



# 2024 CURIO

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

# Dr. Miguel Garcia

## Department of World Languages and Culture

Dr. Miguel Garcia joined the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Georgia Southern University in Fall 2016 as an Assistant Professor of Spanish. Professor García teaches all levels of Spanish, including introductory and intermediate language classes, as well as upper-level Hispanic Linguistics courses. His specialization is phonetics and phonology; specifically, he explores how experimental data can help us revise and advance current phonological theories. His work on dialectology focuses primarily on Peruvian Spanish (in Lima and in the Amazonian region of Peru), as well as on the Spanish spoken by Peruvians living in the US. His research interests include Spanish Prosody (intonation of Spanish), Dialectal Variation in Spanish, Language Contact in Peruvian Amazonia, and Spanish in the US. Professor García is a member of the research collaborative group Atlas Interactivo de la Entonación del Español, which aims to build a more comprehensive understanding of intonation across the Spanish speaking-world.



# Dr. Martin Gendelman

## Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music

Martín Gendelman is Professor and Head of the Music Composition and Theory Area at the Fred and Dinah Gretsch 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

## Department of 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

## Department of 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

## Department of 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

## Department of 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.



# Dr. Allison Scardino Belzer

## Department of 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, publishing two works for classroom use with Oxford University Press. Her research focuses on modern Europe.





# Prof. 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

## Department of 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.



# Prof. Laura Valeri

## Department of English

Professor Laura Valeri teaches creative writing courses in the English Department. She is the author of two book-length collections of short-stories, a story-cycle, and a collection of linked memoir essays published in the USA and in Italy. She also publishes literary translations from Spanish and Italian, short stories, essays, and articles in pedagogy and literary criticism. Prof. Laura Valeri was born in Italy and came to the US as a teen. She has been a member of the CURIO steering committee since 2019 and recently became Faculty Advisor of Alpha Gamma Rho, the Armstrong chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the national honor society for scholarship in English.



Dean's Office Representative 2024

# Dr. Jolyon (JT) Hughes

## Associate Dean

Dr. Jolyon (JT) Hughes is Associate Dean for Faculty Research and External Affairs for the College of Arts and Humanities. Dr. Hughes is the Dean's Office representative for CURIO and has been assisting and guiding the CURIO Committee in support of its mission since 2019, serving as the Committee's liaison to the College's administrative apparatus.

