

## NEW FULL-TIME AND VISITING FACULTY, 2008-2009

### ARTS & SCIENCES

#### Creative Arts

##### *Fine Arts and the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies*

**Gannit Ankori** (PhD, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1995), Visiting Professor. Dr. Ankori is a scholar of modern art and an experienced teacher, having taught at Tufts University and at the Divinity School of Harvard University as well as at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She received both her BA and her PhD from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where she has served as chair of the Department of Art History since 2006. In the fall, Dr. Ankori will teach the course “Israeli Art.” As a fellow of the Schusterman Center, she will participate in the intellectual life of the Center, including interaction with graduate students of the Center’s newly established Israel Studies seminar.

##### *Music*

**Seth J. Coluzzi** (PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2007), Assistant Professor. Dr. Coluzzi’s PhD is in musicology. He is a specialist in the music of Luca Marenzio, one of the most important Italian Renaissance composers; his secondary field is 1960’s pop music. Dr. Coluzzi has a strong background in music theory, which he has taught both at UNC and at St. Augustine’s College, Raleigh NC. He won the Glen Haydon Award for an Outstanding Dissertation in Musicology from UNC in 2007. In the fall, Dr. Coluzzi will teach the courses “Classic and Romantic Music” and “Proseminar in Music of the Renaissance.”

#### Humanities

##### *English and American Literature*

**Gish Jen** (MFA, University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop, 1983), Visiting Professor and Co-Director of the Creative Writing program. Gish Jen is a distinguished international fiction writer. Her novels include *Typical American*, the coming-of-age narrative *Mona in the Promised Land*, and more recently, *The Love Wife*, all of which have brought her great acclaim; likewise, her collection of short stories, *Who’s Irish?*, is widely admired. Gish Jen has taught at a number of universities including, locally, Tufts, Emerson and Harvard and, farther afield, Central European University at Prague, Beijing Normal University, and the University of Hong Kong. Her honors include a Harold and Mildred Strauss Living Award (from the American Academy of Arts and Letters), a Lannan Foundation Award for Fiction, as well as recognition from the Guggenheim and Fulbright Foundations, to name a few. Gish Jen will teach directed writing courses in fiction in the fall.

**David R. Sherman** (PhD, New York University, 2005), Assistant Professor. Dr. Sherman’s current book project, *In a Strange Room: Corpses, Sovereign Power, and the Modernist Imagination*, examines the standardization of British and American burial practices in the early twentieth century, and argues that this standardization became a critical element in the structuring of the modern state. In the book, he analyzes a number of modernist texts, including Owen’s wartime poetry, Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*, Eliot’s *The Waste Land*, and Beckett’s *The Unnamable*. Dr. Sherman’s interests encompass contemporary British poetry, the subject of

one of his courses this fall. Dr. Sherman comes to Brandeis from New York University where he has taught as a lecturer since 2005.

*English and American Literature, and Comparative Literature/Florence Levy Kay Fellow*

**Elizabeth A. Swanstrom** (PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2008), Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Digital Humanities, and Lecturer in the Department of English and American Literature, and in the interdisciplinary program of Comparative Literature. Dr. Swanstrom's research interests include media theory, information technology, American science fiction, and twentieth century Latin-American fiction. Her dissertation in comparative literature, "(Me)diation: Network Technology and Emergent Selfhood," focuses on the affect of the increased rate and quantity of new communication technologies on the evolution of the human subject. In fall 2008, Dr. Swanstrom will teach the Humanities-wide course, "Topics in the Humanities."

*German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures*

**Xiwen Lu** (MA, Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU), China, 2008), Lecturer in Chinese. Ms. Lu received her BA in Chinese language and literature in 2005 from the PLA University of Foreign Language in China. For her MA, she chose to focus on teaching Chinese as a second language, and attended BLCU, one of the premier institutions in China in the field, for this purpose. Ms. Lu has taught for two consecutive years at the Harvard and Beijing Academy Summer Program (HBA), where she has served as an instructor for students largely from Harvard and Yale Universities. This fall, Ms. Lu will teach Chinese language courses at both the intermediate and advanced level.

*Philosophy and Sociology/Florence Levy Kay Fellow*

**Sharon A. Hewitt** (PhD, New York University, 2008), Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Ethics, and Lecturer in Philosophy and Sociology. Dr. Hewitt's areas of specialization include metaethics and normative ethics; her current research focus is the practical application of utilitarianism. In line with the conventions of Florence Levy Kay Fellowships, Dr. Hewitt will teach one course each semester, beginning in fall 2008 with "Topics in Ethical Theory." She is looking to develop courses on Utopian Communities, that would explore the similarities and differences of the visions of the "good life" that these communities exhibit, and on Comparative Ethics, where she would compare different cultural perspectives on subjects such as reproduction, death, relationships, killing, autonomy, and the goal of ethical life in general.

*Philosophy*

**Kate A. Moran** (PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 2008), Assistant Professor. Dr. Moran's research interests include Kantian ethics, practical reason and moral psychology. In particular, she examines how relationships with others (in both the private and public spheres) influence our ability to reason morally. Another area that she plans to develop is moral education, beginning with the premise that many theories of pedagogy make moral improvement an explicit goal. In fall 2008, Dr. Moran will teach an introductory ethics course and the University Seminar, "Freedom of Will, Responsibility and Blame."

### *Biochemistry*

**Daniel Pomeranz Krummel** (PhD, Yale University, 2000), Assistant Professor. Dr. Krummel's research interests encompass RNA biochemistry, RNA-protein interactions and RNA processing. After completing his doctoral work at Yale University, he was awarded a fellowship from the Human Frontier Science Program in order to pursue research at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, UK. At the MRC, he used X-ray crystallography to identify the structures of very large protein complexes, and succeeded in developing techniques that enabled him to determine the structure of an RNA-protein complex of 11 subunits. Dr. Krummel takes up his appointment in January 2009.

### *Chemistry*

**Isaac J. Krauss** (PhD, Columbia University, 2003), Assistant Professor. Dr. Krauss completed his undergraduate education at Stanford University and his graduate training at Columbia University, and joined the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center as a postdoctoral fellow in 2004. In 2005 he was awarded an NIH postdoctoral fellowship. His research involves the development of new synthetic organic methods, and the total synthesis of structurally novel, bioactive natural products. His research proposals involve projects that have applications to medicine and the potential for biological collaborations. In fall 2008, Dr. Krauss will teach the course, "Advanced Organic Chemistry: Synthesis II."

**Jason K. Pontrello** (PhD, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2005), Lecturer. Dr. Pontrello received a dual BS in chemistry and cellular and molecular biology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1998. After graduating, he spent two years working at Pfizer in a medicinal chemistry group before enrolling in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin where he was awarded a PhD in organic chemistry. Subsequently, Dr. Pontrello taught at SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Cortland, and at Cornell University. He will assume responsibility for the organic chemistry lectures and for teaching the techniques of organic chemical laboratory practices at Brandeis in the fall.

**Christine M. Thomas** (PhD, California Institute of Technology, 2006), Assistant Professor. Dr. Thomas's research interests are in the general field of synthetic inorganic, bioinorganic and organometallic chemistry. After receiving a BS in chemistry from Lafayette College in 2001, she moved to the California Institute of Technology where she was awarded The Associated Students of California Institute of Technology 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006, the year that she graduated. She then took up appointment as a postdoctoral scholar at Texas A&M University to pursue a research program focusing on the synthesis, characterization and electrochemical behavior of small molecules. In fall, Dr. Thomas will teach the course, "Inorganic Chemistry II, Lectures."

### *Computer Science*

**Olga Papaemmanouil** (PhD, Brown University, expected December 2008), Assistant Professor. Ms. Papaemmanouil's main research interests lie at the intersection of networking, distributed systems and databases and span several aspects of distributed data management. Her dissertation, which she expects to complete in December 2008, focuses on the design and implementation of extensible, self-tuning, networked infrastructures for stream processing and dissemination. Ms. Papaemmanouil holds an MSc in Information Systems from Athens

University of Economics and Business, and an MSc in Computer Science from Brown University. She takes up her Brandeis appointment in January 2009.

### *Mathematics*

**R. Inanc Baykur** (PhD, Michigan State University, 2007), Lecturer. Dr. Baykur received his BSc and MSc in mathematics from the Middle East Technical University in Turkey, and his PhD from Michigan State University. His research interests include smooth 4-manifolds, and symplectic and contact topology. Last fall he taught at Columbia University, then spent the spring and summer of 2008 as a research fellow of the Max Planck Institute of Bonn. This coming year he will teach courses on differential equations and topology.

**Lior Fishman** (PhD, Ben Gurion University, Israel, 2008), Lecturer. Dr. Fishman's main area of research is in the field of Diophantine approximation, more specifically, in the Hausdorff dimension of the intersection of certain "Diophantine sets." He has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and philosophy, and a master's degree in set theory, both from Bar Ilan University. In 2004 he began his doctoral program at Ben Gurion University where he taught courses in calculus, algebra, set theory and logic. At Brandeis he will teach applied linear algebra.

### *Physics*

**Matthew Headrick** (PhD, Harvard University, 2003), Assistant Professor. Dr. Headrick is a theoretical physicist specializing in string theory and related areas of quantum field theory, general relativity, and geometry. After completing his doctorate in 2003, Dr. Headrick began a three-year appointment as a Pappalardo Fellow at MIT's Center for Theoretical Physics. From there he moved to the Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics where he served as a postdoctoral scholar until his appointment at Brandeis. In the fall, Dr. Headrick will teach the course, "Mathematical Physics."

**Geoffrey T. Svacha** (PhD, Harvard University, 2008), Lecturer in Physics. Dr. Svacha received a BS in Honors Physics and Mathematics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 2002, and a PhD in physics from Harvard University in 2008. At Harvard he taught introductory courses on electromagnetism and wave phenomena. Outside the classroom, he has delivered several public lectures, including a talk at the Museum of Science's Current Science & Technology State. In 2007, Dr. Svacha also participated in the Nanoscale Educational Outreach workshop at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. His fall courses will include "Introduction to Physical Laws and Phenomena I."

## **Social Sciences**

### *Anthropology*

**Smita Jassal** (PhD, Delhi University, 1989), Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor. Dr. Jassal is a scholar of gender and women's studies in South Asia. Her research includes studies of women's work and social control in northern India and South Asian women's relationships to land ownership from historical, anthropological and socio-legal perspectives. She has been a Senior Fellow at the Center for Women's Development Studies in New Delhi, a Visiting Fellow at The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace in

Jerusalem, and has taught at a wide range of U.S. universities, including American University, Columbia, George Mason, and Johns Hopkins.

### *Economics*

**Scott Redenius** (PhD, Yale University, 2002), Senior Lecturer. Dr. Redenius is joining Brandeis from Bryn Mawr College, where he taught since 2002. His primary research fields are economic history and the economics of financial institutions. He has researched issues in U.S. financial development and reform prior to the founding of the Federal Reserve System. His teaching fields include economic history, money and banking, macroeconomics, and statistics.

**Daniel Tortorice** (PhD, Harvard University, 2008), Assistant Professor. Dr. Tortorice completed a doctoral dissertation entitled “Unemployment and Expectations in Macroeconomic Models” this past summer under the direction of Gregory Mankiw. His research and teaching fields are macroeconomics, applied econometrics, development economics, and behavioral economics.

### *Education*

**Tara Brown** (EdD, Harvard University, 2005), Assistant Professor. Dr. Brown is joining Brandeis from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she was a faculty member in the Minority and Urban Education Unit of the College of Education. Her teaching and research interests include urban and alternative secondary education, race/ethnicity, class and gender in education, school exclusion, and school technology use.

**Serene Victor** (MEd, Boston University, 1973), Lecturer. Ms. Victor will be serving as the faculty leader for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Jewish day school concentration in the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program. She is a highly experienced Jewish educator, and has been National Consultant for Synagogue Education with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism since 1998.

### *History*

**Robert Heinrich** (PhD, Brandeis University 2008) Lecturer. Dr. Heinrich completed his doctoral dissertation on the Civil Rights Movement in Montgomery, Alabama, and its Legacies this past spring under the direction of Jacqueline Jones. He will be teaching courses in recent U.S. history and the Old and New South this academic year.

**Stephen Platt** (PhD, Yale University) Assistant Professor. Dr. Platt will be joining Brandeis in January from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. His research and teaching focus on the intellectual and political history of China from the late Ming to the present, with particular interests in regionalism, foreign contact, and the origins of Chinese nationalism. His first book, *Provincial Patriots: The Hunanese and Modern China*, was published in 2007.

### *Hornstein*

**Jared (Yehuda) Kurtzer** (MA, Harvard University, 2006). Charles R. Bronfman Visiting Assistant Professor in Jewish Communal Innovation. Mr. Kurtzer will be completing a doctoral dissertation on Jewish identity and the emergence of rabbinic literature in the ancient Mediterranean Diaspora this fall at Harvard University.

*Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies/Near Eastern and Judaic Studies*

**Cengiz Şişman** (PhD, Harvard University, 2005), Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. Şişman is an Assistant Professor of History at TOBB-ETU University in Turkey, and was a postdoctoral fellow in Near Eastern Studies and Language at Harvard in 2007-2008. His scholarly research stands at the crossroads between Ottoman and Jewish histories. His doctoral dissertation examined the Sabbatean movement in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Ottoman Empire and his first book on the Muslim Dönme sect of Turkey and their place in contemporary Turkish life has just been published in Turkey.

*Language and Linguistics/Computer Science*

**Edward Loper** (PhD), Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. Loper completed a doctoral dissertation, "Encoding Structured Output Values" at the University of Pennsylvania this past summer. He will be teaching courses on mathematical methods in linguistics and natural language processing systems in the fall semester.

**Nianwen Xue** (PhD, University of Delaware, 2001), Assistant Professor. Dr. Xue served as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania (2001-05), and as a Senior Research Associate (2005-07) and Research Assistant Professor (2007) at the University of Colorado. Dr. Xue's research focuses on the study of formal representation of linguistic structures and its impact on natural language processing, machine learning approaches to natural language problems, aspects of syntax, computational linguistics, corpus linguistics, and Chinese language processing.

*Politics/Crown Center for Middle East Studies*

**Lawrence Rubin** (MA, London School of Economics, 1997), Lecturer. Mr. Rubin expects to complete his doctoral dissertation, entitled "Ideology, Power, and Threat Perception: Why States Fear Islamist Regimes," at UCLA this fall. His research and teaching fields are international relations and comparative politics. He will be a visiting lecturer on the Myra and Robert Kraft Chair in Arab Politics.

*Psychology*

**Nicolas Rohleder** (PhD, Heinrich-Heine University, 2003), Assistant Professor. Dr. Rohleder is coming from a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of British Columbia. His main research interest is inflammation and how it contributes to disease, and his doctoral dissertation was entitled, "Dynamic Regulation of Glucocorticoid Sensitivity of Pro-Inflammatory Cytokine Production by Psychosocial Stress."

**Jutta Wolf** (PhD, Dresden University of Technology, 2006), Assistant Professor. Dr. Wolf is coming from a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of British Columbia, where she went after completing her doctoral dissertation on psychosocial stress and Addison's Disease. Her main research interests are the molecular pathways connecting psychosocial stress and health outcomes.

## **THE HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

**M. Cristina Espinosa** (PhD, University of Florida, 1998), Assistant Professor and Associate Director, Academics, of the Master of Arts Program in Sustainable International Development. Dr. Espinosa's doctoral dissertation addressed social differentiation and its impact on the use of wildlife resources in the northeastern Peruvian Amazon region. Prior to her doctoral work, she had over twenty years of experience as a researcher and consultant in the area of sustainable development with a wide range of organizations, including IDRC-Canada, IICA, FAO, Save the Children, USAID, and UNESCO.

**Benjamin Gidron** (PhD, University of Maryland, 1976) Visiting Professor. Dr. Gidron will be a visitor at the Heller School and the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies this fall. He is the director of the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research and the School of Management at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and he teaches courses on human service organizations, non-profit organizations, and third sector organizations. He is the author of many books and articles, including the recent *Third Sector in Israel: Between Society and State* (2004).