CCTL Pedagogy Fellows Cohort 2023-24

Yukiko Asai  
*Assistant Instructional Professor, Harris School of Public Policy*

Yukiko Asai is a labor economist at the Harris School focusing on family and childcare policies. She teaches two Harris "core" courses: Data Analytics I: Quantitative Analysis for evening Master’s students and Statistics for Data Analysis II for daytime Master’s in Public Policy (MPP) students. She also teaches an elective course, Workplace and Family Policy, which for both MPP students and undergraduates in the College. Yukiko infuses her teaching on workplace policies with rigorous empirical studies and examples from Asian, European, and U.S. experiences, helping to widen the worldview of her students, both domestic and international. Her primary pedagogical approach is to flip the classroom to encourage as much engagement as possible and group discussions to allow students to engage with each other. This allows students to share their perspectives and to discuss the labor economics theory they learn in class with each other.

Crystal Beiersdorfer  
*Lecturer, Department of Cinema & Media Studies, Program in Media Arts & Design, and the Humanities Collegiate Division*

Crystal Beiersdorfer is a new media artist and a Media Arts and Design lecturer in the Department of Cinema and Media Studies. Within her teaching, she aims to foster an inclusive learning environment in which students can ask questions and make mistakes while exploring various topics, including digital culture and its influence on our identity, the creation of XR environments, and new media studio art. Her art practice examines how the body and digital spaces blend and clash against one another. The artwork also explores how users engage with technology and its control over their personal beliefs and daily routines. She has shown work nationally, internationally, and virtually.

Amanda Brock  
*Assistant Instructional Professor, Biological Sciences Collegiate Division*

Amanda Brock is a developmental biologist by training and is an instructor in the Biological Sciences Collegiate Division. She teaches introductory lab courses for biology majors (Genetics and Developmental Biology) and courses for non-majors to satisfy their biological sciences Core requirements. One of these courses, a newly designed inquiry-based course, aims for students to learn general biology through working on an individual research project in the lab. Amanda is eager to learn new pedagogical methods for implementing and assessing student learning in such an environment.
Kale Davies
Assistant Instructional Professor, Mathematics Department

Kale Davies's teaching focuses on mathematics courses for non-math majors. As an instructor, Kale enjoys constructing interesting conceptual questions that explore various ways of thinking about mathematical objects and ideas, and emphasizes how a balance between rigorous logic and intuition is often most effective when applying mathematics. His current teaching approach combines numerous pedagogical methods, such as ungrading, the flipped classroom, and mastery-based grading, in order to construct a course that focuses on collaborative learning and group work, as well as giving students opportunities to correct errors and focus on personal progress. Overall, Kale aims to teach in a way that makes math more accessible, and he is excited to continue learning new ideas in order to achieve this.

Caterina Fugazzola
Assistant Senior Instructional Professor, Global Studies

Caterina Fugazzola's research interests include transnational politics, gender and sexuality studies, and video game studies. She teaches courses on new media analysis, digital ethnography, transnational queer organizing, and video games and global politics. Teaching and pedagogical development is one of her favorite parts of being an academic. Caterina is particularly interested in developing pedagogical approaches that promote a cooperative and active learning environment through the incorporation of new technologies into the classroom. She is currently working on integrating virtual reality and augmented reality experiences into her courses, using immersive experiences in virtual spaces as a way to generate conversations on embodied affect and cognition, contemporary moral panics, and global sociopolitical tensions.

Daragh Grant
Assistant Senior Instructional Professor and Co-Chair, Classics of Social and Political Thought

Daragh Grant is the co-chair of the Classics of Social and Political Thought Core sequence. For the past decade or so, most of his teaching has involved small seminar classes focused on social and political theory. In these classes, his interest is as much in cultivating students' skills as writers, readers, listeners, and speakers as it is in developing their content knowledge. The UChicago Core curriculum offers an ideal vehicle for marrying these objectives. Daragh is fortunate to have worked with students here who are not only engaged and generous interlocutors, but also willing to put in the difficult work of learning anew what it is to write and think critically as part of a scholarly community. He also teaches classes on the history of empire and colonialism, which is the focus of his own scholarly research.
Tori Gross
Assistant Senior Instructional Professor of Anthropology and Assistant Director of the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS)

Tori Gross is Assistant Senior Instructional Professor of Anthropology and Assistant Director of MAPSS. Her research focuses on the affective dimensions of identity politics, the generative intersection of national imaginaries and global neoliberal values, and the gendered production of parastate sovereignty in the context of India’s young, rapidly changing democracy. She teaches courses for MA and undergraduate students focused on social science theory, neoliberalism as a lived ideology, and ethnographic approaches to the study of political and politicized life. As an instructor, Tori aims to expose students to a wide range of theoretical perspectives and support them in the development of their social science research skills and imagination.

Esmael J. Haddadian
Instructional Professor, Biological Sciences Collegiate Division

Esmael J. Haddadian is an instructional professor in the Biological Sciences Collegiate Division, specializing in teaching interdisciplinary courses. The primary aim of these courses is to empower students with the skills to proficiently integrate and apply quantitative and computational techniques in the analysis and modeling of biological systems. Esmael finds the opportunity to engage with exceptionally talented students to be the most rewarding aspect of teaching at the University of Chicago.

Jieun Kim
Senior Lecturer in Korean Language

Jieun Kim is a Senior Lecturer in modern Korean. She has taught all levels of Korean, and currently she is teaching an intermediate-level class with a mixture of heritage and non-heritage learners. As the abilities of these two groups are quite different, she designs class activities in a way that allows students to benefit from each other rather than feel intimidated. Additionally, she hopes to raise their cultural competency in addition to their linguistic knowledge so that they can behave in culturally appropriate ways no matter their linguistic competency.

Sarah B. King
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

In the five years that she has been teaching at UChicago, Sarah King has taught both graduate coursework in physical chemistry as well as Honors General Chemistry. Her passion is in integrating scientific communication into the standard science curriculum as a way to develop critical skills for scientific practice while providing multiple opportunities for students to build their competency in the classroom. Sarah particularly hopes to create a more dynamic and active learning environment even in a large lecture class. Her favorite thing about teaching UChicago students is their deep curiosity about science and passion for using science for the good of humanity.
Hannah Lant
Assistant Instructional Professor of Chemistry

Hannah Lant is an Assistant Instructional Professor in the Department of Chemistry. She greatly enjoys working with the wide diversity of students she teaches: first year undergraduates launching their scientific explorations in the General Chemistry series, senior Chemistry majors in their laboratory capstone course Experimental Physical Chemistry, and non-STEM students in her Chemistry of Artist's Materials course in the Physical Sciences Core. She promotes scientific literacy skills at all levels through experiential laboratory exercises and strives to foster friendly learning environments that uphold the values of mutual respect, community, and inclusion.

Hannah Morgan
Assistant Instructional Professor, Department of Computer Science

Hannah Morgan is an Assistant Instructional Professor in the Computer Science Department, mostly teaching introductory programming courses to undergraduate students. She also spearheads the first computer science course for the incoming Computational Analysis and Public Policy (CAPP) students, which focuses heavily on programming real-world applications. She enjoys creating assignments that model and simulate events, which challenge students to use computational skills to solve real problems. She also enjoys working with the CAPP students, who are eager to learn and be challenged, so they can use computation to solve problems in the real world when they graduate.

Amy Nussbaum
Assistant Instructional Professor, Data Science Institute

Amy Nussbaum joined the Data Science Institute at the University of Chicago in Autumn 2022. She teaches a wide variety of courses across the data science curriculum, including introductory courses in data science and machine learning as well as mathematical methods in data science. No matter the content, she strives to create an inclusive environment where all students can learn both the skills they need to succeed as data scientists as well as how to communicate their findings. She loves that University of Chicago students want to learn and seeing all of the ways they challenge themselves!
Mehrnoush Soroush  
*Assistant Professor of Landscape Archaeology, Director of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes*

Mehrnoush Soroush is a landscape archaeologist, investigating the evidence for long-term human activity beyond the actual living areas themselves, including irrigation systems, road networks, agricultural fields, and so on. She teaches a core course on the Achaemenid Empire, a two-quarter course called Ancient Landscapes. The common theme in her teaching is encouraging curiosity about ancient cultures, archaeological landscapes, the way the past informs our present and future, as well as theories and methods of representing the physical world in the two-dimensional space of maps. In the classroom, Mehrnoush cares about making the topic of the course exciting and relevant to students' living experiences, making everyone feel safe, welcome, and included to engage in conversations and express their opinions. Since she started teaching at UChicago in the fall of 2022, she has found students to be extremely curious and bright, motivating her to work harder and become a better teacher.

Zhao Wang  
*Assistant Instructional Professor, Master of Arts in Computational Social Science Program*

Zhao is an Assistant Instructional Professor in the Masters in Computational Social Science (MACSS) program. She is trained as a computer scientist focusing on machine learning, natural language processing, and social media analysis. She mainly focuses on teaching and developing computational courses for social science students (e.g., Computer Science with Social Science Applications, Introduction to Machine Learning). She enjoys teaching and working with UChicago students because they are always willing to take on challenges and push their boundaries. Her pedagogical goals are to be professional and passionate, and to cultivate students' talents to the utmost.

Rui Zhao  
*Associate Instructional Professor, Economics*

Rui Zhao has taught macroeconomics from the principles to PhD topic courses at both public and private institutions. At UChicago, she teaches methods classes for Economics major students in both the standard track and the business track. She enjoys teaching students in her courses with a variety of prior knowledge bases and skill sets. When UChicago students face a challenge, they are willing to work and develop their knowledge and skills in response. She is always interested in learning how to support a student body with diverse background knowledge so that all of them can get more out of their learning.