

2023-2024 New Tenure Track Faculty Hires



College of Arts & Letters



Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez Assistant Professor

Dr. Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez earned his Ph.D. from the UCLA's Department of Theatre Film and Television. Prior to joining CSUSB, he was a lecturer in UCLA's English and Chicana/o and Central American Studies Departments and in California State University, Northridge's Depart-

ment of Theatre and Chicana/o Studies. His research exists in the intersection of performance and critical studies; some of his publications are featured in Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies, Theatre Forum, Theatre Journal, Chiricú Journal, Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, and the Cambridge Opera Journal. He is also the 2021 co-winner of the Lowrider Studies Scholar-Activist of the Year Award, and a 2021 and 2022 participant in the Mellon School for Theater and Performance Research at Harvard University.



Andréa Daventry Assistant Professor Department of Philosophy

Dr. Andréa Daventry (she/her) is a specialist in feminist philosophy and ethics, whose current research is focused on how gendered socialization impacts our ability to make autonomous or free choices. She earned her Ph.D. in Philosophy from the

University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2020, and she is coming to CSUSB from Western Carolina University where she was an instructor of Philosophy and Religion from 2020-2023. She is excited to share her passion for philosophy with the students at CSUSB, and to encourage them to think about some of the ways that philosophy can help us grow as individuals, friends, and citizens.



John Decemvirale Assistant Professor Department of Art & Design

Dr. J.V. Decemvirale earned his doctorate in Contemporary Art History from UC Santa Barbara and most recently completed a postdoctoral teaching fellowship in visual culture at the California Institute of Technology. His research focuses on contempo-

rary community art politics in the Americas. Decemvirale most recently published a chapter in the anthology, Self Help Graphics at Fifty (UC Press, 2023), an exploration of the storied Latinx art organization's aesthetic foundations. He is currently working on his book, Keeping Fires in the Hinterlands, a decolonial untwining of art's hidden histories as a tool of epistemic conquest and resistance. Dr. Decemvirale looks forward to working with his students.



Kirk Kanesak
Assistant Professor
Department of World Languages
& Literatures

Dr. Kirk Kanesaka earned his Ph.D. in Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of California, Los Angeles. Kirk was formally an Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies and Performing Arts at George Mason Univer-

sity. Currently, his research focuses on the emergence of Japanese popular fiction and the kabuki and bunraku theaters in the seventeenth century. In addition, Dr. Kanesaka's interest examines the performative aspects in anime, video games, fan culture, online texts, East Asian popular culture and films, and most recently representations of disabilities on the stage. At CSUSB, he hopes to further engage the university with the Asian and Asian American communities to build stronger relationships that will enrich the students' experiences and create a stronger university presence within the various communities.



Nicole Scalissi

Assistant Professor Department of Art & Design

Dr. Nicole F. Scalissi is a historian of contemporary Latinx/Afro-Latinx art and her research focuses on performance, intervention, and installation art that deals with issues of violence, Latinx/Afro-Latinx identity, and representation in the United States/Aztlán. She earned her Ph.D. in the History of

Art and Architecture from the University of Pittsburgh (2019) and MA in Art History from The Pennsylvania State University (2013). From 2019-2023 she served as Assistant Professor of Contemporary Art History at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro where she was a founding member and coordinator of the Afro-Latin American/Afro-Latinx Studies Project, and faculty affiliate in African American and African Diaspora Studies. She looks forward to extending her community-engaged scholarship with local communities and CSUSB students to build accessible public art exhibition projects in southern California, her home state.



Izzy WassersteinAssistant Professor
Department of English

Professor Izzy Wasserstein (she/her/hers) received her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of New Mexico. Before joining CSUSB, she was a Senior Lecturer in English at Washburn University. A queer and trans woman, she is the author of two poetry

collections, a short story collection, and the forthcoming novella These Fragile Graces (Tachyon, 2024), and has particular interest in speculative fictions, queer fictions, and responses to authoritarianism and climate disasters. This year, she hopes to support students and cultivate relationships with colleagues across the university and in the community.

College of Natural Sciences



Adil Al-Azzawi Assistant Professor School of Computer Science & Engineering

Dr. Adil Al-Azzawi received his MS. in Computer Engineering in 2017, and his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 2019 from University of Missouri-Columbia/USA. He earned his bachelor's degree in Soft-

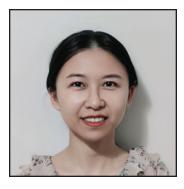
ware Engineering from Al-Rafidain University/Iraq in 2001, his first master's degree in software engineering in 2002, and second master degree in 2005 from the University of Technology/Iraq. His research is mainly focused on developing data-driven computational methods (particularly machine learning, deep learning, and computational optimization methods) for cryo-EM based protein structure modeling. In addition, he is interested in developing data mining methods to fully automated the Single Particle Analysis Framework (SPA).



Hector Banos CervantesAssistant Professor Department of Mathematics

Dr. Hector Banos received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has been a postdoctoral fellow at Dalhousie University for the last two years. His main research is broadly on the inference of phylogenetic trees and networks from

genomic data (bio-mathematics). He focuses on the inference of species' evolutionary relationships in the presence of hybridization. He is passionate about teaching and is excited to join the vibrant community of CSUSB.



Qiuxiao Chen Assistant Professor School of Computer Science & Engineering

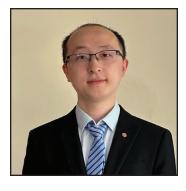
Qiuxiao Chen earned her Ph.D. from Utah State University in Computer Science. Her area of specialization is deep learning with attention mechanisms in perception of autonomous vehicles. In her first year at CSUSB, she will continue to explore perception program, and hopes to grow with students together.



Warren Forbes
Assistant Professor
Department Kinesiology

Dr. Warren Forbes received his Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences at the University of Nevada Las Vegas with an emphasis in Biomechanics. He was formerly a lecturer at California State University Fullerton and a Graduate Assistant instructor at UNLV. His

current research stems around jump landing biomechanics and preventing lower extremity musculoskeletal injury, with a specific interest in the concussion population.



Rui Hu Assistant Professor Department of Mathematics

Dr. Rui Hu, who holds a Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of California, Davis, has a strong research focus on Manifold Learning, Topological Data Analysis, and Dimensionality Reduction Methods. In addition to his doctoral degree, Dr. Hu also holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and

has accumulated extensive teaching experience with a diverse range of students, and his expertise lies at the intersection of mathematics and statistics. Dr. Hu's experience also includes two impactful summer internships at Bell Labs, where he gained valuable insights into data science and machine learning techniques, and these opportunities provided him with a strong foundation in combining academic research with practical applications. Being a first-generation college student, he is particularly passionate about supporting students with limited math and statistics backgrounds, and as one of the distinguished statistics tenure track faculty members, Dr. Hu aims to foster a vibrant statistics community within the Department of Mathematics at CSUSB.



Youngmin Kim Assistant Professor Department of Physics

Dr. Youngmin Kim received his Ph.D. in Physics from Universität Paderborn in Germany. Before joining CSUSB, Dr. Kim worked at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and the University of Maryland as a postdoc, and as an assistant

professor of physics at Colorado Mesa University. Dr. Kim's current research interests include investigating novel quantum materials for quantum communication and sensing. Having lived and studied in three different countries, Dr. Kim seeks to foster a spirit of cultural and cognitive diversity in his teaching and research and is passionate about building the capacity of students for careers in STEM.

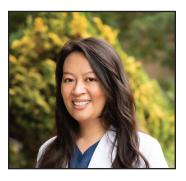


Maria (Kate) Rodriguez Wimberly Assistant Professor Department of Physics

Dr. Katy Rodriguez Wimberly is an astrophysicist, with expertise in Near-Field Cosmology and galaxy evolution particularly centered on ultra–faint dwarf galaxies, researching these relics of the first galaxies ever formed to learn more about the early universe.

Alongside her astrophysics research,

Katy is passionate about outreach and mentorship — she currently serves as the Director of Mentorship for the Cal—Bridge Program, a CSU-UC STEM scholarship program, where her aim is to normalize a holistic approach to academic success and strengthen marginalized communities. Katy, a SoCal native, first attended Mt. San Antonio College, then earned her B.S in Physics from CSU Long Beach, her Ph.D. in Physics from University of California (UC), Irvine and is moving to CSUSB from UC Riverside, where she was an NSF Math & Physical Sciences Ascend Postdoctoral astronomy outreach group within her department.



May San-Rozano Assistant Professor Department of Nursing

Dr. May San-Rozano earned her MSN and Ph.D. in nursing from Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California, and is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner. Before joining CSUSB, she served as an adjunct faculty member for eight years at the School of

Nursing of Azusa Pacific University. She is also an advanced practice provider at one of the National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in Duarte, California. Her research interests lie in broad areas of Asian American Immigrants' health, and the nursing profession, and her dissertation highlights breast health perceptions and screening behaviors among Myanmar-American immigrant women. During her first year at CSUSB, Dr. San-Rozano hopes to connect with the CSUSB community, collaborate with faculty and students, and make meaningful contributions to the nursing profession.

James R. Watson & Judy Rodriguez Watson College of Education



Jennifer Carhart Assistant Professor Department of Special Education Rehabilitation, & Counseling

Dr. Jennifer Carhart has held roles in various settings that served veterans, parent students, adult students, students with disabilities, and graduate students prior to CSUSB. She has served CSUSB in various advising/ counseling positions prior to her facul-

ty appointment. Her research examines practices and policies of higher education institutions, as well as, practitioners, educators, and counselors that create barriers and access to terminal educational attainment of higher-ranking STEMM career pathways for students of Color.



Caroline M. Fitchett

Assistant Professor Department of Special Education Rehabilitation, & Counseling

Dr. Fitchett (she/her/hers) received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction of students with extensive support needs this summer from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky. Her research interests include academic interventions, assessment, and

general curriculum access for students with moderate and severe disabilities. Dr. Fitchett teaches courses related to teaching methods of students with moderate and serve disabilities, including systematic instruction and assessment. She looks forward to being a CSUSB Coyote and collaborating with other faculty, staff, and students to improve the lives of students with disabilities.



Heekyung LeeAssistant Professor
Department of Special Education
Rehabilitation, & Counseling

Dr. Heekyung Lee (she/her/hers) received her Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counselor Education from Michigan State University. Her research focuses on emotion regulation for autistic young adults and ethnic minorities, cyberbullying in college students,

and mental health in Asian Americans. Dr. Lee was formally an Assistant Professor in Rehabilitation Counseling at Sacramento State University. She hopes to collaborate with the community, faculty, and students at CSUSB.



Tamara RooseAssistant Professor
Teacher Education & Foundations

Dr. Tamara Roose received her Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning with a specialization in Foreign, Second, and Multilingual Language Education from The Ohio State University. She was formerly an Assistant Professor of English at Mercy College in Dobbs

Ferry, New York. Her research is centered on the intersection of language, culture, and academic literacies, and she is particularly interested in exploring the diverse language and cultural resources students and educators draw upon as they develop new academic practices. Dr. Roose is excited to share her passion for working with multilingual learners and inspire her students as they work toward their professional goals in the M.A. in TESOL program at CSUSB other units on campus.



Patricia (Peet) Smith Assistant Professor Teacher Education & Foundations

Dr. Peet Smith is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Teacher Education and has served as the Multiple Subjects Program Coordinator since 2021. Her research focuses on preparing teacher candidates to support elementary students' engagement in

reading as well as the cognitive factors that impact students' reading comprehension and strategy use. Her work has been published in Contemporary Educational Psychology, Literacy Research and Instruction, and Journal of Literacy Research. Dr. Smith previously served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at Northern Illinois University where she taught undergraduate and graduate students on topics such as beginning reading, content area literacy, and literacy research methodologies.



Jeanette Zambrano Assistant Professor Teacher Education & Foundations

Dr. Jeanette Zambrano earned her Ph.D. in Urban Education Policy with a concentration in educational psychology from the University of Southern California. Dr. Zambrano studies motivational processes and how aspects of the self, the context, and other people shape these processes.

She uses quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, and synthesis approaches to understand the nature of motivation and to inform education practices that support it. In her first year, Dr. Zambrano hopes to grow as a teacher and mentor and make new connections with faculty at CSUSB.

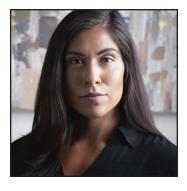
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences



Andrea Giuffre
Assistant Professor
School of Criminology & Criminal
Justice

Dr. Andrea Giuffre received her doctorate from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in May 2023. Her primary research interests include the social harms of crimi-

nal legal system contact, financial operations of the criminal legal system, and corrections. Her dissertation explored how people on community supervision access, approach, and think about social support exchange.



Alicia Gutierrez-Romine Associate Professor Department of History

Dr. Alicia Gutierrez-Romine earned her doctorate degree in history from the University of Southern California in 2016, and her bachelor's degree in history from CSUSB in 2010. Before joining the faculty at CSUSB, she was an associate professor of history at

La Sierra University. She is the author of From Back Alley to the Border: Criminal Abortion in California, 1920-1969 (2020, revised 2023), and a contributing author in Beyond the Border of the Law: Critical Legal Histories of the North American West (2018). Her current project explores intersections of race, public health, and professional medicine in Southern California and the Borderlands.



Gino HowardAssistant Professor Department of Psychology

Gino Howard is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at CSUSB. His research interests are centered in occupational health psychology and employee well-being. Dr. Howard's research examines employee stress, the work-nonwork interface, workaholism, and challenges

surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion. He earned his Ph.D. in Industrial & Organizational Psychology from Louisiana State University (LSU). As a former CSUSB student, he hopes to promote the growth and development of his students, CSUSB, and the surrounding communities.



Michelle LorimerAssistant Professor Department of History

Dr. Michelle Lorimer earned her Ph.D. from UC, Riverside in 2013 with focuses on Public History and Native American History. She works closely with K-12 History-Social Science leaders throughout California. She is dedicated to partnering with pre-credential students to develop strong HSS teachers

for the Inland Empire. She has worked as a lecturer at CSUSB for over ten years and is very excited to join the full-time faculty!



Anahid ModrekAssistant Professor
Department of Psychology

Dr. Anahid Modrek is the Director of the Learning to Learn (L2L) Lab and studies the development of reasoning, learning, and academic achievement Dr. Modrek is excited about the move across the coast to CSUSB to be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology. Dr. Modrek's lab was

founded in a previous Assistant Professor appointment in the Department of Psychology at Thomas Jefferson University, prior to which Dr. Modrek completed postdoctoral fellowships at UCLA and UCSD. Dr. Modrek received a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology and MS in Applied Statistics from Columbia University and is interested in understanding both individual level as well as contextual factors that contribute to variability in the development of learning and long-term outcomes.

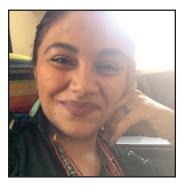


Nicholas Moon Assistant Professor Department of Psychology

Dr. Nicholas Moon received his Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from Florida Institute of Technology. His research is concerned primarily with motivation, self-regulation, and individual differences and their implications in the workplace. Additionally,

Dr. Moon has 4 years of assessment and

selection consulting experience working with various companies at Aon. During his first year at CSUSB, he looks forward to continuing his research and collaboration efforts and engaging with the local community through the Center for Effective Organizational Solutions.



Beyaja Notah Assistant Professor Department of Ethnic Studies

Dr. Beyaja Notah graduated from the University of California, Riverside with her degree in Ethnic Studies. Prior to pursuing her graduate degree Dr. Notah worked in the local Indian community as a program coordinator, K-12 educator, and cultural programs assis-

tant. Much of this work helped her to understand the importance of education and action in our road in life. Dr. Notah dissertation "Diné Unbound" is a project articulating the need for a Navajo feminist philosophy and theory especially for young urban Diné women. In her dissertation she explores Diné history and healing, higher education and Diné philosophy, urban Diné identity and wellness. In her first year she plans to bring her unique perspective to the course teaches for the Department of Ethnic studies.



Rosario Rizzo Lara Assistant Professor Department of Sociology

Dr. Rosario Rizzo Lara received her B.S. in International Business Management from Universidad Veracruzana in 2007 in Mexico. She completed her M.A. in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin in 2012. She holds a Post-Graduate Certificate

in US-Mexico Border Studies from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (2016). In July 2023, Dr. Rizzo Lara obtained her joint Ph.D. in Migration from the University of Kent and the Freie Universität Berlin. Finally, she did a research stay at Aarhus University, Denmark, where she stayed until she defended her dissertation in February 2023.



Kevin Rosales Assistant Professor School of Child Development

Dr. Kevin Rosales is an undergraduate alumnus from CSUSB and moved onto receive his Ph.D. in Applied Cognitive Psychology from Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, CA. His research focuses on examining the psychometric structure of cognitive abilities in typically and atypically

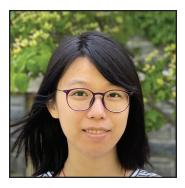
developing children and tests how individual differences in these cognitive abilities predict real-world outcomes like academic success. Moreover, Dr. Rosales complements this line work with applied research that examines the effectiveness of computerized cognitive training interventions to improve cognitive abilities in school-aged children with the ultimate goal of boosting their academic performance in the school-setting. At his time here, Dr. Rosales is determined to give back to CSUSB and serve its wonderful student population by fueling them with the passion for learning and helping to empower them with the necessary skills so that they are leaders of change in society, and can indeed define the future.



Edward Teather-Posadas Assistant Professor Department of Economics

Dr. Edward Teather-Posadas graduated with his Ph.D. in Economics from Colorado State University in 2022. Dr. Teather-Posadas specializes in political economy and heterodox economics, while his research focuses mainly on the rhetoric and philosophy of eco-

nomics. Dr. Teather-Posadas has previously held positions at Colorado State University, Roosevelt University, and the College of Wooster. In his first year at CSUSB, Dr. Teather-Posadas hopes to use economics to show students that they need not settle, a better world is possible.



Sishi WuAssistant Professor
School of Criminology &
Criminal Justice

Sishi Wu received her Ph.D. from the University at Albany, SUNY. She also has law degrees in China. She is interested in errors in the criminal justice system, the death penalty, and criminal justice policies.

Jack H. Brown College of Business & Public Administration



Rodrigo Cardenas
Assistant Professor
Department of Accounting &
Finanace

Dr. Rodrigo Cardenas completed his Ph.D. in Finance at the University of Alberta (Canada). His current research focuses on behavioral finance, corporate decision making, real options, and continuous time finance. In his

first year at CSUSB, Dr. Cardenas aims to grow as a teacher and researcher, to support our students, and to engage with the community.



Elizabeth Castillo
Assistant Professor
Department of Public
Administration Management

Dr. Elizabeth Castillo has a Ph.D. in Leadership Studies from the University of San Diego. She joins CSUSB after seven years as a senior sustainability scientist at Arizona State University and two decades as a manager in the non-

profit sector in San Diego. Her interdisciplinary research investigates social accounting so that organizations can account for their values while developing sustainable, inclusive business models. She received the Aspen Institute's "Ideas Worth Teaching" award in 2020 for curricular innovation that transforms business education. She enjoys hiking, nature photography, and serving as the president of the International Humanistic Management Association's US chapter.



Ki Eun KangAssistant Professor
Department of Public
Administration

Dr. Ki Eun Kang received her Ph.D. in Community and Public Affairs from Binghamton University – State University of New York. Her research interests include community and economic development, resilient cities, and pub-

lic policy, conflict and conflict resolution. Before joining CSUSB, Dr. Kang was a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy in the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.



Ari Kim Assistant Professor Department of Marketing

Dr. Ari Kim received her Ph.D. in Sport Management from the University of Florida, as well as M.S in Marketing and B.B.A. from Yonsei University in South Korea. Her areas of expertise lie in consumer behavior and strategic marketing communications, with

a specific focus on inclusive marketing communication strategies within the realm of sports. Dr. Kim previously served at Towson University as an assistant professor. Before pursuing an academic career, Dr. Kim had extensive industry experience, working as a marketing research consultant at Kantar and a marketing intern at L'Oréal. Given her extensive knowledge in marketing, Dr. Kim currently holds the position of Chair of the Marketing & Communication Committee at the North American Society for Sport Management (NASSM). In her first year at CSUSB, she aims to establish meaningful connections with the local sports and entertainment industry, understand the interests of students, and continue her research on relevant topics in collaboration with colleagues and students at CSUSB.



Rama Krishna Reddy Assistant Professor School of Entrepreneurship

Dr. RK Reddy received his Ph.D. in Management from the University of Memphis in 2016. After Ph.D., he worked as Assistant Professor of Management and Associate Professor of Management at Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics of Indi-

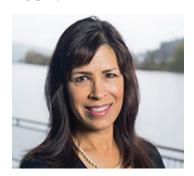
ana University South Bend. His research interests include mergers & acquisitions and entrepreneurship in the informal sector. He teaches entrepreneurship and strategic management at both graduate and undergraduate levels. Dr. Reddy wishes to establish his research in informal sector entrepreneurship, establish strong relationships and positively impact CSUSB students and the community.



Nima Molavi
Assistant Professor
Department of Information &
Decision Sciences

Dr. Nima Molavi earned his Ph.D. degree in Manufacturing and Technology Management, with a specialization in Operations and Supply Chain Management, from the John B. and Lillian E. Neff College of Business and Innovation at the University of Toledo,

and an M.S. in Engineering Management from AmirKabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic). He joins CSUSB after 2 years of experience as the Assistant Professor of Management and AACSB Coordinator at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU). His key research interests are in the areas of operations and supply chain management, technology management, and business analytics. Believing that the key to growth is in the connection between academia and industry, Dr. Molavi aims to build connections with industry through collaborative sponsored research projects and provide hands-on experience for students using experiential learning projects.



Karen Thurston

Assistant Professor Department of Information & Decision Sciences

Dr. Karen Thurston earned a Ph.D. in computer science, 2021, University of Idaho, Coeur d'Alene. Area of specialization: Cybersecurity and geographic behavioral aspects of trust in mobile adhoc networks. Dr. Thurston's last position held was a California Community College professor.

CSUSB Libraries



William Ortiz Senior Assistant Librarian CSUSB Libraries

William Ortiz is the CSUSB libraries' Instruction Librarian and an educator who has worked with diverse learning communities. Prior to his appointment at CSUSB, he worked as a librarian at Wasco State Prison and was privileged to serve with AmeriCorps, working

with first generation college students at the University of Alaska. He earned his Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University; his research interests include first-generation college students, prison education, and adult education. During his first year, Mr. Ortiz looks forward to establishing meaningful connections with faculty whose students would benefit from library instruction delivered via innovative engagement strategies.



Sanjeet-Singh Mann Senior Librarian CSUSB Libraries

Sanjeet Mann is the Systems & Discovery Librarian at CSUSB Libraries, responsible for overseeing the library's makerspaces and contributing to library system administration and technology planning. He holds a Masters in Library and Information Studies

from UCLA and his research examines technology work in libraries from a critical perspective. He joins CSUSB from University of Redlands, where he served as Arts & Systems Librarian.



Names as of 8-15-2023