton teaches courses in ancient art, including intermediate-level courses in Greek, Roman, Near Eastern, and Egyptian art and architecture, as well as seminars on classical archaeology and Pompeii. She is particularly interested in the development of the concept of the West and how it has affected the study of the ancient world. One of her favorite aspects of teaching at Rhodes College is the opportunity to work with students in hands-on study; she regularly brings students to study fieldwork in Greece and works with students on research projects in Memphis through research fellowships. She teaches 3D modeling techniques in architecture classes and assigns a project working with Roman coins in her Roman art classes.

Fellowship Project: As Associate Dean for Teaching, Learning, and Emerging Technology, Miriam will work with the Dean for Faculty Development and the Provost's Office. She will lead efforts to mentor faculty and work closely with the faculty-led artificial intelligence (AI) Task Force in exploring generative AI, augmented reality, virtual reality, natural language processing, and other emerging technologies within a liberal arts context. In addition, Clinton will lead faculty conversations around the ethics and value of emerging technologies and will work with Information Services to develop a strategic vision for teaching and technology in classrooms, labs, studios, and beyond.

Fun Fact: Miriam's middle name is "Galadriel," which her mother describes as "the most romantic thing [her father] ever did." Miriam has kept up the Tolkien tradition in the family, giving her own daughter the middle name "Eowyn." (Miriam's husband put his foot down about the first name "Galadriel.")



OLIVIER DELERS

PROFESSOR OF FRENCH · UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND



Olivier Delers is Professor of French at the University of Richmond, where he has served as Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and Interim Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance. He received his undergraduate degree in English from the University of Nancy, France, before coming to the United States, first as an exchange lecturer at Ball State University and then as a Ph.D. student in French in the Romance Languages Department at the University of Michigan. His first book, *The Other Rise of the Novel in Eighteenth-Century French Fiction* (University of Delaware Press, 2015), looks at representations of economic behavior in novels

by Prévost, Graffigny, Rousseau, and Sade. He has published a number of articles on visual representations of Sade's works in twentieth and twenty-first century art. He has co-edited *Wim Wenders: Making Films That Matter* (Bloomsbury, 2020) and written a series of essays about the intermedial and transmedial dimensions of Wenders' films. He is currently working on the representation of the eighteenth-century in two films by Albert Serra, *The Death of Louis XIV* and *Liberté*. At the University of Richmond, he teaches upper-level French courses, a first-year seminar on world cinema, and a world literature course in the sophomore-scholar-in-residence program. Since 2014, he has served as Director of Richmond's summer program in La Rochelle, France. He has also traveled with students to Portugal, Denmark, Japan, and Senegal.

Fellowship Project: In partnership with my co-fellow, I am responsible for leading and implementing a strategic initiative that explores the connection between the humanities and career development. Our work involves conducting research, designing new frameworks, developing resources, and promoting collaboration across departments to strengthen the role of the humanities in enhancing student outcomes and supporting institutional priorities. This initiative aims to address structural barriers in career development for humanities majors, promoting inclusive and equitable opportunities for all students.

Fun Fact: My parents sent me to camp in East Germany when I was twelve on a trip organized by my father's trade union. I got to speak German and engage in "cultural friendship" with East German kids. No indoctrination was involved, but it was an eye-opening trip even for a young teenager!



KIMBERLY DENNIS

DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS ·
ROLLINS COLLEGE



Kimberly Dennis is Professor of Art History at Rollins College, where she also teaches in the interdisciplinary Honors and Sexuality, Women's & Gender Studies programs. She also serves as Director of Rollins' Office of External Scholarships & Fellowships. Kim's primary teaching areas are European Renaissance and Baroque art history, with an emphasis on women's history and gender/feminist theory. Beyond the classroom, she has led study abroad programs in Rome and Paris and curated exhibitions on topics ranging from early modern Italian drawings to social justice issues in contemporary art by women and non-binary artists.

Kim's leadership roles have included directing the Rollins Women's Center and the program in Sexuality, Women's & Gender Studies, as well as service on the committee that implemented Rollins' innovative core liberal arts curriculum. She has been the recipient of Rollins' Cornell Distinguished Faculty Awards for Teaching and Service and the President's Award for Diversity and Inclusion.

Kim's publications have focused on women's contributions to the architectural and urban history of Rome during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Her current research projects include an art historical biography of Olimpia Maidalchini Pamphilj, sister-in-law of Pope Innocent X, and a co-authored project on the ceiling frescoes by Pietro da Cortona in Palazzo Pamphilj, Rome. She shares her scholarship with the public through lectures for the Smithsonian Journeys program in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Italy.

Fellowship Project: Kim's project aims to extend the reach of the Rollins fellowships office, cultivating an even more diverse applicant pool and increasing underclass engagement with fellowship opportunities. This work will entail the expansion of partnerships with faculty and staff as well as with foundations.

Ultimately, the project seeks to foster a thriving fellowships culture at Rollins and to create a virtuous cycle that will enhance academic excellence on the Rollins campus. As more students participate in fellowships, those students return to campus with a deepened sense of purpose and engagement with the disciplines they are studying. Additionally, these students bring a more global perspective, contributing to the development of a more culturally competent campus culture. These students also share their experiences with peers, encouraging others to pursue similar opportunities, and thus, create a culture in which fellowships are understood as integral elements of a Rollins education.

Fun Fact: Kim was a nationally ranked horsewoman in high school and now is an avid gardener and practitioner of Ashtanga yoga.



MELISSA GONZÁLEZ

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISPANIC STUDIES AND ASSISTANT
DEAN OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT · DAVIDSON COLLEGE



Melissa M. González is Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies, Chair of Latin American Studies, and Core Faculty in Gender & Sexuality Studies, a department she also chaired for four years. In recent years, she served one year as the Acting Assistant Dean of DEI and another year as the Interim Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer at Davidson College, supporting the transition to a newly created Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion headed by a vice president. She earned her BA in English and her PhD in Latin American and Iberian Cultures with a Graduate Certification from the Institute for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, both at Columbia University. In 2020, she earned an MA in

Computational Media from Duke University, supported by a Mellon New Directions Fellowship. Around this time, she was surprised to learn that an ADHD diagnosis partially explains both the diversity of her interests and the wide range of her institutional work.

Since joining the Davidson faculty in 2010, Melissa has enjoyed teaching courses in cultural studies that foreground feminist and trans/queer understandings of racialized bodies, literary texts, and counter-hegemonic cultural production across all three of her academic departments. Her research spans trans and queer studies of twentieth-century and contemporary Latin American and U.S. Latinx literature and culture. She uses critical translation, qualitative methods, and feminist theoretical frameworks to study the marginalized knowledges produced by minoritarian, dissident sexual cultures in contemporary South and North America, working to understand and publicize how these cultures prefigure intersectional liberation in the context of inclusions and exclusions that operate transnationally. Her scholarship and commentary have been published in *American Quarterly*, *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, *GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies*, *Latin American Cultural Studies*, and *Transgender Studies Quarterly*.

Fellowship Project: As Assistant Dean of Faculty Development, I will expand ongoing efforts in Academic Affairs to close the loop between the recruitment of excellent and diverse faculty and the developing, supporting, and retaining of them throughout the entire faculty lifecycle. The role is especially focused on supporting the development of faculty who must confront the hidden curricula of higher education because they belong to groups of people that have been historically excluded from higher ed, a priority that becomes more urgent as we succeed in recruiting excellent and increasingly diverse teacher-scholars as faculty. The position focuses on faculty development in its less teaching-focused aspects, specifically: 1) creating a specialized, year-long onboarding of tenure-track assistant professors beyond the existing four-day new faculty orientation program, 2) offering support and development opportunities for department chairs as mentors, and 3) developing and sustaining communities of practice based on assessment of faculty needs, including visiting faculty.

Fun Fact: I read for pleasure every single night, sometimes award-winning literary fiction, but most often sci-fi, fantasy, and YA genres.



MIMI HANAOKA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
RELIGIOUS STUDIES · UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND



Mimi Hanaoka is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Richmond. Her research focuses on Islam and Muslim identity. Her teaching interests include religion and sports, death and dying, saints and sinners, mysticism, and women, gender, and sexuality. Her first book, *Authority and Identity in Medieval Islamic Historiography: Persian Histories from the Peripheries* (Cambridge University Press), explains themes and literary strategies that “centered” texts from “peripheral” regions in medieval Persia. It addresses ways in which authors of narrative local histories composed in Persia during the 10th to early 15th centuries wove their

communities into Islamic narratives rooted in the perceived Islamic heartlands of Iraq, Syria, and Arabia. It also considers 13th- 14th century Anatolian histories to flesh out a comparative perspective. Her second book, *Negotiating Asian Modernity: Educational Reform, Hyderabad, and Japan, 1868-1926*, investigates how Muslim reformists approached Japan as a model of non-Western modernity and educational reform during the late 19th to early 20th centuries, focusing on the Muslim-ruled princely state of Hyderabad. Her current book project *Bodies in a Foreign Land: Muslim Burials and Repatriation in Buddhist and Shinto Japan, 1850-2020*, explores the religious, political, social, and legal treatment of how deceased foreign and Japanese Muslims have been buried in or repatriated from Japan. Her leadership includes serving as department Chair, a member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee, and an advisory board member for the Humanities Center.

Fellowship Project: In collaboration and partnership with my co-fellow, I will lead initiatives that integrate the humanities and career development at the University of Richmond while advancing the University’s commitment to fostering a welcoming environment for all students, staff, faculty, and alumni. The conceptualization and implementation of this project will involve conducting research, developing innovative frameworks, creating resources, and fostering cross-departmental collaboration to elevate the role of humanities in supporting student success and advancing institutional goals. I will work closely with internal departments, including the Vice President for Inclusion and Belonging, Career Development, Humanities Center, and others, faculty, and administrative leaders, to create initiatives that underscore the relevance and value of humanities in professional and institutional contexts.

Fun Fact: I love surfing and endurance sports, especially marathons and triathlons. I have an extremely underused PADI license for scuba diving.



LUCAS MOREL

PROFESSOR OF POLITICS AND HEAD OF THE POLITICS
DEPARTMENT · WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY



Lucas Morel is the John K. Boardman, Jr. Professor of Politics and Head of the Politics Department at Washington and Lee University. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Claremont Graduate University. He is the co-editor of *Measuring the Man: The Writings of Frederick Douglass on Abraham Lincoln* and author of *Lincoln and the American Founding* and *Lincoln's Sacred Effort: Defining Religion's Role in American Self-Government*, and editor of *Lincoln and Liberty: Wisdom for the Ages*. Dr. Morel conducts high school teacher workshops for the Ashbrook Center, Jack Miller Center, Hillel-Civic Spirit, Gilder-Lehrman Institute, Bill of Rights Institute, and Liberty

Fund. He is a former president of the Abraham Lincoln Institute; a founding member of the Academic Freedom Alliance; a consultant for the Library of Congress and National Archives; and currently serves on the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, which will plan activities to commemorate the founding of the United States of America.

Fellowship Project: As the Provost Faculty Fellow (2025-2027), Lucas is researching how his university can promote intellectual pluralism and civil discourse by examining how other schools have done so through various programs, institutes, and centers. The aim is to improve the education of their undergraduate and law school students by adapting what has worked at other schools, both in content and pedagogy, to the unique setting of Washington and Lee University as a small, private, liberal arts college with historic ties to the political development of the United States.

Fun Fact: I was a contestant on the television game show *Win, Lose, or Draw*.



GARBIÑE VIDAL-TORREIRA

PROFESSOR OF SPANISH · HENDRIX COLLEGE



Garbiñe Vidal-Torreira was born in Spain and moved to the United States to attend graduate school. Dr. Vidal-Torreira has a Bachelor's of Arts in English Literature, Linguistics and Language from the University of Deusto, in Spain, a Master of Arts in Spanish Literature, and a Ph.D. in Spanish Literature with a Graduate Minor in Women's and Gender Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her dissertation focused on the portrayal of women's age in short stories written by Spanish Peninsular women writers in the 21st century, and her fields of specialization include Age Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Women's Narrative, the Spanish Civil War, and Contemporary Spanish

Literature and Culture (20th-21st centuries).

At her current position as a Professor of Spanish at Hendrix College, Dr. Vidal-Torreira teaches language acquisition courses as well as other regularly offered courses on Peninsular literature, Hispanic foods, cultures, and media, queer literature in Spain, and the Spanish Civil War. She has published multiple articles and book chapters in Spanish and English on the areas of gender, sexuality, and aging, and she has presented her research extensively at conferences on these same topics in the United States, Latin America, and Spain. Dr. Vidal-Torreira is the current Director of the Hendrix Women's Leadership Community where she works towards building and leveraging a network of female Hendrix College students and alumnae for leadership development programming, career guidance, mentoring, and internships.

Fellowship Project: The Special Assistant to the Provost works with all areas of the college to coordinate and enhance the onboarding process from deposit to Homecoming weekend. She also makes recommendations for removing the roadblocks that students, particularly minority students and first-generation students, face that make succeeding and staying in college unnecessarily difficult. Projects include:

1. Collaborate with the Associate Provost for Advising & Academic Success to create programming to enhance student success and Hendrix's First Year Experience courses.
2. Examine the processes for recruiting and onboarding students to identify hurdles that students experience, particularly students of color and first-generation students.
3. Review curricular and co-curricular policies and practices to identify outdated and/or unjust policies and recommend changes that better serve our students.
4. Research best practices for hiring and retaining underrepresented faculty and staff.
5. Expand Women's Leadership Community programming to reflect and better serve our diverse student population.

Fun Fact: In her spare time, she enjoys kickboxing at her local gym, crocheting, and watching too many TV shows.



LAURA FREE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY · HOBART AND WILLIAM
SMITH COLLEGES



Laura Free is Associate Professor of History at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, and the author of *Suffrage Reconstructed: Gender, Race, and Voting Rights in the Civil War Era*. She also co-wrote, hosted, and narrated the podcast *Amended* for Humanities New York in 2020 to recognize the lesser-told and diverse histories of the people who made up the Women's Suffrage Movement. Her current work in progress is a book tentatively titled *Swear: An American History of Oath-Making, Oath-Taking, and Oath-Breaking*. *Swear* will examine the role that loyalty oaths have played in the history of American democracy from 1776-2026.

Fellowship Project: As a NY6 Mellon Fellow, Laura will be working on issues of faculty equity at HWS, resulting in a set of policies outlining faculty rights and responsibilities. Many other academic institutions have incorporated extensive sections on faculty rights and obligations into their faculty handbooks, but HWS has not. Without such protections, HWS faculty are vulnerable, particularly given the current climate of uncertainty in academia. Protecting academic freedom and classroom autonomy at the institutional level is essential, now more than ever. Moreover, the absence of specific parameters for ongoing professional accountability and the lack of standards for equitable labor distribution open up sources of potential conflict that could be minimized by consistent policy. Laura will also help coordinate HWS's recognition of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the founding of the United States, recognizing the richly diverse experiences of early Americans as the nation was formed.

Fun Fact: In my free time, I love kayaking, quilting, needlecrafts, modular Legos, gluten-free baking, historical fiction, space-based sci-fi novels, and binge-watching Korean dramas, and oh, yes, (as my spouse reminds me after reading this list) spending time with my family and cat.



LISA JACKSON-SCHEBETTA

PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THEATER · SKIDMORE COLLEGE

Dr. Lisa Jackson-Schebetta is an award-winning theatre history and performance studies scholar. Her research centers on histories and theories of performance and theatre in the Americas, Latin America, and Spain. Jackson-Schebetta's work as a teacher and a scholar is deeply informed by her training and professional experience as a director, deviser, dramaturg, and voice and movement teacher.

Jackson-Schebetta's first book, *Traveler, There Is No Road: Theatre, the Spanish Civil War, and the Decolonial Imagination in the Americas* (Iowa, 2017) examines interwar Spanish and English

language theatre in the United States and trans-historical configurations of race, activism, and belonging. Her second book explores intersections between peace-making and performance in contemporary Colombia (Palgrave, forthcoming 2026). She has published articles in *Theatre Survey*, *Modern Drama*, *New England Theatre Journal*, the *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, and others, as well as chapters in multiple edited collections.

As a deviser and director, Jackson-Schebetta has worked with the American Globe Theatre, HERE Arts Center, chashama, and The Women's Project and Productions, among others. Her work as a dramaturg has included collaborations with the Seattle Shakespeare Company, Bellevue College, University of Washington, and Wild Iris Media. She has taught at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Washington.

Jackson-Schebetta served as the general editor of the peer reviewed journal *Theatre History Studies* for four years. She is a former American Association of University Women fellow and former president of the American Theatre and Drama Society. She has served nationally on the Ford Foundation Fellowship Committee and currently serves as Treasurer for the American Society of Theatre Research. Jackson-Schebetta chaired the Theater department for 6 years and manages the Miranda Family Fellowship program at Skidmore College.

Fellowship Project: Jackson-Schebetta's work this year has centered on responding, with Academic Affairs, to fiscal sustainability with particular attention to service compensation and curriculum curation. In the coming year, she anticipates her project will focus on faculty development and well-being in the midst of cultural and institutional change.

Fun Fact: Lisa is learning to oil paint and especially enjoys painting vegetables, clouds, and her daughter and husband (but only from the back). She aspires to paint her two rescue dogs.



ANI MAITRA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES ·
COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Ani Maitra is Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. In 2025-2026, he served as Director of the Program in Film and Media Studies. Ani teaches and writes at the intersections of global media, postcolonial, and gender and sexuality studies. He is the author of the monograph *Identity, Mediation, and the Cunning of Capital* (Northwestern U Press, 2020). His other publications include essays in edited volumes and in journals like *Camera Obscura*, *Continuum*, *differences*, and *Film Quarterly*. Ani is currently working on two new projects- one on contemporary queer Asian cinemas, and the other on the psycho-

social and political economy of enjoyment on social media.

As a faculty member at Colgate, Ani has also developed a keen interest in and passion for institutional governance, compliance, and change management. Between 2021 and 2024, he served in a full-time administrative role as the Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity. Collaborating with other associate deans and provosts to implement and strengthen Colgate's faculty hiring and retention practices; assisting the Provost and Dean of the Faculty and the Vice President for Equity and Inclusion on issues of campus climate and culture; and working very closely with Colgate's inaugural Mellon Academic Leadership Fellow to identify and sustain Colgate's inclusive teaching practices and aspirations—these were the key pillars through which Ani came to learn and appreciate the associate provost role. Additionally, Ani has served as an elected member on a number of campus-wide committees like the Faculty Affairs Committee, the Faculty Affirmative Action Oversight Committee, and the Committee on Academic Advising.

Fellowship Project: As a New York Six Mellon Fellow and Special Assistant to the Dean, Ani has been focusing on strengthening and sustaining a structure for effective academic advising at Colgate. This project includes an initial assessment of how students and faculty are experiencing academic advising at Colgate and then identifying areas where additional support may be beneficial. In this role, Ani has also been serving as chair for Colgate's Advising Committee, the body responsible for all aspects of Colgate's programs for academic advising. Beyond this specific project, Ani looks forward to assisting the Provost and Dean of the Faculty with other initiatives related to student and faculty success.

Fun Fact: I took a course on videographic criticism this spring semester--while also advising seniors on their film and media production projects--and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being a student and an instructor/adviser at the same time!



ELENA MCGRATH

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY · UNION COLLEGE



Elena McGrath is Assistant Professor of History and Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Union College. She received her Ph.D. in Latin American History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2016. Her research focuses on communities fighting for revolution in the Andes across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her first book, *The Limits of Revolution: Worker Citizens in a Bolivian Mining City* (forthcoming from University of Texas Press, 2026), explores the way intimate struggles over belonging structured politics at the local as well as national level, emphasizing the role of mining families in the 1952 Bolivian National Revolution. A recent article,

(Un)cooperative Labor? Mining Cooperatives and the State in Bolivia, published in the *Bolivian Studies Journal*, traced the origin of contemporary political crises to longstanding competition between cooperative and salaried miners that emerged after the revolution. She is currently working on a project on Carnival traditions and the links between festivity and protest in Andean cities. Her next project will investigate the circuits of trade, migration, and transport that bound Bolivians to a piece of cultural patrimony that no longer exists—the lost Pacific coastline—to illuminate the construction of national belonging through loss, exclusion, and the transgression of borders.

She has written for academic blogs such as *Notches: (re)marks on the history of sexuality*, *Nursing Clio*, and *Age of Revolutions* and is one of the co-hosts of the podcast *New Books in Latin American Studies*. She teaches courses on Latin American history from the colonial era to the present and in her free time likes to explore upstate New York with her wife and dog and play the surdo in a local samba batería.

Fellowship Project: Elena plans to work closely with the Dean of Studies office to examine academic policies and practices that could better serve our student population, enhance student retention, and promote academic success. In particular, she will work with the Dean of Studies office to revise Honor Code procedures at the college in order to foster a campus climate that values academic integrity as a positive value rather than a punitive one. Gathering perspectives from student-facing stakeholders across campus, best practices from peer institutions, and data on student outcomes, she will use her time as a Mellon Fellow to propose policy changes in line with a holistic vision of academic integrity and student success.

Fun Fact: While I remember my time in the Midwest fondly (hi Northfield!), I am a mountain kid at heart. As well as researching the Andes, I have lived in the foothills of all three major mountain ranges in North America. I do not, however, (downhill) ski.



ALEXANDRA PLAKIAS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY · HAMILTON COLLEGE

Alexandra Plakias grew up in New York City and earned an M.A. from UC Santa Cruz, and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. She works on issues in moral psychology and has published on topics including disgust and moral judgment, moral disagreement, underconfidence, and whether philosophers should believe what they publish. She is also the author of two books: *Thinking Through Food: A Philosophical Introduction* and *Awkwardness: A Theory*.



Fellowship Project: Alexandra plans to study how students use the open curriculum and how faculty advising can help them take advantage of the lack of distribution requirements to meet the college's educational goals.

Fun Fact: I once ate tempura cicada. It tasted like shrimp.



ANGELA SWEIGART-GALLAGHER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PERFORMANCE AND
COMMUNICATION ARTS · ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Angela Sweigart-Gallagher is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Performance and Communications Arts at St. Lawrence University where she specializes in theatre and teaches beginning and advanced performance courses, as well as courses such as Drama for Teaching and Learning, Arts Administration & Marketing, and Theatre, Sustainability, and the Natural World.

Dr. Sweigart-Gallagher holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Theatre Research from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and a B.A. in English and Theatre from Mary Washington College (now the University of Mary Washington) in Fredericksburg, VA.



Her research interests and performance projects focus on the intersection of politics and performance. Her edited collection *Nationalism and Youth in Theatre and Performance* (Routledge 2014) includes international case studies that explore the way in which youth performance reflects, establishes, and reinforces national identity and nationalist ideologies. Her scholarly writing and performance reviews have appeared in the *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, *New England Theatre Journal*, *parTake*, *Performance Matters*, *Performance Research*, *Theatre Symposium*, and *Youth Theatre Journal*.

Her more recent publications have largely been focused on theatre pedagogy and instruction, with a forthcoming book chapter on the development of a digital dramaturgy assignment in *Teaching Writing in Theatre and Performance Studies: An Instructor's Guide*, edited by Jeanmarie Higgins and Samuel Yates. Her current research project is an analysis of how several playwrights have depicted the history of reproductive rights and imagined our reproductive futures in the wake of the Dobbs decision.

At St. Lawrence, Angela is an active member of the Faculty Development Committee and the arts representative on the Academic Planning Committee.

Fellowship Project: Her project ideas for the fellowship focus primarily on faculty training and developing and include:

- 1) establishing explicit criteria and evaluative tools that can be used by individual faculty and chairs to identify what the university means by “excellence in teaching” for the purpose of professional development.
- 2) developing a developmental model for chair training that includes conflict resolution and mediation, providing compassionate and growth-oriented feedback to colleagues at all stages of their careers, and effective team building.
- 3) working with departments to develop strategies for retention, recruitment, and community building with students that can be executed at the department level so that faculty feel empowered to contribute meaningfully to these goals.

Fun Fact: In addition to participating in academic leadership event, I am taking a stage combat course in New York City.