Elay Shech
Department of Philosophy, Assistant Professor
– Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh
– M.A., University of Pittsburgh
– B.A., Boston University
Research interests: philosophy of science, philosophy of physics, philosophy of mathematics, bioethics, the role of values in science

Diana Sisson
School of Communication and Journalism, Assistant Professor
– Ph.D., University of South Carolina
– M.S., Virginia Commonwealth University
– B.S., Virginia Commonwealth University
Research interests: public relations, organization-public relationships, relationship management, ethics, social media

Aurora Juliet Weaver
Department of Communication Disorders, Assistant Professor
– Ph.D., Ohio University
– Au.D., Ohio University
– B.A., Boston University
Research interests: developmental psychoacoustics, auditory training, auditory working memory

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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

New Faculty Members 2015–2016
Melissa Estes Blair  
Department of History,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of Virginia  
– M.A., University of Virginia  
– B.A., University of Kentucky  
Research interests: US women's and gender history, post-1945 US political history

Brett Remkus Britt  
Department of Political Science,  
Visiting Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of Delaware  
– M.S., Auburn University  
– M.A., Oklahoma State University  
– B.A., Troy University  
Research interests: international norms, human rights, gender and sexuality

Julia Charles  
Department of English,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of Massachusetts  
– M.A., North Carolina A&T State University  
– B.A., Bennett College  
Research interests: 19th and 20th century African American literature, African American literary movements, black women writers, critical race studies, early African American print culture

Eun Ji “Angie” Chung  
School of Communication and Journalism,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., Syracuse University  
– M.S., Northwestern University  
– B.A., Ewha Womans University  
Research interests: strategic communication, organizational communication, multicultural public relations, crisis communication

Kate Craig  
Department of History,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of California Los Angeles  
– M.A., University of California Los Angeles  
– B.S., California Institute of Technology  
Research interests: medieval European history, history of Christianity, science and history, digital humanities

Anton DiScala  
Department of English,  
Assistant Professor  
– M.F.A., Washington University in St. Louis  
– B.A., Emory University  
Research interests: fiction and creative nonfiction

Benjamin Fagan  
Department of English,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of Virginia  
– B.A., University of Iowa  
Research interests: African American literature, early American literature, print culture

Jonathan Fisk  
Department of Political Science,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., Colorado State University  
– M.P.A., University of Kansas  
– B.S., Missouri State University  
Research interests: environmental, energy and water policy, state and local government, fracking, public administration, management, intergovernmental relations/federalism

Nikki Gross  
Department of Music,  
Assistant Director of Athletic Bands  
– D.M.A., University of South Carolina  
– M.M., West Virginia University  
– B.M., West Virginia University  
Interests: conducting, music education, musical arts

Leigh Gruwell  
Department of English,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., Miami University  
– M.A., Florida State University  
– B.A., Florida State University  
Research interests: multimodal composing, feminist rhetorics, digital rhetorics, writing program administration, research methodologies

Andrea Kelley  
School of Communication and Journalism,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., Arizona State University  
– M.A., Indiana University  
– B.A., Columbia University  
Research interests: US cinema and screen culture, media history and criticism, critical race theory, cultural studies

Michael Koliska  
School of Communication and Journalism,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of Maryland  
– M.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
– M.A., Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany  
Research interests: transparency and trust in journalism, algorithmic transparency in digital and social media, negotiating legitimacy between news institutions and audiences

Rose McIlroney  
Department of English,  
Assistant Professor  
– M.F.A., University of Texas at Austin  
– B.A., Warren Wilson College  
Research interests: contemporary poetry, Appalachian and Southern literature and culture, ecopoetics

Michael Pendowski  
Department of Music,  
Assistant Professor  
– D.M.A., Eastman School of Music  
– M.M., Northwestern University  
– B.M.E., Northwestern University  
Research interests: theoretical study of jazz saxophonists in the 20th century, composition of instrumental and folk chamber music, video and film scoring

Jonathan Green  
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures,  
Lecturer  
– Ph.D., University of Illinois  
– M.A., University of Illinois  
– B.A., Brigham Young University  
Research interests: medieval and early modern German literature, Reformation Era prophetic texts, early printing, quantitative methods in book history

Daren E. Ray  
Department of History,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of Virginia  
– M.A., University of Virginia  
– B.A., Brigham Young University  
Research interests: Islam and ethnicity in Africa, world history, historical linguistics

Harrison Meadows  
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder  
– M.A., University of Virginia  
– B.A., Furman University  
Research interests: early modern Spain, theater, folklore, the history of ideas

Tal Peretz  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of Southern California  
– M.A., University of Southern California  
– B.S., Pennsylvania State University  
Research interests: social inequality, intersectional feminism, social justice movements, men and masculinities

Rachel Perry  
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures,  
Lecturer  
– PyCert., University of Virginia  
– M.A., University of Virginia  
– B.A., University of Virginia  
Research interests: feminist and queer critical theory, literary instances of female suicide, intertextuality, comparative literature

Brian Nowell  
Department of Psychology,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., University of Georgia  
– M.S., University of Georgia  
– B.S., University of South Florida  
Research interests: interpersonal face and body attraction, developmental understanding and prevention of bullying, multimodal deception detection, media effects on morality shifting, positive cognitive reprogramming

Anton DiScala  
Department of English,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., Miami University  
– M.A., Florida State University  
– B.A., Florida State University  
Research interests: multimodal composing, feminist rhetorics, digital rhetorics, writing program administration, research methodologies

Andrea Kelley  
School of Communication and Journalism,  
Assistant Professor  
– Ph.D., Arizona State University  
– M.A., Indiana University  
– B.A., Columbia University  
Research interests: US cinema and screen culture, media history and criticism, critical race theory, cultural studies

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– Ph.D., University of Maryland  
– M.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
– M.A., Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany  
Research interests: transparency and trust in journalism, algorithmic transparency in digital and social media, negotiating legitimacy between news institutions and audiences

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Research interests: early modern Spain, theater, folklore, the history of ideas