



**Teaching at CMC: Excellence, Innovation, and Technology Summit
September 27, 2019**



Zachary Courser, Ph.D.

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Government
Co-director of CMC's Policy Lab*

Zachary Courser is co-director of CMC's Policy Lab and a visiting assistant professor of government at Claremont McKenna College. His scholarship focuses public policy, political parties and democratic participation. His most recent work is an edited volume *Parchment Barriers: Political Polarization and the Limits of Constitutional Order* (University Press of Kansas, 2018). In fall 2016, together with economics Professor Eric Helland, Prof. Courser established Policy Lab, an innovative new undergraduate course focused on public policy analysis of real world problems in coordination with DC think tanks. Since then, the Lab has conducted several successful research partnerships with a variety of partners, including the Bipartisan Policy Center, the RAND Corporation, the Brookings Institution, and the Office of Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles. Courser and Helland are currently writing a public policy textbook based on their work on Policy Lab.

He also has taught and researched internationally at Sciences Po Lyon in France, and worked as a senior program director and fellow for the Legatum Institute in London. At Legatum, he served as the executive director of the Wellbeing Commission, chaired by former Cabinet Secretary for the United Kingdom Lord Gus O'Donnell. Commission members included Nobel Prize winning economist Angus Deaton. He has experience working in Washington, DC, both on Capitol Hill and as the interim director of Claremont McKenna College's Washington Program. He is a frequent elections commentator on NPR affiliate KPCC's AirTalk and Take Two programs in Los Angeles.



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Heather Ferguson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of History

Heather Ferguson received an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Texas-Austin and a Ph.D. from the University of California- Berkeley. After completing a two-year postdoctoral position at Stanford University with the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies and History Departments, she joined the faculty at Claremont McKenna and is now an Associate Professor of Ottoman and Middle Eastern History. Heather is an American Council of Learned Societies Fellow, 2014-2015, for her book project entitled *The Proper Order of Things: Language, Power and Law in Ottoman Administrative Discourses* published by Stanford University Press in May 2018. Currently, she is working on a second monograph that explores *Sovereign Valedictions: "Last Acts" in Ottoman and Habsburg Courts*, and her research focuses broadly on comparative early modern empires, documentary genres and discourses of power, linkages between archives and state governance, as well as on legal and urban transformations around the Mediterranean. She serves as Editor of the *Review of Middle East Studies*, Associate Editor for the *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* and is an inaugural member of the Claremont Faculty Leadership Program. Heather remains committed to interdisciplinary and multi-perspectival approaches in research, teaching, and service.



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Findley Finseth, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology

The field of genomics has revolutionized human health and biological research, but also offers extraordinary educational opportunities for students. With the advent of next-generation sequencing technology, biologists can quickly and cheaply generate massive amounts of sequence data. Strong data science skills are therefore required to process, analyze, and extract meaningful insight from these large datasets.

My *Genomics and Bioinformatics* course aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to manipulate, analyze, visualize, and interpret modern genomic data. I will highlight a novel, inquiry-based project from this course that illustrates the application of data science to a genome-scale dataset. In this project, students used a combination of wet lab approaches and data science to examine the genes involved in variation in exercise performance. Along the way, I will discuss some of the challenges of integrating data science into the classroom.



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Alison Harris, Ph.D.

Cook-Ostby Associate Professor of Psychology and George R. Roberts Fellow

Alison Harris joined the faculty in 2012, where she directs the Decision Neuroscience Laboratory. Her research explores how the brain integrates sensory cues with internal goals to arrive at decisions, from finding a friend in a crowd to choosing a snack at the supermarket. Using the high temporal resolution of electroencephalography (EEG), her experiments capture the brain dynamics associated with face and body perception, basic decision-making, and choices involving complex demands such as self-control and cost-benefit valuation. In recent studies with undergraduate research assistants, Professor Harris has examined the neural correlates of the perception of emotional body language, decision-making for oneself versus others, and a rare neurological condition known as visual snow syndrome. Her work has appeared in journals including the *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Psychological Science*, and *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*. Her current research focuses on combining computational and physiological approaches to understand how during decision-making the brain weights different choice-relevant attributes such as the taste and health of foods. She recently received funding from the National Science Foundation to extend her research on body perception to individuals with autism spectrum disorder.



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Cynthia Ann Humes, Ph.D.
*Associate Vice President, CTO, and
Associate Professor of Religious Studies*

Cynthia Humes joined CMC's Religious Studies Department in 1990. As Associate Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Technology Officer, Humes oversees management of all aspects of technology at Claremont McKenna College. Humes has worked to champion innovation in pedagogy locally and nationally, making presentations and writing on the subject of technology and higher education.

Humes strives to remain an active contributor to the field of Religious Studies as well; her research revolves around the history of Hinduism with specific interests in models of religious leadership, Hinduism in America, Religion and Politics, goddess worship, and gender.



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Manfred Keil, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of The Robert Day School of Economics and Finance

Professor Keil's research focuses on aggregate labor market outcomes, comparative economic performance of countries and regions, issues in finance, politico-economic interaction, and the study of business cycles. His publications have appeared in the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Macroeconomics*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, and *Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv* among others. Most recently he has started work with students at the Lowe Institute on economic issues facing the Southern California economy and the Inland Empire in particular.

Manfred Keil received his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. He joined the faculty of Claremont McKenna College in 1995. He has taught in the Robert Day School of Economics and Finance (formerly the Department of Economics) since then, primarily in the fields of macroeconomics, econometrics, and statistics. In the summer of 2009, he completed his three year term as the Chairman of the Faculty of the RDS. Before coming to CMC, he held appointments in Boston, Montreal, and England. In addition to being a faculty member at the RDS, he is a research fellow of both the Lowe and the Rose Institute.



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Shana Levin, Ph.D.

*Crown Professor of Psychology and George R. Roberts Fellow
Associate Dean of the Faculty*

Shana Levin is Crown Professor of Psychology and George R. Roberts Fellow at Claremont McKenna College. She has been on the faculty at CMC since 1998 and Associate Dean of the Faculty for Research since 2016. She was Chair of the Psychology Department from 2011-2013 and received the G. David Huntoon Senior Teaching Award in 2012. She teaches Psychological Statistics, Social Psychology, Psychology Senior Research Seminar, and Seminar in Prejudice and Intergroup Relations. Her research examines cross-cultural intergroup conflict. She received the Early Career Research Award from the Western Psychological Association and is a Fellow of the Western Psychological Association, Society of Experimental Social Psychology, and Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.



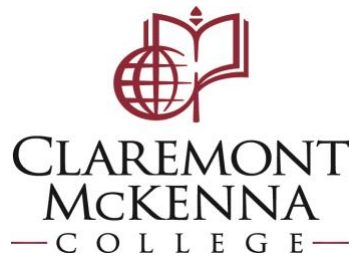
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Daniel Michon, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Daniel Michon joined CMC in 2007 and teaches courses on South Asian religious history. His research specialty crosses the disciplinary boundaries of archaeology, religion, history, and numismatics and is examined in his book, *Archaeology and Religion in Early Historic Punjab: History, Theory, Practice* (Routledge, 2015). In his work, he uses digital technologies to aid his interpretation of archaeological data. To that end, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities research grant for his project, "Virtual Taxila." A pioneering digital humanist, Michon has been selected to direct the Claremont Colleges consortial Digital Humanities Center beginning July, 2016.



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Emily Pears, Ph.D
Assistant Professor of Government

Emily Pears joined CMC in 2016 and teaches Introduction to American Politics along with seminars on patriots and demagogues, and civic education in America. Her research is in the areas of American political thought and development, with a particular emphasis on the development of patriotism in early American history. Emily received her BA in Government from Claremont McKenna College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Politics from the University of Virginia.



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Babak Sanii, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Chemistry

I became interested in augmented reality pedagogy last Spring, while I was co-teaching Integrated Biology and Chemistry. Students were struggling with visualizing 3D biomolecules, as well as understanding the vast scaled of atomic dimensions. Today I will be sharing the short in-class visualization activities we developed (some examples below).

More broadly, I lead a materials research team with two main projects: 1) scaling up manufacturing of synthetic biomaterial surfaces, and 2) developing a new class of environmentally sensitive fiber optics.

With an iPhone/iPad, you can load visualizations by pointing the camera at the codes below:



(DNA, atomic scales, an atomic orbital)



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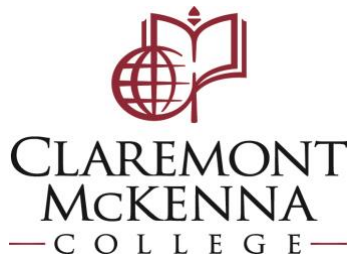
Peter Uvin, Ph.D

*Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty
Professor of Government*

Dean Peter Uvin joined CMC in 2015 as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. A native of Belgium, Peter earned a doctorate in international relations at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Before coming to CMC, he was Provost at Amherst College and Academic Dean at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

The African Studies Association honored his *Aiding Violence: The Development Enterprise in Rwanda* as the most outstanding book of 1999. In 2006, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, which he used to conduct research in Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world, on life in a post-civil war environment, and about which he wrote *Life After Violence: A People's Story of Burundi* (London, Zed books, 2008). He wrote multiple other books and tens of articles on food, NGOs, development, conflict, and human rights, foremost in Rwanda and Burundi.

Peter serves as the chief academic officer of the College, working in close partnership with the president, faculty, staff, and students to advance the mission and success of the College. Peter is responsible for leadership of the curriculum, the College's many research institutions and centers, sponsored research, academic planning and advising, global education, the registrar, institutional research, and other areas of the academic program.



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Emily Wiley, Ph.D
Professor of Biology
Associate Dean of the Faculty

Emily Wiley received her Ph.D. in molecular genetics from the University of Washington. Funded by several grants from the National Science Foundation, her research explores how genome structure controls the processing of DNA information. Grants have also funded her interest in teaching science by doing science – how to broaden access and engage larger numbers of students in authentic research experiences. With a recent CAREER Award, she developed an international genomics consortium of colleges and universities for students to research and publish discoveries on gene function. This work has been shared in research articles and a book chapter, and served to engage LA city high school students in genome research. A recent NSF IUSE (Improving Undergraduate Science Education) award will support broad dissemination of her model for research-education integration through the genomics consortium. She is now the Associate Dean of the Faculty for Teaching.