



UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER

New Faculty 2024

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Kellie Alexander
Sociology & Criminology
Teaching Assistant Professor

Kellie is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at Colorado State University. Kellie's research revolves around criminology, deviance and social control, and she is completing her dissertation on the barriers that university administrators face as they work on hazing prevention at their institutions.

Ebrahim Bamanger
Center for World Languages & Cultures
Teaching Assistant Professor

Ebrahim holds a PhD in Literacy Culture and Language Education with two minors in Instructional Systems Technology and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures from the School of Education, Indiana University. Over the years, he has gained valuable experience working with the Middlebury College Summer Program and the Indiana University language program.

Calli Cain
Sociology & Criminology
Assistant Professor

Calli earned her PhD in Criminology & Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska, Omaha. Her research surrounds human trafficking, victimization, juvenile delinquency, corrections, gender differences and public opinion of criminal justice policy.

T Carlis Roberts
Music and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies
Assistant Professor

T earned his PhD in Performance Studies from Northwestern University and has served on the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, and at Colorado College. His music, compositions and sound designs for theater have been widely recognized and include a Grammy nomination.

Steven Doherty
Political Science
Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Steven received his doctorate from Loyola University of Chicago and has served as faculty and department chair in the University of Wisconsin system and at Dickinson State University. His research has focused on the political behavior of indigenous Americans and refugee groups.

James Effiong
Psychology
Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

James earned his PhD in Social Psychology from University of Nigeria, Nsukka. In his research, he studies intergenerational trauma and traumatic bonding, disaster risk reduction, childhood traumatic experiences, substance abuse, wellbeing in minority populations and mental health awareness intervention.

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Jessica Garrick
Sociology & Criminology
Assistant Professor

Jessica received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan and has been teaching in the Department of Sociology & Criminology at CAHSS since 2021. She studies law and politics as they relate to work, immigration, markets and white-collar crime.

Susan Hojnacki
Center for World Languages & Cultures
Teaching Assistant Professor

Susan received her PhD in German Studies from Michigan State University and served as a faculty member and Director of German Curriculum at Aquinas College. Her research has focused on integrating social justice topics in the world language classroom and reinvigorating the world language classroom with experiential learning.

Madoka Hammine
Languages, Literatures & Cultures
Teaching Assistant Professor

Madoka earned her PhD in Language Education from the University of Lapland in Finland and has served on the faculty at Meio University in Japan. Her research interests include indigenous/minority teaching and learning, identities and emotions of second language learners, Indigenous education, language policy and planning.

Stephanie Kang
Art & Art History and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies
Assistant Professor

Stephanie earned her PhD in Art History from The Ohio State University where she also served as an instructor. More recently, she was a faculty member at Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. She has curated exhibitions and her art has been shown in contemporary art museums and galleries throughout the country.

Amy Hoagland
Art & Art History
Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Amy received her MFA in Sculpture from University of Colorado, Boulder. She creates sculptural installations about the human entanglement within nature and has completed seven residency programs including the Arctic Circle Program and Casa Lù in Mexico City.

Rebecca Padilla
Art & Art History
Visiting Professor/Artist in Residence

Rebecca received her MFA in Sculpture from Arizona State University where she also has served on the faculty. She creates site-responsive work that examines the human effects on landscapes that are often overlooked. Rebecca has completed seven residency and workshop programs including the Periplus Art Residency in Mani, Greece.

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Nicholas Perry
Psychology
Assistant Professor

Nicholas earned his PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Utah and will be in his fourth year in the Department of Psychology at CAHSS. His current research program focuses on health disparities, particularly mental health and HIV, among sexual and gender minority populations.

Banan Ramarushton
Psychology
Teaching Assistant Professor

Banan earned her PhD in Behavioral Science from the University of North Texas. Her research takes a biopsychosocial approach to understanding substance use behaviors through various methodological and statistical techniques.

Kathleen (Kate) Rice
Center for World Languages & Cultures
Teaching Assistant Professor

Kate earned her MA from New York University and has been a member of the Center for World Languages and Cultures French faculty since 2018. Her concentration as an educator is the creation of inclusive language-learning communities grounded in current research regarding best practices in second language acquisition.

Judah Serrano
Psychology
Clinical Assistant Professor

Judah received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Wyoming and has both clinical and supervisory experience in pediatric psychology at the Colorado Children's Hospital and the University of Wyoming.

Leslie Stewart
Political Science
Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Leslie earned her PhD in political science from Texas Tech University and previously was a tenured member of the graduate faculty at Delta State University. Her research interests include comparative politics, comparative criminal justice, international and domestic public policy and popular culture.

Alan Sumler
History
Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Alan earned his PhD in Classical Philology from the City University of New York and has held instructor positions in the Department of History and Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures at CAHSS. His research interests include mythography and mythology, ancient medicine and pharmacy, ancient religion and magic, historiography and ancient drama.

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Laurel Taylor

Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Assistant Professor

Laurel earned her PhD in Comparative Literature/Japanese Literature from Washington University where she also was a member of the faculty. Her research interests include modern and contemporary Japanese literatures, women's literature, media studies, translation theory and digital humanities.

Miranda Taylor

Emergent Digital Practices

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Tanika Vigil

Political Science and Socio-Legal

Studies

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Tanika earned her JD from Harvard Law School and has worked for over a decade as an advocate and researcher focused on the intersection of immigration and criminal law. She is looking forward to her third year of teaching at CAHSS with the Socio-Legal Studies and Political Science programs.

Cassandra Young

Gender, Women, and Sexualities Studies

Assistant Professor

Cassandra received her PhD in Comparative Ethnic Studies from University of Colorado, Boulder and served on the faculty at Sam Houston State University. Her research focuses on human trafficking and the criminal legal system's responses to offenders and victims with intersectional theoretical approaches.

Daniels College of Business

N. Orkun Baycik
Business Information & Analytics
Visiting Assistant Professor

Orkun earned his MS in Industrial Engineering from the University of Arkansas and PhD in Decision Sciences and Engineering Systems at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He was previously a clinical assistant professor in the Questrom School of Business at Boston University. His research focuses on modeling and disrupting illegal networks, and designing sustainable supply chains.

Macy Knutson
Accountancy
Assistant Professor

Macy earned her PhD in Business Administration - Accounting Emphasis from the University of South Carolina in 2024. Her scholarly pursuits center on judgment and decision-making in auditing and financial accounting. Her research also explores managerial decisions regarding the disclosure of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) information and how these disclosures influence investor behavior.

Naomi Boyd
Finance
Dean and Professor

Naomi is the dean of the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business and an expert in financial market dynamics. She is a seasoned leader with a diverse background who is passionate about the intersection of business and industry. Boyd earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas, an MBA from Texas Tech University and a PhD from George Washington University.

Rebecca Manning
Accountancy
Assistant Professor

Rebecca has a PhD in Business Administration (Accounting) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an MBA (Finance) from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a BS (Engineering) from Cornell University. Before earning her PhD, she worked as a portfolio manager at an asset management firm and in investment banking at UBS Investment Bank. Her research interests lie in private markets and banking, leveraging her institutional background for market- and policy-relevant accounting research.

Ryan Chacon
Real Estate & Construction Management
Assistant Professor

Ryan earned his undergraduate degree in finance from Florida State University and his doctorate in Financial Economics from the University of Missouri. Before joining DCB, he served as an assistant professor at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. His research, focused on the interplay between real estate and financial markets, has been published in top-tier academic journals such as the Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics and the Journal of Real Estate Research. As an educator, Dr. Chacon is passionate about teaching a wide range of real estate and finance courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Lily Morse
Management
Assistant Professor

Lily earned her PhD at Carnegie Mellon University and her BA at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research examines the causes and consequences of ethical failures in organizations, including ethical challenges posed by AI. She has published in leading disciplinary journals such as Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, MIS Quarterly, Nature Machine Intelligence, and Journal Personality and Social Psychology. She currently teaches courses on negotiation and organizational behavior.

Daniels College of Business

Elaine Richards
Management
Assistant Professor of the Practice

Elaine is the chief operating officer at 37signals, a software company best known for Basecamp, project management software, and HEY, an email platform. Prior to this, she held executive level positions in operations, sales and marketing at several technology and marketing companies, including Cars.com and Wyzant, an ed tech company. Elaine has a BA in Journalism and an MBA from the University of Southern California. She is currently completing her DBA in Management at the University of Florida Warrington College of Business.

Asim Shrestha
Business Information & Analytics
Teaching Assistant Professor

Asim earned his MS in System Sciences and PhD in Information Systems and Decision Sciences from Louisiana State University. He was previously an Assistant Professor of Business Data Analytics and Computer and Information Science at Arkansas Tech University. His teaching interests are in database management and business process improvement. His research interests are in information systems innovation and sentiment analysis.

Mingrui “Ray” Zhang
Business Information & Analytics
Assistant Professor

Ray holds a PhD in Business Administration (Information Systems) from the University of Washington, an MA in Economics from Columbia University, and a BS in Mathematics and Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research utilizes both econometrical and analytical methodologies to examine the impact of technological innovations across various market contexts. Specifically, his work investigates the effects of new technology in retail, the dynamics of strategic partnerships between online and offline retailers, and the influence of consumer perceptions on the online crowdfunding market.

Graduate School of Professional Psychology

Roslyn Caldwell
Master's in Forensic Psychology
Associate Professor

Roslyn's clinical and research areas of expertise pertain to multiculturalism, mental health, and program evaluation and treatment effectiveness for justice-involved adolescents and adults. Dr. Caldwell has published and also received several grant awards related to criminal competencies, domestic violence, and factors related to offending among African American, Latinx, and female populations.

Iman Hassan
Sport & Performance Psychology
Clinical Assistant Professor

Originally from Toronto, Canada, Iman joined DU in January 2024. Iman received her PhD and master's degree in sport psychology from the University of Ottawa. Prior to that, Iman completed her BS in Psychology from Delaware State University. Iman is an active scholar and performance practitioner.

Neena Jain
International Disaster Psychology
Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor

Neena has been working for three decades in global health, humanitarian assistance, and international development, including social determinants of health, decolonization, inter-sectoral program design, monitoring/evaluation/learning, and impact measurement. Dr. Jain has served with international organizations throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and the Caribbean.

Graduate School of Social Work

Henrika McCoy
Dean and Professor

Henrika is the Morris Endowed Dean and Professor at the Graduate School of Social Work. Prior to joining DU, she was on the faculty at University of Texas at Austin, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Boston College. Her research has focused on the experiences of young Black boys with mental health issues in the juvenile legal system and the violent victimization experiences of young Black men ages 18 to 24.

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Stefan Chavez-Norgaard

Teaching Assistant Professor

Stefan successfully defended his PhD in Urban Planning from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation in April 2024. At Korbel, Stefan will teach a range of core courses in the undergraduate and graduate public policy programs. Complementing his experience and enthusiasm for teaching are his comparative research on U.S. state-level and global urban planning and strong knowledge of contemporary Front Range urban policy and land use issues.

Morgridge College of Education

Sandra Bertram Grant
Counseling Psychology
Clinical Assistant Professor

Sandra earned her PhD from the University of Denver and completed her internship year at the St Louis VA this past year. Her research includes work in Latinx Psychology, focusing on reducing inequities in mental health care – increasing access to quality services, improving treatment delivery for underserved groups, and increasing representation of people of color in leadership roles.

Lisa Brownstone
Counseling Psychology
Clinical Assistant Professor

Lisa spends their time teaching emerging counselors and psychology trainees about psychotherapy. Her areas of clinical and research specialization include disordered eating, weight stigma, gender affirming care, trauma, and group psychotherapy.

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

James deMayo
Biological Sciences
Teaching Assistant Professor

Jimmy was a postdoctoral fellow at University of Colorado where his research focus was both on molecular evolution and science education. He will play a key role in our non-majors courses.

John (Jake) McGuire
Chemistry & Biochemistry
Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor

Jake earned his PhD in Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Denver. Jakes research focused on the SARS-CoV-2 protein 15.

John McHugh
Mathematics
Visiting Assistant Professor

John earned his PhD in Mathematics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in June 2024. His research focuses on group theory, with a particular emphasis on character-theoretic equivalences.

Mira Pronobis
Biological Sciences
Assistant Professor

Mira was a postdoctoral fellow at Duke University before joining DU. Her research program focusses on cellular and molecular mechanisms of heart tissue regeneration.

Ahhyun Son
Chemistry & Biochemistry
Research Assistant Professor

Ahyun got her PhD at Yonsei University and then came to DU to do a postdoc in the Chemistry & Biochemistry department and the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging, and is now moving to a faculty position here. Her research is on the role of nucleic acids in protein folding and misfolding, which is pertinent to many neurodegenerative diseases.

Dacen Waters
Physics & Astronomy
Assistant Professor

Dacen earned his PhD from Carnegie Mellon University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington. He is an experimental physicist whose research focuses on novel electronic properties of quantum materials and their potential applications in the next generation of electronic devices and quantum computation.

Daniel F. Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

Erlin He
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Teaching Assistant Professor

Erlin is a systems engineering researcher with a PhD from the Florida Institute of Technology, and specializes in imaging processing and addressing atmospheric turbulence challenges. His innovative work in adaptive optics and algorithm development has advanced technology in systems engineering and imaging through turbulence.

Alannah Oleson
Computer Science
Assistant Professor

Alannah was a Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Washington, specializing in critical design topics in computing education. They use diverse research methods to explore technology's societal impacts and have published widely in human-computer interaction and education. They earned a PhD at the University of Washington.

Mahesh Manandhar
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Assistant Professor of the Practice of Experiential Learning

Mahesh is the Electrical and Computer Engineering Lab Manager at the University of Denver's Ritchie School, and oversees lab courses and mentoring of students and faculty. He earned his Master's and PhD in Electrical Engineering from DU, and also teaches various courses in the Electrical and Computer Engineering department.

Rahim Rasool
Computer Science
Teaching Assistant Professor

Rahim has over five years experience in data science and engineering, having worked across sectors including healthcare and policy. He has collaborated with the World Bank and the International Rescue Committee. Holding a Master's from the University of Chicago, he mentors students and founded Strong Haulers to aid chronic illness management through data.

Casey Myers
Mechanical & Materials Engineering
Assistant Professor

Casey specializes in gait analysis and computational modeling for musculoskeletal and finite element models. His work supports industry partnerships in orthopedics and contributes to ASME V&V 40 efforts. An MBA holder, he also develops medical device startups and aids technology transfer for students.

Lucas Sawle
Computer Science
Professor of the Practice of Data Science

Lucas is a data scientist with eight years of experience across telecom, finance, and healthcare. With a PhD from the University of Denver, he incorporates advanced analytics into research and teaches machine learning.

Daniel F. Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

Dar Weiss

Mechanical & Materials Engineering

Assistant Professor

Dar was named a Rising Star in Engineering in Health by Johns Hopkins and Columbia. He studies vascular diseases using multiscale and multimodality imaging techniques, with recent work on collagen stability in Marfan syndrome. He aims to establish an independent research group on cardiovascular disease mechanisms.

Sturm College of Law

Audrey Bianco

Visiting Assistant Professor of the Practice of Law

Audrey received her BA from Stanford University and her JD from Harvard Law School. She previously worked in the Colorado Office of the State Public Defender and as a clerk to The Honorable Raymond Moore of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado and for The Honorable Richard Gabriel of the Colorado Supreme Court.

Kelley Loper

Professor

Kelley is a professor of law and the director of the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law. She was previously an associate professor and the director of the LLM in Human Rights Programme in the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Her scholarship and teaching centers on comparative equality law and the implementation of international human rights law in domestic contexts, especially within Asia.

Christopher Engle-Newman

Visiting Assistant Professor

Chris serves as Assistant Director of the DU Bar Success Program and teaches courses and workshops related to bar exam preparation, particularly Legal Analysis Strategies. Prior to his current role, he served as Assistant Clinical Professor of Law for Bar Success at the University of Idaho College of Law and a visiting Assistant Professor of the Practice for the Externship Program at Denver Law.

Seth Packrone

Assistant Professor

Seth teaches and writes about issues in the areas of disability law, education law, impact litigation, and civil procedure. Seth received a JD cum laude from Harvard Law School, a BA magna cum laude from Harvard College, and an MPhil in Perspectives on Inclusive and Special Education from the University of Cambridge as a Harvard-Cambridge Scholar.

Nicole Godfrey

Assistant Professor

Nicole received her JD from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, her BA cum laude from Boston University College of Arts & Sciences, her MA from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, and an LLM in Clinical Legal Education from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. She worked at several small civil rights firms and non-profit organizations, including Prisoners' Legal Services of New York, and also directed the Housing Justice Clinic at Michigan State University College of Law.

Amanda Savage

Visiting Assistant Professor

Amanda earned her JD from Harvard Law School. She previously worked as a public defender in Baltimore City, MD and in Essex County, NJ. Her areas of interest include how issues of forensic science are litigated in criminal courts, and structural inequality within the criminal legal system.

University Academic Programs

Indhira Udofia

Leadership Studies

Teaching Assistant Professor

Indhira recently obtained their PhD in the Joint Program in Social Work at NC A&T University and UNC Greensboro. Their dissertation project looks at the impact of religious trauma on Black Millennials and Generation Z. She recently served as the Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies here at DU.

University Libraries

David Fasman
Curator of Beck Archives
Assistant Professor

David holds an MLIS from the University of Denver. Prior to this appointment, David served in multiple other roles, including metadata technician and digitization specialist. His research interests include cultural exchange between the Third Reich and scholarly institutions, Nazi-looted Judaica, as well as analog sound digitization and preservation.

Alejandro Marquez
Science & Engineering Reference
Librarian
Assistant Professor

Alejandro holds an MLIS from the University of Denver and comes to the Anderson Academic Commons from the University of Colorado Denver's Auraria Library, where he was Collection Development Librarian with a focus on STEM disciplines. His research and service interests include library employee engagement, mental health, and well-being.

Nina McHale
Associate Dean for Student & Scholar
Services
Associate Professor

Nina holds a joint MA/MSLS from The Catholic University of America, and previously held the position of Head of Education & Research at the University of Colorado's Strauss Health Sciences Library at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Her research and service interests include academic/medical library leadership, library services, and research technology.

Brooky Parks
Business & Economics Librarian
Assistant Professor

Brooky holds an MLS from Emporia State University and worked previously as a teen services librarian. Prior to this new role at Anderson Academic Commons, she was Reference and Instruction librarian. She is a passionate advocate for intellectual freedom in libraries, a central theme in her research and service.

Elia Trucks
Arts & Humanities Librarian
Associate Professor

Elia earned her MLIS at Florida State University. Prior to this new role, Elia was Outreach Librarian at Anderson Academic Commons. Her research/service interests include equity and inclusivity in library work with an emphasis on anti-oppressive leadership, feminist pedagogy in the classroom, and making zines for learning and social change.



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