



# 2023 CURIO

COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
PROFILES

# CHASE B. HENRY

## Elementary Education, GA History

Chase B. Henry is a junior, studying elementary education and graduates May of 2024. Chase has been a work-study student for the History department for a little over a year now. She plans on heading back home to New York and spend her first year teaching there. She plans on finishing her book in the near future.





# DR. OLGA AMARIE

## World Languages and Cultures

Dr. Olga Amarie, a Professor of French in the Department of World Languages and Cultures, an Interim Editor-in-Chief of The Coastal Review, and a Pi Delta Phi moderator (The National French Honor Society in the United States), served on the Undergraduate Research Council at Georgia Southern University from 2013-2020. She has collaborated to a critical edition and has authored several articles based on her research on nineteenth-century unpublished manuscripts by Juliette Adam, Octave Mirbeau, and Remy de Gourmont preserved by the Lilly Library of rare books and manuscripts at Indiana University.



# DR. ALLISON SCARDINO BELZER

## History

Dr. Allison Scardino Belzer, Professor of History on the Armstrong Campus and Faculty Fellow for Honors Savannah Scholars, served from 2011- 2020 as the college's coordinator of Undergraduate Research. She is dedicated to enhancing the undergraduate experience, recently publishing two works for classroom use with Oxford University Press. Her research focuses on modern Europe.





# DR. MARTIN GENDELMAN

## Fred and Dinah Gretsches School of Music

Martín Gendelman is Associate Professor and Head of the Music Composition and Theory Area at the Fred and Dinah Gretsches School of Music, and the founding director of the On The Verge new-music series at Georgia Southern. His work as a composer—which includes music for soloists, chamber groups, and large ensembles, as well as electronics—has been performed throughout the United States, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. He has also led multiple cross-disciplinary collaborations with choreographers, actors, videographers, and other artists. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina), California State University Northridge, and the University of Maryland.





# DR. JULIA GRIFFIN

## Literature - English

Despite the implications of her accent, Dr. Griffin has taught at GSU for 23 years. Her area of special interest is Renaissance English literature; she also writes poems, of an unfashionable kind.





# DR. DAN LARKIN

## Philosophy and Religious Studies

Dr. Dan Larkin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. He received his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Memphis in 2017. His research focuses mostly on Plato, specifically the roles by religion and divine inspiration throughout Plato's work.





# DR. MELISSA PLEW

## Communication Arts

Missy is a Principal Lecturer and Director of Public Speaking in the Communication Arts department on the Statesboro campus. She teaches a variety of courses in both the undergraduate Communication Studies area and the Professional Leadership and Communication graduate program. Her favorite part of the job is working with graduate teaching assistants and watching them become more confident as teachers and scholars.





# DR. MORGAN REMPEL

## Philosophy and Religious Studies

Morgan Rempel (Ph.D., University of Toronto) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Georgia Southern University in Savannah. His research interests include ancient philosophy, continental philosophy, philosophy and film, and Holocaust studies.





# CASEY SHACHNER

## Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

Casey Schachner is an Assistant Professor of Art in 3D Foundations at the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art at Georgia Southern University. She received her BFA in Sculpture from Baylor University and her MFA in Studio Art from the University of Montana. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, ranging from temporary site-specific installations to permanent public artworks. In 2011, she served as an Artist in Residence at the University of Georgia Lamar Dodd School of Art in Cortona, Italy and in 2012 as an Artist in Residence at the Carving Studio & Sculpture Center (CSSC) in Vermont. She was selected as the 2017 UM Emerging Artist for Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild (BPSW), an International Sculpture Park in Lincoln, Montana. In 2018, she exhibited at the Public Art Exhibition on Hilton Head Island in South Carolina, where she received a People's Choice award. Most recently, Casey is a 2022 recipient of the UGA Sea Grant for Artists, Writers, and Scholars.





# DR. CATHY SKIDMORE-HESS

## History

Dr. Skidmore-Hess is an associate professor of history and author of "Identity, Guns, and Globalization and Murder in Nata," and "Murder in Nata: Landscapes of Colonial Justice. Her areas of research are Economics, Environment, Gender and Religion.





# LAURA VALERI

## Writing & Linguistics - English

Laura Valeri is the author of several articles, literary translations, essays, and short stories, and of two book-length collections of short-stories, a story-cycle (a novel told in stories), and a collection of linked memoir essays that was published in the USA and in Italy. Her work has been awarded prizes and honors and she was twice nominated for a Georgia Author of the Year in the categories of fiction and memoir. Prof. Laura Valeri was born in Italy and came to the US as a teen. She has been teaching at Georgia Southern since 2003 and teaches undergraduate courses in creative writing for the major and minor. She has been committed to student success as a member and sometimes co-chair of the CURIO steering committee since 2019.

