New Faculty Directory
2015-2016

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure and pride that we welcome our new full-time faculty to the University of San Diego. This year there are 31 new tenured, tenure-track faculty and post-doctoral fellows from many of the disciplines across campus. These accomplished educators and scholars will play an important role, alongside the colleagues who attracted them, in advancing USD’s academic reputation.

I invite all members of the USD community to become acquainted with the rich and varied expertise of our new colleagues. Undoubtedly, many of you will discover common interests and background and, in some cases, potential possibilities for interdisciplinary teaching and research collaboration.

Please join me in welcoming and supporting our new faculty as they launch, or continue, their academic careers at USD.

Best wishes,

Andrew T. Allen, PhD
Vice President and Provost
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Ryan Abrecht

Assistant Professor of History
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, History
University of California, Santa Barbara

619-260-7843
Institute for Peace and Justice, Room 289
rabecht@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Ancient Mediterranean history, religion, and culture; Roman Empire; Early Christianity; Late Antiquity; premodern world history; Early China; migration and diaspora studies; Urbanism; Borderlands and frontiers, Classical reception; Historical fiction and historiography.

Robin Brooks

Post-Doctoral Fellow of English
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, English
University of Florida

619-260-7786
Founders Hall, Room 175A
robinbrooks@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: 20th and 21st century African-American, Caribbean, and American multiethnic literatures; Africana Studies; Feminist theories; Postcolonial studies.

Ruth Bush

Associate Professor of Nursing
Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science
PhD, Epidemiology
University of California, San Diego

619-260-7731
Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Room 323
rhush@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Patient-centered outcomes; Large data set analysis; Comparative-effectiveness; Electronic health record.
Christopher Carter

Post-Doctoral Fellow of Theology and Religious Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Religion
Claremont School of Theology

619-260-4052
Maher Hall, Room 292
Christopher.carter@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Christian theological and social ethics; Virtue ethics; Black and Womanist theology; Religion and ecology; Animals and religion; Food and religion; the integration of contemplative practices in classroom pedagogy.

Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick

Assistant Professor of Peace Studies
Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies
PhD, Sociology
University of Notre Dame

619-260-7948
Institute for Peace and Justice, Room 124
cAustin@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Social movements, Human rights; Civil disobedience; New technology; Social change.

Ted Dezen

Declined photo option

Assistant Professor of Physics
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Physics
University of California, Santa Barbara

619-260-7682
Shiley Science Center, Room 283
tdezen@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: High-energy astrophysics; Astro-particle physics; Science education research; Curriculum development for majors and non-majors.
Josen Diaz

**Post-Doctoral Fellow in Ethnic Studies**
Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies (starting Spring 2016)
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Literature
University of California, San Diego
619-260-7721
Maher Hall, Room 212
josendiaz@sandiego.edu

**Academic/Research Interests:** Critical race theory; Transnational gender and sexuality studies; Theories of modernity; U.S.-Asia studies; Filipino and Filipino American culture and history.

Eileen Fry-Bowers

**Associate Professor of Nursing**
Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science
PhD, Nursing-Health Services
University of California, Los Angeles
619-260-2964
School of Nursing, Room 216
efrybowers@sandiego.edu

**Academic/Research Interests:** Examining the relationships between structures, processes, and outcomes of care in vulnerable pediatric populations, with an emphasis on health literacy and parent-provider interaction; Maternal self-efficacy and utilization of health services for the care of the child with special health care needs; Pediatric workforce education and practice issues.

Cory Gooding

**Post-Doctoral Fellow of Political Science and International Relations**
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Political Science
University of California, Los Angeles
Starting Spring 2016
cgooding@sandiego.edu

**Academic/Research Interests:** Racial and ethnic politics; Migration and citizenship; Political socialization and behavior; Black politics; Political communication; Contentious politics; Critical race theory; Public opinion.
Jena Hales

Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Neurosciences
University of California, San Diego

619-260-4509
Serra Hall, Room 122
jhales@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Biological psychology; Behavioral neuroscience; Neuropsychology; Memory formation and retrieval; Learning; Cognitive psychology; Neurosurgery; Histological brain tissue processing; Immunohistochemistry.

Sara Hasselbach

Post-Doctoral Fellow of English
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, English
Tufts University

619-260-7786
Founders Hall, Room 175A
shasselbach@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Early modern English literature; Identity construction in post-reformation England; Religious poetry; Hagiography; Lyric poetry.

Mark Heckman

Professor of Practice of Cyber Security
Professional and Continuing Education
PhD, Computer Science
University of California, Davis

619-260-2947
Durango, Suite D
mheckman@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Science of security; Cloud security; Critical infrastructure security; Security of the Internet of Things.
Karen Hoyt

Clinical Professor of Nursing
Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science
PhD, Nursing
University of San Diego

619-260-4521
Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Room 213
hoyt@sandiego.edu

**Academic/Research Interests:** Emergency care; Trauma systems; NP clinical decision-making; Leadership in health care; Health care policy.

Florence Lebensohn-Chialvo

Assistant Professor of Counseling & Marital and Family Therapy
School of Leadership and Education Sciences
PhD, Clinical Psychology
University of Arizona

619-260-2462
Mother Rosalie Hill Hall, Room 215E
flebensohn@sandiego.edu

**Academic/Research Interests:** Identification of family processes involved in the maintenance of maladaptive health behaviors; Systemic family theories and therapies; Treatment development and implementation; Treatment adherence and fidelity; Therapist training and supervision.

Jeffrey Malecki

Professor of Practice
Director of Band, Music Education
College of Arts and Sciences
DMA, Musical Arts
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

619-260-2938
Camino Hall, Room 141
jmalecki@sandiego.edu

**Academic/Research Interests:** Wind warmups aligned with judging rubrics; Catalogue and analysis of repertoire by The U.S. Marine Band under Col. John R. Bourgeois; iPad apps in ensemble settings.
Timothy McCarty

Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Political Theory
Brandeis University
619-260-4246
Institute for Peace and Justice, Room 282
tmccarty@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: History of political thought; Politics and literature; Politics of taxation; Democratic theory; American political thought; American political development.

Ryan McGorty

Assistant Professor of Physics
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Physics
Harvard University
619-260-8866
Shiley Science Center, Room 278
mcgorty@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Biophysics; Soft condensed matter physics; Complex fluids; Colloidal and polymer solutions; Optical microscopy techniques including holography, light-sheet and computational imaging.

Bradley Melekian

Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing
College of Arts and Sciences
MFA, Creative Writing
University of Southern California
619-260-2902
Founders Hall, Room 171A
melekian@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Creative writing; Literary nonfiction; Creative nonfiction writing; The Literature of Fact; Memoir.
Turner Nevitt

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Philosophy
Fordham University

619-260-6866
Founders Hall, Room 160A
tnevitt@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Medieval philosophy; Metaphysics; Philosophy of religion.

Nate Parde

Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
MFA, Lighting Design
University of Texas at Austin

619-260-4110
Camino Hall, Room 129B
nparde@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Lighting design, production management and technical direction; History of production methodology and novel solutions to design challenges; Use of new materials and technology in theatrical productions; Intersection of religion and theatre.

Jennifer Parkinson

Assistant Professor of Anthropology
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Anthropology
City University of New York

619-260-7838
Serra Hall, Room 222
jparkinson@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Zooarchaeology; Paleoanthropology; Archaeological record related to human diet and evolution; Behavioral ecology of Plio-Pleistocene hominins in East Africa; Importance of meat in the diet of early genus Homo; Taphonomy and experimental modeling of carnivore and hominin bone surface damage.
Mary Parlee

Assistant Professor of Accounting
School of Business Administration
PhD, Accounting
Bentley University

619-260-4704
Olin Hall, Room 205
mparlee@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Financial statement auditing; Auditor judgment and decision making; Professional skepticism.

Nick Riggle

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Philosophy
New York University

619-260-6873
Founders Hall, Room 165C
nriggle@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Aesthetics (beauty, style, taste, metaphor, street art, graffiti); Moral psychology (love, emotion, personal ideals); Kant; Proust.

Hans Peter Schmitz

Associate Professor of Leadership Studies
School of Leadership and Education Sciences
PhD, Social and Political Sciences
European University Institute, Italy

619-260-2747
Mother Rosalie Hill Hall, Room 275J
schmitz@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: International non-governmental organizations; Transnational advocacy; Rights-based approaches to development; Non-communicable diseases.
Semira Semino-Asaro

Assistant Professor of Nursing
Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science
PhD, University of Massachusetts Boston College of Nursing and Health Sciences
619-260-4196
School of Nursing, Room 222
semirasasaro@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Influence of culture on human development; Health disparities related to maternal-child health; Supportive psycho-education for families at high-risk so as to support healthy relationships and develop strategies to prevent child neglect and/or abuse.

Shannon Starkey

Assistant Professor of Architecture
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Critical Studies, Architecture and Urban Design
University of California, Los Angeles
619-260-4492
Camino Hall, Room 33C
sstarkey@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Relations between architecture and capital in a number of historical periods; Role of speculation in architecture in the latter-half of the 20th century.

Andrew Tirrell

Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, International Relations and Comparative Politics
The Fletcher School, Tufts University
JD, Columbia University
619-260-4631
Institute for Peace and Justice, Room 281
atirrell@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Environmental politics/policy; Natural resources management; Human/civil rights; Indigenous peoples; Marine/ocean policy.
Robert Topp

Patricia A Chin Nursing Research Endowed Professor
Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science
PhD, Health Education/Exercise Physiology
Ohio State University

619-260-4778
Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Room 325
rtopp@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Effect of various modes of exercise on the functioning and health of older adults; Effect of various interventions to treat childhood and adult obesity involving motivational interviewing and community participatory methodologies.

Jillian Tullis

Assistant Professor of Communication Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Communication
University of South Florida

619-260-6897
Camino Hall, Room 126E
jtullis@sandiego.edu

Academic Research Interests: Communication at the end of life; Health communication; Spirituality and health; Qualitative research methods, especially ethnography, interviewing and narrative.

Suzanne Walther

Assistant Professor of Environmental and Ocean Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, Geography
University of Oregon

619-260-8847
Shiley Science Center, Room 265
swalther@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Human-environment interactions in fluvial systems; River geomorphology and sediment transport; Water resource management; Novel techniques in remote sensing and GIS.
Mei Yang

Director and Assistant Professor of Chinese
College of Arts and Sciences
PhD, East Asian Languages and Literatures
University of Oregon

619-260-4062
Founders Hall, Room 140
myang@sandiego.edu

Academic/Research Interests: Role of the Avant-Garde and the reformation of Chinese intellectuals; Modernity and modernization; How the concept of progress and the process of national revival affects the local psyche; Justice of history; Civil agency and film reception.