

New Faculty 2020-21



COLLEGE *and* GRADUATE SCHOOL
of ARTS & SCIENCES



Letter

from the Dean

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

We're excited to welcome a talented new cohort of faculty to the Arts & Sciences community. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the faculty search committees, department chairs, program directors, associate deans and the many faculty and staff members who helped us recruit such extraordinary scholars, researchers, and educators to Grounds.

As you know, UVA's reputation for academic excellence in undergraduate education and graduate study is based on exceptional teaching and research, and our incoming faculty will help us further strengthen our world-class institution.

In this most unusual year, Arts & Sciences is welcoming more than a dozen new faculty, and the biographies included in this booklet provide a snapshot of the varied talents each new faculty member brings to the College.

On behalf of the Arts & Sciences community, I welcome all of you and look forward to your collective and singular impacts on the University of Virginia and beyond. Please don't hesitate to contact me, your chair, director, or other Arts & Sciences colleagues to help you in your transition to UVA. We are all here to support each other, especially in light of the pandemic and the many challenges we face together as a society.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Baucom". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Baucom
Buckner W. Clay Dean
College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
University of Virginia



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Lisa Cacho

Associate Professor
American Studies

In her scholarship, Lisa Marie Cacho interrogates the ways in which human value is both ascribed and denied relationally along racial, gendered, sexual, national and spatial lines. Her book, *Social Death: Racialized Rightlessness and the Criminalization of the Unprotected* (NYU Press) won the American Studies Association's 2013 John Hope Franklin Publication Prize honoring the most outstanding book published the previous year in American Studies. Her work has also been published in several journals and edited collections. Cacho's most recent publications can be found in *The Boston Review*, *GLQ*, *Social Text* and *American Quarterly*. Currently, she is working on two projects. She is editing a collection of essays on racial colonial capitalism with Susan Koshy, Jodi Byrd and Brian Jefferson, and she is also writing a single-authored book examining police killings in the United States.



After receiving her Ph.D. in ethnic studies from the University of California at San Diego, Cacho taught several years for the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign's Latina/Latino department, where she was a Conrad Humanities Scholar (a distinction bestowed upon outstanding scholars in the humanities). Additionally, she taught incarcerated men at the Danville Correctional Center under the Education Justice Project.

Within the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Cacho will be teaching interdisciplinary classes in her areas of expertise, which include Latinx studies, comparative race and ethnic studies, criminalization, immigration, women of color feminism and queer of color critique.

Robert Trent Vinson

Professor

The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American & African Studies

Robert Trent Vinson is a scholar and teacher of African history and the history of the African Diaspora in the 19th and 20th centuries. He specializes in the transnational connections between southern Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean.

Vinson's first book was *The Americans Are Coming!: Dreams of 'American Negro Liberation' in Segregationist South Africa* (2012); his second book, *Albert Luthuli: Mandela before Mandela*, was published in 2018. A prolific scholar, Vinson has also published articles in *The Journal of African History*, *African Studies Review* and the *Journal of Southern African Studies*.



Vinson currently serves as president of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), the world's premier professional organization of African and African Diaspora scholars. He is also on the editorial board of Michigan State University Press and of *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*.

After earning a Ph.D. in African history from Howard University, Vinson taught at Washington University in St. Louis and, more recently, at William & Mary, where he was the Frances L. and Edwin L. Cummings Professor of History & Africana Studies. At William & Mary, he served as the first chair of the Lemon Project, which documents, preserves and disseminates scholarship that uncovered the College's history of slavery and Jim Crow segregation.

This upcoming year, Vinson plans to complete two co-authored books: *Zulu Diasporas: Africa and Africans in Black Nationalist Histories and American Popular Culture* and *Crossing the Water: African Americans and South Africa, 1890-1965: A Documentary History*, which will be published by Ohio University Press.

Jason J. Chruma

Assistant Professor, General Faculty
Department of Chemistry

Over the last two decades, Jason J. Chruma has established an international research portfolio in organic synthesis, the intentional construction of organic chemical compounds. His research focuses on developing new methods for the synthesis of biologically active natural products, drug-like scaffolds and luminescent small molecules.

Chruma has enjoyed a highly collaborative research career spanning two continents. He has been published in 40 peer-reviewed publications and was awarded independent research grants from the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Sichuan Province Science & Technology Department. Chruma is also a decorated instructor of organic chemistry with numerous awards for teaching excellence, including the 2018 Tang Lixin Teaching Masters Award from Sichuan University.



In 1996, Chruma earned a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania in 2002. After completing an NIH postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University in 2005, Chruma joined the faculty of UVA's Department of Chemistry as an assistant professor. Seven years later, he transitioned to the College of Chemistry at Sichuan University (SCU) in Chengdu, China, where he served for eight years as a professor and assistant dean for international affairs. He continues to co-direct a research program at SCU and holds a part-time summer position as a member of SCU's international faculty.

At UVA, Chruma will teach organic chemistry, focusing on the undergraduate organic chemistry laboratories for majors and non-majors.

Laurent Dubois

Co-Director for Academic Affairs, Democracy Initiative
Professor, Corcoran Department of History

A specialist on the history and culture of the Atlantic world who studies the Caribbean (particularly Haiti), North America, and France, Laurent Dubois will join the University of Virginia in January 2021 and will serve as the Democracy Initiative's new co-director for academic affairs. In this role, Dubois will spearhead the Democracy Initiative's research and pedagogical missions and will serve as the director and lead research convener of the John L. Nau III History and Principles of Democracy Lab—the permanent core lab of the Initiative which will operate as the connecting hub for the entire project.



Before coming to UVA, Dubois spent a decade at Duke University, where he founded the Forum for Scholars & Publics and taught as a professor of romance studies and history. Dubois also served as co-director of Duke's Franklin Humanities Center Haiti Laboratory for three years.

He is the author of seven books, including *A Colony of Citizens: Revolution and Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804* which won the Frederick Douglass Prize and three other book prizes. His book, *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History* was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. His work on the politics of soccer includes *Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France* as well as *The Language of the Game: How to Understand Soccer*. His book on the cultural history of music, *The Banjo: America's African Instrument* was supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Humanities Fellowship, and a Mellon New Directions Fellowship.

Most recently, Dubois co-authored *Freedom Roots: Histories from the Caribbean* with Richard Turits. His writings on music, history and sports have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Slate*, and *Sports Illustrated*.

Dubois holds a Ph.D. in anthropology and history from the University of Michigan (1998) and completed his B.A. in anthropology and English at Princeton University.

Takuya Ito

Lecturer, General Faculty

East Asian Languages, Literatures and Cultures

A native of Japan, Takuya Ito received his B.A. in English from Waseda University in Tokyo and his M.A. in Japanese linguistics and pedagogy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before joining UVA's faculty, Ito taught Japanese at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Harvard University, Bates College, Vanderbilt University and Middlebury Summer Language Schools.

Ito began teaching Japanese, second-language acquisition in Japanese and language learning strategies in 2015. Incorporating technology into language learning has become a focus of his research interests. He is especially interested in how language learners utilize online resources during the revision process while writing in their second language and how corrective feedback influences the revision process for student writers.

Ito values the potential of collaborative student communities and believes that a classroom in which everyone is working as a team creates more valuable learning opportunities. Beyond the classroom, Ito has been actively engaged in supporting the study of the Japanese language through language-house programs, cultural events, student fairs, conversation tables and speech contests.

This fall, Ito will teach an elementary-level Japanese language course and an intermediate-level Japanese language course.



David Coyoca

Assistant Professor, General Faculty
English

Working on a novel that explores the ways in which the history of colonialism and occupation in the Philippines continues to haunt Filipino Americans, David Coyoca explores issues of race, gender and sexuality in hip hop, sports, and popular culture in his research and teaching. He is also working on a short story collection.

Before his arrival at the University of Virginia, he taught for 10 years as a Department of Latina/Latino Studies lecturer and writing specialist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he earned his MFA in fiction in 2007. Before teaching in those roles, Coyoca served as an instructor, peer advisor and teaching mentor, rhetoric instructor, and visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois for four years (2006-2010). In 2019, the University of Illinois presented him its Cathy Acevedo Award for Commitment to Latina/o Students. Coyoca earned a bachelor's degree in ethnic studies, with minors in creative writing and literatures of the world, from the University of California, San Diego (1998).



His classes this year will focus on representations of race, gender and sexuality in hip hop, literature and popular culture.

Kathleen Schiro

Assistant Professor

Department of Environmental Sciences

An atmospheric scientist, Kathleen Schiro studies the physics controlling convective thunderstorms and extreme rainfall. She uses observations and models to study how these meteorological phenomena are formed, how they behave, and how an improved physical understanding of clouds, convection and precipitation across scales can help us estimate the impact and magnitude of climate change with greater certainty.

Schiro's work has been published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* and *Geophysical Research Letters*. She has also served as a contributing author for work published in the *Journal of Climate*, *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres* and *Climate Dynamics*, and other journals. Her research has been supported by grants from the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation and NASA.

Prior to joining UVA, Schiro was a postdoctoral scholar at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. She graduated with a B.A. in earth and planetary sciences from Johns Hopkins University in 2011 and completed a Ph.D. in atmospheric and oceanic sciences at UCLA in 2017.

At UVA, Schiro's research group will work to continue advancing our understanding of clouds, precipitation and climate through fieldwork that includes the use of using new atmospheric profiling techniques and ongoing climate modeling experiments. Schiro will be teaching within the existing atmospheric sciences curricula and will expand the Department of Environmental Sciences' offerings to include courses on climate modeling and tropical meteorology.



Helena Zeweri

Assistant Professor, General Faculty
Global Studies Program

Rooted in cultural anthropology, Helena Zeweri's research focuses on global migration, Muslim diasporas, humanitarianism and social welfare in liberal democratic states. She is currently working on an ethnographic study of how migrant-targeted social services in Australia become assimilationist projects through their entanglement with the criminal justice and immigration systems. She is also developing a research project on practices of resistance, knowledge-building and transnational collaboration in the global refugee-rights movements in North America, Europe and Australia.



Zeweri has published research on the relationship between gender, war and imperialism through nongovernmental organization representations of Afghan women in the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Her research on refugee and immigrant activism also appears in *Anthropology News* and forthcoming issues of *Feminist Formations* and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Her work has been supported by research grants from the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and the American Institute for Afghanistan Studies. She was recently awarded an Early Career Scholars Fellowship by UC-Irvine's Global Studies program.

Zeweri holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Rice University, and master's degrees in Near Eastern studies from New York University and anthropology from The New School. She completed her B.A. in Middle East studies and international relations at Columbia University.

This fall, Zeweri will be teaching two courses in the Global Studies-Security and Justice program, a practicum on refugee resettlement and a class titled "The Global In Situ: Perspectives on the Middle East and South Asia" in the Global Studies-Middle East & South Asia program.

Peter Humphries

Assistant Professor
Department of Mathematics

Mixing methods from analytic number theory, automorphic forms, and representation theory in his work, Peter Humphries is a pure mathematician working broadly in the area of number theory, which involves the study of prime numbers and their distribution. His research has applications toward quantum chaos, and he is particularly interested in problems involving equidistribution and L-functions.

Humphries has published 13 papers in research journals such as *Geometric and Functional Analysis*, *Compositio Mathematica*, *Mathematische Annalen*, and *Communications in Mathematical Physics*. As a master's student, Humphries was awarded the J. G. Crawford prize by the Australian National University, a university-wide award in recognition of an outstanding research thesis.



Hailing from Melbourne, Australia, Humphries received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Australian National University. He earned his Ph.D. in 2017 from Princeton University. Before joining UVA, he was a research associate at University College London, where he was funded by a grant from the European Research Council.

Humphries will be teaching an "Introduction to Real Analysis" course this fall and Calculus III next spring.

Julian Heeck

Assistant Professor
Department of Physics

The more we learn about dark matter, a form of matter thought to account for approximately 85% of the matter in the universe, the more we understand that our current theory of particle physics is insufficient. Julian Heeck studies the phenomenology of new theories that have the potential to resolve mysteries like the nature of dark matter and identifies promising new avenues for further research, including particle collider experiments, rare decay searches and the study of astrophysical signatures.

Heeck's work has been published in *Physical Review Letters* and other distinguished journals and has been covered by *Scientific American* and

Physics World. In 2014, Germany's Max Planck Society awarded him the Otto Hahn medal for his exceptional contributions to theoretical particle physics.



After studying at Aachen University and the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics, Heeck received his Ph.D. degree summa cum laude in 2014 from Heidelberg University in Germany. Following that, he held a postdoctoral position at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium, supported by a fellowship from Belgium's national science foundation, Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS). In 2018, he began research as an assistant project scientist at the University of California, Irvine, supported by a Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

At UVA, Heeck will continue his research on theoretical astroparticle physics and teach physics courses and seminars.

Cole Rizki

Assistant Professor

Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese

A scholar of Latin American and transgender studies, Cole Rizki focuses on transgender politics as a framework for examining cultural forms and activist practices that respond to state violence throughout the Americas. His current research investigates anti-genocide and transgender activism in Latin America's Southern Cone region, offering a new historical interpretation of the link between transgender political subjectivity and authoritarianism.



In May 2019, Rizki co-edited “Trans Studies en las Américas,” a special issue of *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*. It was the first peer-reviewed collection of its kind dedicated to Latin American transgender studies, exploring how shifts in cultural epistemologies alter our understandings of sex and gender.

Rizki's forthcoming article, “Familiar Grammars of Loss and Belonging: Curating Trans Kinship in Post-Dictatorship Argentina” was recently short-listed for the International Association for Visual Culture and the *Journal of Visual Culture's* Early Career Researcher Prize. He is currently the editor of “Translation,” a special section of *TSQ*, and his work appears or is forthcoming in *Radical History Review*, the *Journal of Visual Culture*, *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* and *TSQ*.

A Fulbright fellowship recipient, Rizki holds a Ph.D. in literature with graduate certificates in feminist studies and college teaching from Duke University. He also holds a master's degree in Spanish and a graduate certificate in visual culture studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned his bachelor's degree in Spanish from Smith College.

This fall, Rizki will teach a course on Latin American transgender visual culture and literary production. He looks forward to offering future courses on Latin American and Latinx queer, feminist and transgender politics and aesthetics.

Shan Yu

Assistant Professor
Department of Statistics

As a statistician specializing in nonparametric statistics, spatiotemporal data analysis and functional data analysis, Shan Yu aims to develop novel, flexible and reliable statistical methodologies, as well as practical and efficient data analysis tools for solving problems arising from real-world applications. Her research interests include developing advanced methods to deal with data in neuroscience, epidemiology and geography.

Yu's work has been published in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Statistica Sinica*, *Brain Behavior and Immunity*, and *Obesity*.

Yu was the recipient of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics' 2019 Hannan Graduate Student Travel Award and a 2019 Runner-up Award in the Statistics in Imaging Section of the American Statistical Association's Student Paper Competition.

Yu received her Ph.D. in Statistics from Iowa State University in 2020. Before joining the Department of Statistics in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Yu worked as a research assistant at the Plant Science Institute at Iowa State University.

This fall, Yu will continue to develop advanced statistical methods and data science tools. She also will teach a course titled "Data Mining," focused on the plethora of statistical methods used in that field.



Matthew Chin

Assistant Professor

Department of Women, Gender & Sexuality

A Jamaican anthropologist, Matthew Chin investigates the histories of race and sexuality in the English-speaking Caribbean. He is currently working on a book manuscript that examines the how queerness takes shape in key moments of Jamaica's cultural and political history between 1948 and 1998.

Chin's work has been published in *Public Culture*, *Time & Society*, *Small Axe*, and the *Journal of Homosexuality*. His research has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and he has held visiting fellowships in the Department of Sociology at Columbia University and the Center for Sexuality, Race, and Gender Justice at the University of Kent.



He received his B.A. in international development studies and anthropology from the University of Toronto and his MSW, M.A. in anthropology, and Ph.D. in both anthropology and social work from the University of Michigan. Before joining the UVA faculty, he was an assistant professor at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service.

This fall, Chin will be teaching a seminar titled "Issues in LGBT Studies." In the future, he looks forward to offering courses on genealogies of Black queer diaspora, Afro-Asian intimacies across the Americas, and Caribbean gender and sexuality studies.



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