2018-2019 New Faculty Members in Arts, Sciences and Engineering (AS&E)

**Tanya Crane, Professor of the Practice, Department 3D and Performance at SMFA at Tufts**

Tanya Crane received her B.F.A. in metal from the State University of New York at New Paltz, her M.A. in art, and her M.F.A. in metalsmithing/jewelry, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Though Crane specializes in non-ferrous metals and jewelry, she works in a range of three-dimensional media. Her work explores themes of black identity, its stereotypes, and its assumptions in the context of western ideologies. Crane was awarded the Society of Arts and Crafts 2017 Artist Award and was part of an exhibition in their Boston gallery. She has been a part-time lecturer at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts since 2015, as well as the metals studio manager since 2016.

**Kendall Reiss, Professor of the Practice, Department of 3D and Performance at SMFA at Tufts**

Kendall Reiss received her B.S. in geology from Dickinson College and her M.F.A. in jewelry and metalsmithing from Rhode Island School of Design. She focuses on two separate yet parallel modes of inquiry: the design and fabrication of contemporary jewelry alongside material experiments, which result in sculptural objects and time-based installations. Her practice is heavily informed by the study of geology. Reiss’s work has been shown across the country in Boston, Greenville, Providence, Seattle, and Brooklyn. She has also curated at the W. Van Alan Clark, Jr. Memorial Library in Boston, the Velvet da Vinci Gallery in San Francisco, the Hotel Wilshire in Los Angeles, and Brooklyn Metal Works in Brooklyn.

**Sarah Luna, The Kathryn A. McCarthy, J45, AG46, Assistant Professor in Women’s Studies, Department of Anthropology and the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program**

Sarah Luna received her B.A. from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, all in anthropology. She was a postdoctoral fellow at Davidson College and a visiting scholar at the University of Houston. Her research focuses on the Mexico/U.S. border, migration, sexuality, mission work and sexual labor, and develops important concepts of intimacy and desire as formed amid uneven social and socio-economic positions and across morally loaded ideas about sexuality. Her work is at the cutting edge of theorizing on and with race, sexuality, and gender in anthropology and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. Luna is currently working on her book, *Selling Sex and Finding Jesus: Love and Obligation on the Mexican Border, and* has a second research project under way on American fitness culture, called *High, Tight, and White*. She has two manuscripts in progress. As the first Kathryn McCarthy Assistant Professor in Women’s Studies, as well as being a member of the Department of Anthropology, Luna will be centrally involved in the Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
Luke Davis, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry
After studying chemistry at The College of William and Mary, Luke Davis received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He comes to Tufts from a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University, where he was awarded a Certificate of Distinction in Teaching. His work in the area of inorganic materials chemistry will focus on discovering new compounds and fabrication routes that increase sustainability and provide greater chemical understanding and control of excited state lifetimes. His work has applications in solar cells, displays, and advanced computing.

Eileen T. Crehan, Assistant Professor, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development
Eileen Crehan received her B.A. in math and psychology from Wellesley College and completed her Ph.D. in clinical developmental psychology at the University of Vermont. Before coming to Tufts, she was a postdoctoral fellow and associate clinical director at Rush University Medical Center Department of Psychiatry. Her research studies social perception in young people with autism using eye tracking technology; her additional clinical research focuses on sexuality education for individuals with autism, and other neurodiverse populations. She has published in Child Psychiatry and Human Development, the Journal of Child & Adolescent Psychopharmacology, and the Journal of Child and Family Studies, among others.

Madina Agénor, Gerald R. Gill Assistant Professor of Race, Culture, and Society, Department of Community Health
Madina Agénor received her M.P.H. from Columbia University and her Sc.D. in social and behavioral sciences from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health where she was also a postdoctoral fellow and assistant professor. Agénor’s research investigates and addresses intersectional inequities in sexual and reproductive health as well as cancer screening and prevention among U.S. adolescents and young adults in relation to sexual orientation, gender identity, and race/ethnicity.

Kerri Greenidge, Lecturer, the Consortium for the Study of Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora
Kerri Greenidge received her Doctorate in American Studies from Boston University, where her specialty included African-American history, American political history, and African-American and African diasporic literature in the post-emancipation and early modern era. Her research explores the role of African-American literature in the creation of radical Black political consciousness, particularly as it relates to local elections and Democratic populism during the Progressive Era. She has taught at Boston University, the University of Massachusetts, and Emerson College. Her work includes historical research for the Wiley-Blackwell Anthology of African-American Literature, the Oxford African American Studies Center, and PBS. For nine years she worked as a historian for Boston African American National Historical Site in Boston, through which she published her first book, Boston Abolitionists (2006). Her forthcoming book Trotter: Race and Politics in Boston will be published by Norton in Spring, 2019. The book, a
biography of African-American activist, William Monroe Trotter, explores the history of racial thought and African American political radicalism in New England at the turn of the century. She is currently co-director of the African American Trail Project through Tufts’ Center for the Study of Race and Democracy (CSRD).

**Lilian Mengesha, Assistant Professor, Department of Drama and Dance**

Lilian Mengesha received her M.A. and Ph.D. in theatre arts and performance studies from Brown University. Mengesha works in critical Indigenous studies, affect theory, and feminist theory, especially with respect to performance art, dramatic literature, and dance. In addition to her scholarly work, she also writes performance pieces and is a director, performer, and dramaturge. She was a visiting scholar in MIT’s literature section during the 2016-2017 academic year and is the 2016 winner of The Drama Review’s best graduate student essay award and her research has also appeared in The Canadian Theatre Review. She has presented papers and organized panels in the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, and U.K.

**Adam Smith, Lecturer, Department of Drama and Dance**

Adam Smith received his B.A. in English from the University of Maine. He spent several years as the staff sound technologist at the DePaul University Theatre School before moving to Boston as a freelance sound designer/engineer. Smith has extensive experience as a sound engineer and technician, having worked at the award-winning Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Goodman, Stage Left, the Jenny Wiley Theatre, and the Ogunquit Playhouse, among others.

**David Antonio Cruz, Professor of the Practice, Department of Drawing and Painting at SMFA at Tufts**

David Antonio Cruz received his B.F.A. from the Pratt Institute and his M.F.A. in painting from Yale University School of Art. Cruz’s research explores Latino and Black underground queer culture, literature, and historical events, with an emphasis on exploring the cultural silencing of brown and black bodies, through painting, performance, and sculpture. This work involves collaborations with musicians, actors and other artists well as an ongoing discussion of the role of portraiture in relationship to marginalized bodies. Cruz has received several awards and residencies: the Queer Art Mentorship/Fellowship, the LMCC Workspace Residency Program, the Franklin Furnace Fund, and the Urban Artist Initiative Award, and the Gateway Project Spaces.

**Cynthia Kinnan, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics**

Cynthia Kinnan received her M.Sc. in global market economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science and her Ph.D. in economics from MIT. She comes to Tufts from Northwestern University, where she was an assistant professor, and she has previously taught at the Harvard Kennedy School as a visiting assistant professor. Kinnan is a development economist whose work focuses on how households in developing countries use financial products and informal insurance networks. She has been published in the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics and the American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings.
Elizabeth Setren, Gunner Myrdal Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
Elizabeth Setren received her Ph.D. in economics from MIT. She comes to Tufts from a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She was also a research associate at the MIT School of Effectiveness and Inequality Imitative and an assistant economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Setren is a labor economist with special expertise in education and public finance. Her research has been published in the Journal of Labor Economics and Economic Policy Review.

Andrew Izsák, Professor, Department of Education
Andrew Izsák received his S.M. in mathematics from MIT, his M.Ed. in general education from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and his Ph.D. in science and mathematics education from UC Berkeley. Since 2001, he has served on the faculty at the University of Georgia in the Department of Mathematics and Science Education and at San Diego State University in the Department of Mathematics. His interests include the psychology of mathematical thinking and assessment and he has concentrated his research on teaching and learning core topics related to multiplication that pose perennial challenges for students and many of their teachers. He has received several grants from the National Science Foundation and the Spencer Foundation; published numerous chapters, monographs, and articles; has served on editorial boards for leading journals; and is an editor for Cognition and Instruction.

Noelle Roop, Lecturer, Department of Education
Noelle Roop received her Ed.D. from Northeastern University and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in School Psychology and M.Ed. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her work focuses on education and school psychology. Roop has a decade of experience working as a school psychologist in Boston Public Schools, an educational psychologist in her private practice, and as a consultant for Tufts’ Office of Equal Opportunity.

James Murphy, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics
James Murphy received his M.A. and Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Maryland, College Park. His areas of research include machine learning and data analysis; harmonic analysis and multiresolution computational methods; and image processing with applications in medicine, geoscience, and remote sensing. Murphy comes to Tufts from Johns Hopkins University where he was an assistant research scientist and senior lecturer. He received the Professor Joel Dean Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics at JHU earlier this year. Previously, he was a visiting assistant professor at Duke University and a research intern at NASA.

Ky Tran, Norbert Wiener Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics
Ky Tran received his M.S. in mathematical analysis from Hue University in Vietnam and his M.A. in mathematical statistics and his Ph.D. in applied mathematics from Wayne State University. Tran has been a lecturer in mathematics and the head of the division of mathematical
analysis at Hue University. His research interests are within stochastic control, stochastic processes, mathematical biology, and numerical algorithms. Tran has recently published in *Applied Mathematics and Optimization*, *IET Control Theory and Applications*, and *Dynamic Systems and Applications*. His experience includes reviewing for *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization*, *System and Control Letters*, and the *Journal of Systems Science and Complexity*.

**Neda Moridpour, Professor of the Practice, Department of Media Arts at SMFA at Tufts**

Neda Moridpour received her B.S. in computer software engineering from Azad University of Southern Tehran and her M.F.A. in public practice (socially engaged art) from Otis College of Art and Design. Moridpour has exhibited her work at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Glendale Community College, Gallery Neuartig in San Pedro, C.A., and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the latter housing her work in its permanent collection. She has also been part of group shows in Tehran, Santa Monica, Liverpool, Dubai, New York City, and San Francisco, among others. Moridpour is also the co-founder of LOUDER THAN WORDS, a cross-cultural, intergenerational art collective that targets sexual assault, domestic violence, women’s reproductive health, transphobia and homophobia by combining elements of activism with courageous art interventions. Moridpour and SA Bachman, the co-founder of LOUDER THAN WORDS, will be installing their Billboard Truck and staging interventions on campus on October 30 and November 1. Watch for details of the piece they call WOMEN ON THE MOVE.

**Rachelle Mozman Solano, Professor of the Practice, Department of Media Arts at SMFA at Tufts**

Rachelle Mozman Solano received her M.F.A. in photography at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. Mozman, who is also a clinical psychoanalyst, makes photographs and moving images that simultaneously explore the relationship between documentary and narrative fiction and the ways that culture shapes individuals and environment conditions behavior. She is a Fulbright Fellow and has exhibited her work in the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo in Panama, the Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo in Costa Rica, the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Friese Museum in Berlin. Her work is in the collections of the Voelker Orth Museum, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, and El Museo del Barrio, among others. Mozman has been named a Tufts Neubauer Faculty Fellow for 2019 for her scholarship.

**Nancy Baker, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy**

Nancy Baker received her M.S. in occupational therapy and her Sc.D. in therapeutic studies from Boston University and her M.P.H. in epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh where she was an associate professor. Her work is focused on methods to prevent and treat musculoskeletal disorders at the individual and population levels. Baker is internationally recognized for her work in arthritis and work disability, particularly as related to office work and computer use. This year, she was elected to the Board of Trustees for the American Occupational Therapy Foundation.
Meredith Grinnell, Lecturer, Department of Occupational Therapy
Meredith Grinnell recently received her Doctor of Occupational Therapy from Tufts University. She received her B.S. and M.S. in occupational therapy from the University of New Hampshire. Grinnell is an advanced clinician and clinical educator with her primary work focused on neuro-rehabilitation assessment and intervention for individuals with stroke and other acquired brain injuries. She is a recognized Clinical Scholar at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and has investigated intervention practices for individuals who have post-concussion syndrome and vestibular impairment.

Brian Schaffner, Newhouse Professor of Civic Studies, Department of Political Science
Brian Schaffner earned his Ph.D. in political science from Indiana University. Before coming to Tufts, he was a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Schaffner’s research is focused on civic engagement, political participation, and citizenship. He has received multiple awards and honors over the course of his academic career, such as the Best Paper Award from the American Political Science Association’s Section on Class and Inequality in 2016, and the 2016 Virginia Gray Best Book Award for the best political science book published on the subject of U.S. state politics or policy in the preceding three calendar years. Schaffner has written or co-written five books, including most recently Campaign Finance and Political Polarization: When Purists Prevail.

Maria Isabel Castro, Lecturer, Department of Romance Studies
Maria Isabel Castro received her B.S. in journalism from Universidad Católica del Ecuador Quito, her M.A. in Spanish literature from the University of Tennessee, and her Ph.D. in Hispanic language and literatures from Boston University. She has extensive experience teaching the languages and literatures of Spain and Latin America and has taught at Boston University and the College of the Holy Cross. Castro is currently Vice President of the Sociedad de Cultura y Literatura Ecuatoriana en Estados Unidos.

Magdalena Malinowska, Lecturer, Department of Romance Studies
Magdalena Malinowska received her M.A. from Boston College and her Ph.D. from Boston University, both in Hispanic language and literature. She is a content writer for a Spanish textbook, was a reader for the College Board’s AP exam, and has extensive teaching experience at Tufts, Brandeis, Regis, and Boston College.

Felipe Dias, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
Felipe Dias completed his M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology at the University of California at Berkeley and was a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University for the past year. His work uses field experimental methods, spatial analysis, and comparative methods to study racial disparities in employment, the consequences of racial segregation, and the processes of racial boundary formation. Dias has published his work in Comparative Sociology and has two manuscripts in
progress. He also won the American Sociological Association’s Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Race, Gender and Class for his paper “How Skin Color, Class Status, and Gender Shape Labor Market Outcomes in Brazil: A Field Experiment.”

**Anjuli Fahlberg, Lecturer, Department of Sociology**

Anjuli Fahlberg is a Jumbo, having recently received her BA from Tufts and her M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from Northeastern University. Her work examines social inequality, violence, and social movements in Latin America. Fahlberg’s research, funded by the National Science Foundation, looks at possibilities for activism in Rio de Janeiro’s gang territories. She has received best paper awards from the American Sociological Association, the Latin American Studies Association, and the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and she was awarded the Urban Affairs Association’s Alma J. Young Emerging Scholar Award. Her publications appear in *Politics & Society, Qualitative Sociology, Sociology Compass, the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, the Journal of Urban Affairs* among others. Fahlberg is committed to participatory action research and co-runs a research collaborative with two residents from the City of God, one of Rio’s most dangerous favela neighborhoods.

**Daanika Gordon, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology**

Daanika Gordon received her M.S. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research and teaching interests include race and ethnicity, urban sociology, criminology and law, and mixed methods research. Specifically, she investigates the intersections of race, space, and the law to explain how organizational logics can produce racial inequalities, even in the absence of racial intent. Gordon received the 2017 Bruce D. Johnson Graduate Student Paper Award from the American Sociological Association Section on Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco.

**Shan Jiang, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning**

Shan Jiang comes to Tufts from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she was a Postdoctoral Associate. She received her Ph.D. in urban and regional planning from MIT, as well as her Master of Science in transportation and Master’s in City Planning. Jiang’s work investigates the interactions of human activities and the built environment in global urbanization processes to design responsive policies for smart, sustainable, resilient and healthy cities. She has worked in projects funded by the National Academies of Sciences, the Singapore National Research Foundation, the Portugal Foundation for Science and Technology, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, among others. Her research has appeared in *PNAS, Computers, Environment and Urban Systems, IEEE Transactions of Big Data, Transportation Research Part C*, and other academic journals.
Kristin Skrabut, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning

Kristin Skrabut received her Ph.D. in anthropology from Brown University. Before coming to Tufts, she served as a postdoctoral teaching fellow at Harvard University and as a visiting research fellow at the London School of Economics. Her research uses ethnographic methods to investigate poverty, statecraft, and intimacy in urban Latin America. Skrabut is especially interested in housing, infrastructure, and the emerging politics of biometric identity and surveillance in Peru. She has articles forthcoming in *Current Anthropology* and *City and Society* and is completing work on her first book, *Extreme Lives: The Politics of Poverty and Intimacy in Urban Peru*.

Srivalleesha Mallidi, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Srivalleesha Mallidi received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in biomedical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin where she developed ultrasound based multi-modality imaging systems for early detection of cancer with targeted nanoprobes. After graduation, she joined Wellman Center for Photomedicine at Massachusetts General Hospital as a NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Tayyaba Hasan’s group. She has won several awards, including the Young Investigator Award at the Frontiers in Biomedical Imaging Science V Symposium and the Biomedical Engineering Society Meeting. Currently she is an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and adjunct faculty at Wentworth Institute of Technology. She will be joining the Dept of Biomedical Engineering at Tufts University early Spring 2019. Her research interests are in the fields of ultrasound imaging, photoacoustic imaging, image-guided therapeutics, photodynamic therapy and combination treatments.

Madeleine Oudin, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Madeleine Oudin completed a B.Sc. in biochemistry at McGill University, a M.Sc. in pharmacology and a Ph.D. in neuroscience from King’s College London. During graduate school, her research focused on understanding the interplay between multiple signaling pathways in driving neuronal cell migration in response to growth factors during adult neurogenesis. She then completed post-doctoral studies at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT. The main goal of her independent research program is to investigate the role of the various components of the tumor microenvironment in driving tumor metastasis and drug resistance, using an interdisciplinary approach that will combine cell biology, microfluidics, intravital imaging, systems biology and implantable devices.

Nav Nidhi Rajput, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Nav Nidhi Rajput received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering at Louisiana State University. She served as a postdoctoral research associate in the Energy Technologies Area Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, California, where she worked on developing infrastructure for high-throughput computations for the Joint Center for Energy
Storage (JCESR) and Electrolyte Genome, which is a coupled first-principle and classical molecular dynamics code-base for rapid understanding and design of optimal electrolytes. Her research group at Tufts seeks to not just understand but also predict the properties of fluids and solid/fluid interfaces by gaining a fundamental understanding of synthesis-structure-property relationships.

Karen Edwards, Lecturer, Department of Computer Science
Karen Edwards received her B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. She has 26 years of experience teaching a wide range of audiences, including students at Diablo Valley College, Brandeis University, the University of Connecticut, and Harvard University. She is strongly committed to increasing diversity in STEM fields via both one-on-one interactions and advocating for systemic change.

Jeffrey Foster, Professor, Department of Computer Science
Jeffrey Foster received his B.S. from Cornell and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in computer science. For the past fifteen years, he has taught at the University of Maryland where he also served as associate chair for graduate education for the last six years. He has published widely, including recently in Communications of the ACM and Software: Practice & Experience, and given talks in the U.S., Germany, South Africa, Switzerland, and Italy. Foster is an active researcher, receiving grants from organizations such as the NSF, IBM, Cisco Systems, and DARPA.

Michael Hughes, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science
Michael Hughes received his M.S. and Ph.D. in computer science from Brown University. Most recently, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University working on machine learning to improve clinical decisions in healthcare. He has published in Artificial Intelligence and Statistics, the Association for Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, NIPS Workshop on Machine Learning for Health, among others. He was also awarded the Best Paper Award at the 2018 SoCal NLP Symposium.

Matias Korman, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science
Matias Korman received his B.S. in computer science and mathematics from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Spain. He received his Ph.D. in computer science from Tohoku University in Japan where he has been an assistant professor for the last three years. He was also previously a research assistant professor at the National Institute of Informatics in Tokyo and a postdoctoral researcher at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Brussels and at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona. His research focuses on computational geometry and he has recently published in the Encyclopedia of Algorithms, Computational Geometry: Theory and Applications, and Discrete & Computational Geometry.
Steven Bell, Lecturer, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Steven Bell received his B.S. from Oklahoma Christian University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Stanford University. His research interests lie at the intersection of computer architecture, software systems, and image processing. He has taught several courses at Stanford, including Stanford’s new introductory electronical engineering class for non-majors, which he helped create. Bell has published in IEEE Transactions and ACM Transactions on Graphics.

Deborah Sunter, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Deborah Sunter received her M.S. and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. After receiving her doctorate, she advanced her understanding of energy policy as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the U.S. Department of Energy. Combining her interests in science and policy, Sunter then became a postdoctoral fellow in the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory and Berkeley Institute for Data Science at the University of California-Berkeley. Using computational modeling and data science techniques, she explores the interface of technology innovation and policy for improved environmental sustainability.