

Brooklyn College

New Faculty

2008



Letter from the Provost



The start of the new academic year is always a period of great excitement as our campus seems to explode in a sea of new faces and energies. This year is an especially exhilarating time as thirty-nine new faculty members join the Brooklyn College community. These faculty will begin to assume the mantle of innovative teaching, exceptional scholarship, and dedicated service.

It is the purpose of this guide to introduce our new colleagues to you and to each other. Many have earned their degrees at the world's most esteemed institutions. Their presence enriches not only our campus community but the greater Brooklyn community, at a time when the borough is undergoing an enormous period of renaissance. Over half of our full-time faculty has been appointed since 2000, enriching this vibrant community of scholars.

This guide is available both in print and online. It will assist all members of the College in identifying those with similar interests and others on totally different academic journeys.

I am delighted to welcome our new colleagues to this special institution, Brooklyn College. May their experiences here always be rewarding and fruitful.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William A. Tramontano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William A. Tramontano

Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Jeanne M. Angus

Assistant Professor, Education

Ph.D., New York University, 2007



Previous appointments: Brooklyn College; Hunter College; and Teachers College, Columbia University. Research interest: issues in elementary, middle school, and high school education for children with Asperger's syndrome and related disorders.

Isabelle Barriere

Assistant Professor, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences

Ph.D., Birkbeck College, University of London, 2001



Previous appointments: Touro College Graduate School of Education and Psychology; Johns Hopkins University; and University of Hertfordshire, England. Research interests: the acquisition of language (British Sign Language, English, French, Yiddish); bilingual development; early literacy, typical and impaired development; intervention and the link between theoretical research, education policies, and clinical interventions.

Toby H. Birnbaum

Assistant Professor, Economics

J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 1994



Attorney: affiliated with various law firms, most recently with Lee M. Nigen & Associates and with Behar & Heaney, both in New York City. Research interests: commercial litigation, mediation, real estate, landlord-tenant, and family law.

Naomi Braine

Assistant Professor, Sociology

Ph.D., Northwestern University, 2000



Previous appointments: Barnard College; Hunter College; and, as deputy director, Social Theory Core, at the National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI). Research interests: public health; social policy; organizations and work; gender and sexuality; research methods.

Brett F. Branco

Assistant Professor, Geology

Associate Director, Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC)

Ph.D., University of Connecticut, 2007



Previous appointment: NSF research fellow, The University of Western Australia. Research interests: coupling between physical transport and biogeochemical reactions in aqueous environments; controls on and rates of sediment-water interactions; hydrodynamic interactions and mass fluxes associated with aquatic vegetation.

Tamara Mose Brown

Assistant Professor, Sociology

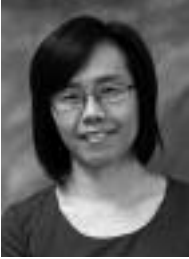
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2008



Previous appointments: Brooklyn College and Hunter College. Research interests: race and ethnic relations; ethnographic research methods; urban sociology; community research.

Chia-ju Chang

Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures
Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2004



Previous appointments: Washington and Lee University, Trinity University, and University of Florida at Gainesville. Research interests: contemporary Chinese and Taiwanese literature and film; ecocriticism, feminism, and postcolonial studies; Buddhist environmental ethics.

Sarah J. Christman

Assistant Professor, Film
M.F.A., Temple University, 2006



Previous appointment: Temple University. Filmmaker: director of documentary and experimental films focusing on the personal and cultural impact of media and technology; post-production work in television and independent film.

Anthony E. Clement

Assistant Professor, Mathematics
Ph.D., City University of New York, 2006



Previous appointment: Brooklyn College. Research interest: group theory (with emphasis on combinatorial group theory).

Eliza A. Dragowski

Assistant Professor, Education

Ph.D., New York University, 2006



Previous appointment: Brooklyn College. Research interests: child and adolescent psychopathology; childhood traumatic stress.

Ken Estey

Assistant Professor, Political Science

Coordinator, Studies in Religion Program

Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary, 1998



Previous appointment: Brooklyn College. Research interests: religion and labor; religion and American political thought and theory; community power and politics.

Jason Frydman

Assistant Professor, English

Ph.D., Columbia University, 2008



Previous appointment: Columbia University. Research interests: twentieth-century Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora literature; aesthetics of the African Diaspora; migratory labor and literature; oral and performative traditions.

Brian R. Gibney

Associate Professor, Chemistry

Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1994



Previous appointment: Columbia University. Research interests: metalloprotein design; bioinorganic chemistry; biophysics.

Nicolas Giovambattista

Associate Professor, Physics

Ph.D., Boston University, 2004



Previous appointment: postdoctoral research associate, Princeton University. Research interests: thermodynamics and statistical mechanics of complex fluids and of nanoscale particle systems; glasses, glass transition, and polyamorphism; self-assembly of nanoscale systems; computer simulation studies.

Christian Grov

Assistant Professor, Health and Nutrition Sciences

Ph.D., City University of New York, 2007



Previous appointments: Hunter College and, as postdoctoral fellow, at the National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI). Research interests: HIV/AIDS transmission and control; drug and alcohol use and abuse; human sexuality (including health issues among sexual minorities).

Amy Hempel

Professor, English

Coordinator, M.F.A. Fiction Program



Previous appointments: Princeton University; Sarah Lawrence College; Bennington College; Duke University (Visiting Blackburn Professor in Creative Writing), and Washington University, Saint Louis (Fannie Hurst Visiting Professor).

Author: four collections of short stories, first published in one volume in 2006 (finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and named by the New York Times as one of the Ten Best Books of the Year). Articles, essays, and short stories for various

publications. Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2000 and, in 2006, the Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Yong-gang Huang

Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures

D.A., St. John's University, 2000



Previous appointments: Brooklyn College, Drexel University, and St. John's University. Research interests: Chinese intellectual history and Chinese literature.

Amy E. Ikui

Assistant Professor, Biology

Ph.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 2003



Previous appointment: postdoctoral fellow, The Rockefeller University. Research interest: yeast cell cycle and cancer biology, emphasizing the molecular function of Cyclin/CDK complex.

Natalie A. Kacinik

Assistant Professor, Psychology

Ph.D., University of California, Riverside, 2003



Previous appointment: postdoctoral researcher and lecturer; University of California, Davis. Research interest: psycholinguistics, the cognitive and neural processes that underlie language comprehension and the representation of meaning, with an emphasis on higher levels of language (sentences, discourse, figurative expressions, and pragmatics).

Rosamond S. King

Assistant Professor, English

Ph.D., New York University, 2001



Previous appointments: Long Island University and, as postdoctoral fellow, University of Chicago and Rutgers University. Research interests: sexuality studies; Caribbean literature; African literature; carnival studies; performance studies; contemporary art.

Sandra Kingan

Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 1994



Previous appointments: Rutgers University and Pennsylvania State University. Research interest: discrete structures, such as graphs, matroids, lattices, codes, designs, and finite geometries and their applications.

Jack Lachman

Assistant Professor, Economics

M.B.A., Finance, Long Island University, 1973;

C.P.A., New York State



Previous appointment: Brooklyn College. Research interest: accounting and finance of international markets.

Thomas A. Lewandowski

Associate Professor, Health and Nutrition Sciences

Ph.D., University of Washington, 2000



Previous appointment: University of Washington. Research interests: health effects of lead and mercury; biologically based modeling; environmental epidemiology; reproductive and developmental health hazards.

Tammy L. Lewis

Carol Zicklin Endowed Chair in the Honors Academy, Sociology

Ph.D., University of California, Davis, 1996



Previous appointments: Muhlenberg College; Denison University; and University of California, Davis. Research interests: sociological issues in environmental, conservation, sustainability, and globalization studies.

Emily A. Moss

Assistant Professor, Music

D.A., University of Northern Colorado, 2007



Previous appointment: University of Northern Colorado.
Research interests: music education; wind conducting; wind chamber music.

Barbara E. O'Neill

Assistant Professor, Education

Ed.D., Teachers College, Columbia University, 2008



Previous appointment: Teachers College, Columbia University.
Research interest: the role of creative drama in fostering inclusive educational environments for young children.

Ursula Oppens

Distinguished Professor, Music

M.S., The Juilliard School, 1967



Previous appointments: Northwestern University (John Evans Distinguished Professor of Music), and faculty of the Tanglewood Music Center. Concert pianist: solo appearances with almost all of the major orchestras, performing at halls and festivals throughout the world. Two Grammy nominations for her recordings. Co-founder of Speculum Musicae and member of the board of directors of the Naumburg Foundation, the Koussevitsky Music Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Concert Artists Guild. Winner of the Busoni International Piano Competition, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and a Record World Award, among others.

Laura C. Reigada

Assistant Professor, Psychology
Ph.D., Hofstra University, 2006



Previous appointment: postdoctoral research fellow, New York University, Child Study Center and School of Medicine. Research interests: anxiety and depression; treatment of chronically ill youth; evidence-based treatments; cognitive processes in treatment change.

Clifford Rouder

Assistant Professor, Health and Nutrition Sciences
Director, Undergraduate Program in Nutrition
Ed.D., Columbia University, 2001



Previous appointments: Brooklyn College; Saint Louis University, Missouri; and Long Island University, Brookville, New York. Research interest: implementation and evaluation of nutrition education interventions to improve access to locally grown, affordable, culturally appropriate, and sustainably produced foods for community residents, especially for those with limited resources.

Anjana Saxena

Assistant Professor, Biology
Ph.D., University of Mumbai, India, 1996



Previous appointments: New York University Langone Medical Center and, as postdoctoral fellow, Columbia University. Research interests: checkpoint-tumor suppressor signaling and the cell cycle regulators of therapeutic values, with the major focus on p53/p14ARF pathway regulation by Nucleolin.

Teresa Snider-Stein

Assistant Professor, Theater

M.F.A., Yale University, 1988



Costume designer: Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional theater productions; film and television productions. Research interests: costume design for stage, film, and television, with special attention to technological advances in the field; artistic collaboration and cross-cultural productions, with a special interest in Asian culture; alternative hands-on learning tied to language, writing, and verbal skills via art and design settings.

Justin D. Steinberg

Assistant Professor, Philosophy

Ph.D., Boston University, 2007



Previous appointments: Colby College and The College of Wooster. Research interests: early modern philosophy; political philosophy.

Karen B. Stern

Assistant Professor, History

Ph.D., Brown University, 2006



Previous appointments: Dartmouth College and University of Southern California. Research interests: religion and culture of Jewish populations in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean; history, religion, art, and archaeology of Roman North Africa, Syria, and Italy.

Barbara Studamire

Assistant Professor, Biology

Ph.D., Cornell University, 2001



Previous appointments: Cornell University; Columbia University, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics Department, as postdoctoral research scientist. Research interests: genetics and retroviral integration: a major ongoing research project involves experiments with the most commonly used retroviral vector in gene therapy (the MoMLV virus) to probe integration target site selection for leukemia and HIV-1 viruses.

Sophia N. Suarez

Assistant Professor, Physics

Ph.D., City University of New York, 2004



Previous appointments: Howard University and, as a research associate, National Research Council (NRC). Research interest: ionic transport properties in fuel cell and battery electrolytes.

Laura L. Tesman

Assistant Professor, Theater

Ph.D., University of Colorado, 2001



Previous appointment: University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Research interests: modern and contemporary theater; women in theater; collaborative and interdisciplinary performance; Shakespeare; directing, acting, and dramaturgy credits.

Jason J. Thompson

Assistant Professor, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences
Ph.D., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2008



Previous appointment: University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
Research interest: strategic interaction within families and personal relationships: compliance-gaining communication, communicating social support, adviser-advisee communication, communication in ethnic minority families, privacy-management communication.

Chun Wang

Assistant Professor, Economics
Ph.D., University of California, Davis, 2008



Previous appointment: University of California, Davis.
Research interests: applied macroeconomics; time series econometrics; monetary economics.

Christian Warren

Associate Professor, History

Ph.D., Brandeis University, 1997



Previous appointments: as academy historian, New York Academy of Medicine, and Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. Research interests: social history of medicine and public health in the United States; historical dimensions of environmental health.

Puisan Wong

Assistant Professor, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences

Ph.D., City University of New York, 2008



Previous appointment: Guild for Exceptional Children, Early Childhood Educational Center, Brooklyn. Research interests: speech perception and production in native and non-native speakers; speech and language development in children.

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