

*Welcome  
Bates New Faculty  
2021-2022*



Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to welcome many new colleagues to the Bates faculty this year. These teachers bring exciting new scholarship and creative work to our community. I look forward to benefiting from their talent, innovation, and novel perspectives, which will offer growth opportunities for all of us. As we continue our shared work to situate Bates as a national model for liberal arts education, I cannot help but be thankful to work with the dedicated and talented faculty on our campus, which is strengthened by the contributions of our newest colleagues.

It will be refreshing to return to a more typical calendar in 2021-22. We still have some challenges to address as we attend to the health and safety of our community. We will benefit from lessons learned during the 2020-21 academic year, but will focus this year on re-connecting and re-building our communities. Bates is a dynamic college, and we need to commit to building the professional spaces that allow every member of our intellectual community to thrive. In a first step towards that goal, please join me in welcoming these colleagues, and please reach out to them as they get oriented for the year.

Best wishes for an inspired academic year!

Malcolm Hill,  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty



# Shreya Arora

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Shreya Arora joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Earth and Climate Sciences. Shreya is a paleoseismologist who studies past earthquakes to determine the potential of the future ones. She did a postdoc at the Geological Survey of Japan, and earned her Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK), where she worked extensively in northeast Japan, and along the Himalayas toward the Seismic Hazard Assessment. In addition to research, she is involved in science communication as an active member of the European Geophysical Union (EGU) editorial team for the Natural Hazard Division. Outside of science, she is a marathon runner, and a passionate photographer.



# Laurie Baker

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Laurie Baker joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Digital and Computational Studies. She is a disease ecologist and marine biologist by training with a keen interest in programming and the use of novel data sources in decision making. Laurie earned her B.Sc. degree in marine biology at the University of St. Andrews. She completed graduate studies in marine biology at Dalhousie University (M.Sc.) and in epidemiology at the University of Glasgow (Ph.D.). The core of her research focuses on spatial and temporal patterns in human and biological systems including disease spread, animal movement, and fisheries management. She joins Bates from the Data Science Campus, Office for National Statistics, UK. Laurie is excited to return to her roots in coastal Maine. Outside of work she enjoys learning languages, hiking, swimming, and sailing.

# Michael Becker

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Michael Becker joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History. He is a historian of the African diaspora in the Atlantic world, with a particular focus on slavery, emancipation, and the law in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Caribbean. He recently received his Ph.D. from Duke, along with graduate certificates in African and African American Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and College Teaching.

## Kathryn Bedecarré

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Kathryn Bedecarré joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics. Her current book project, an activist ethnography of the Black Lives Matter Movement in Austin, Texas, explores local conflicts about what it means to “do the work,” as the saying goes, of antiracist resistance. Kathryn received her Ph.D. in Black Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and previously taught courses in African American studies at UT San Antonio. At Bates, Kathryn is excited to offer courses on the Black radical tradition, political participation, and the role of law and policy in the making of race.

## Jennifer Blanchard

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Jennifer Blanchard, Senior Writer and Assistant to the President at Bates, joins the faculty this fall as Lecturer in the Humanities. Jen grew up about 20 miles south of Bates, then spent too many years gallivanting about the Midwest and South before embracing the inevitable and returning to Maine. She holds a Ph.D. in American studies from the College of William and Mary, with a focus on nineteenth-century literature and literary culture.

## Erik Bernardino

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Erik Bernardino joins Bates as an Assistant Professor of History. Erik studies Chicano, U.S.-Mexico borderlands, labor, and immigration histories. He is interested in the intersection of immigration policy and labor migrations at the turn of the twentieth century and why U.S. federal-level immigration policies relied on local-level morals policing to enforce national-level policies of border control. Originally from Los Angeles, Erik received his B.A. in History from UCLA and Ph.D. History from UC Santa Cruz.

## Michael Buccigrossi

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Michael Buccigrossi joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology. Michael has been a Professor of Psychology and Health Sciences at Bowdoin College, Colby College, Endicott College, and Tulane University. He has a Doctorate of Public Health from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science in Physiological Psychology from Northeastern University. Michael has worked as a counselor to the homeless and has taught aboard military vessels and in maximum-security prisons.

## Caitlin Cleaver

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Caitlin Cleaver, Director of Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Area and the Shortridge Coastal Center in Phippsburg, ME, joins Bates this fall as a Lecturer in the Humanities. She works at the intersection of research, education and conservation to build resilience in coastal communities. Her research focuses on understanding the potential to diversify fishing-dependent livelihoods and determining the effectiveness of ecological restoration projects. She believes that coastal issues provide an excellent opportunity to train students in solving complex environmental problems.

## Marcus Cleveland

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Marcus Cleveland joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies. Marcus earned a B.A. in Criminology and master's degrees in Community and Regional Planning and in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northern Arizona University. He served as a police officer and criminal investigator for the Navajo Nation, and has taught at Northwest Indian College, Northern Arizona University, and New Mexico State University. His research focuses on democracy, sovereignty, and autonomy on the Navajo Nation.

## Catharine Diehl

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Catharine Diehl joins Bates as a Lecturer in Philosophy. Catharine will be teaching Metaphysics in the philosophy department this Winter. She received her Ph.D. in Philosophy at the Humboldt University, Berlin, in 2017, and has subsequently been a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto and the University of Lucerne, Switzerland. She has written on ontological nihilism, a view according to which the world does not fundamentally contain individual objects, and is currently engaged in a research project, "Being without Foundations," which examines metaphysical views on which there is no fundamental level of reality. Beyond metaphysics, She is interested in the history of philosophy (Leibniz and Kant especially), the philosophy of law, and the philosophy of language.

## Marina Filipovic

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Marina Filipovic joins Bates as a Lecturer in Russian. Marina received her Ph.D. in Russian Literature from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Before joining the faculty at Bates, she taught Russian and Yugoslav literature, film, culture, and language courses at William and Mary. Her research focuses on Soviet literature, Soviet and post-Soviet film, technology, gender studies, the avant-garde, socialist realism, and Soviet history of science.

## Jen K. Hughes

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Jen K. Hughes (she/they) joins Bates as a Visiting Instructor in Anthropology. Jen is a filmmaker and cultural anthropologist. She examines the production of whiteness, queerness, indigeneity, and nature in Iceland. Their current book and film project explores framings of Iceland as both in the past and near future: an “enchanted” postcolonial democratic “utopia” and queer eco-dynamic “wild.” Jen is also a digital media professional and has worked on projects for the Discovery Channel, the Walker Art Center, and the Smithsonian, among others. Most recently, Jen was program coordinator and fellow at the Center for Race, Indigeneity, Disability, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where she will receive her Ph.D. in Anthropology in Fall 2021. Jen is originally from Portland, Oregon and graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 2010. She loves sports, animals, making music, and laughing loudly.

## Maho Ishiguro

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Maho Ishiguro joins Bates College as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music. Maho is an ethnomusicologist whose research and practice focus on dance and music of Indonesia. She uses dance and music as a lens for studying and engaging with Indonesian people, cultural practices, and living traditions. Maho received a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University in 2018. Her current research focuses on how Acehnese and Javanese performing arts practitioners negotiate and navigate through the current sociocultural and religious climate, particularly today’s conservative turn in Islam in Indonesia. Maho is a strong proponent of pedagogical techniques that employ both scholarly engagement and praxis within the performing arts.

## Jennifer LaCosse

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Jennifer LaCosse joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology. She is a social psychologist whose research focuses on the roles of motivation and perception in three domains: intergroup interactions, barriers to success in higher education for students from traditionally disadvantaged groups, and methods of addressing systemic bias. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan in 2009 and her Ph.D. in social psychology from Florida State University in 2018, after which she completed a three-year postdoctoral position at Indiana University. In addition to teaching in the psychology department at Bates, Jennifer is a part of a NSF-funded research team working with the College Transition Collaborative to examine the effects of a social-belonging intervention on undergraduate students’ psychological experiences and academic outcomes.

## Brittany Longsdorf

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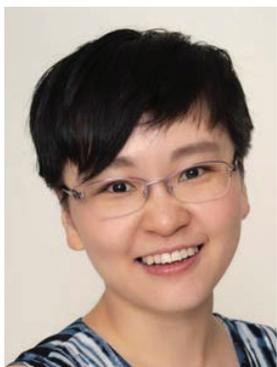


Brittany Longsdorf, Multifaith Chaplain, joins Bates this fall as a Lecturer in the Humanities. Brittany centers her work on creating spaces for connection, reflection, and spiritual practice for the Bates community. Brittany earned a doctoral degree from Boston University School of Theology, a Masters in Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy from Graceland University. Her areas of research are in world religions, interfaith engagement, sacred poetry, mystics, and the relationship between art and spirituality.

## Zhenzhen Lu

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Zhenzhen Lu joins Bates as Assistant Professor of Chinese. She is a scholar of Chinese literature and culture and is interested in all manners of things related to the practices of reading, writing, and performance in the early modern world. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, where she has recently taught, and was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Hamburg, Germany, in 2017-2019. At Bates, she is looking forward to teaching courses on Chinese language, culture, and literature, especially fiction and drama.

## Susan Mangan

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Susan Mangan joins Bates this year as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology. Susan earned her Ph.D. in Positive Developmental Psychology from Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. She is passionate about creating applied strategies that help individuals and communities thrive. In pursuit of this, Susan's research focuses primarily on positive psychology interventions, easily accessible activities that improve various aspects of well-being and life satisfaction, such as activities focused on gratitude, mindfulness, purpose in life, and fulfilling our basic psychological needs (<https://thethrivecenter.org/author/susanmangan/>). She is particularly interested in how emerging adults (18-30) can take their first steps into the world in a way that sets them up for happier, more fulfilling lives that also contribute to the overall good of society. Susan is also a trained evaluator with experience working with communities to implement and evaluate various projects designed to improve community well-being.

## Xavier Martínez-Rivera

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Xavier Martínez-Rivera joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics. His research interests reside in the areas of linear algebra, combinatorial matrix theory and combinatorics. He grew up in Puerto Rico, where he earned his undergraduate degree (from UPR-Mayagüez). He earned his Ph.D. at Iowa State University. In Fall 2021, he will teach Differential Equations and Calculus II.

## M. Mena

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M. Mena joins Bates as Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology. She holds a doctoral degree in Sociocultural Anthropology, and a Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies. In her current book project, she draws from Black feminist thought in the Americas, critical prison studies, and medical anthropology to examine the experience of Afro-Brazilian women and gender-nonconforming individuals in the criminal justice system in São Paulo, Brazil. A civically engaged scholar, Mena was a Mellon/ACLS Postdoctoral Public Fellow and taught for the City University of New York from 2019-2021. At Bates, she will teach courses on the Afro-Latinx Diaspora in the U.S., Black Brazilian Feminist Thought, and Latin America. During her free time, she enjoys exploring community gardens and farms, throwing pottery, and resting by bodies of water.

## Hailey Nicole Otis

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Hailey Nicole Otis joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, Film, and Screen Studies Department. Hailey is Colorado born and raised and she received both her M.A. and Ph.D. in the Department of Communication Studies at Colorado State University with an emphasis in rhetoric and civic engagement. Hailey's research examines how fat activist communities and counterpublics use embodied rhetorics to carve out spaces of celebration and liberation for non-normative bodies. Hailey has won multiple teaching awards and is excited to bring her passion for pedagogy to the learning community at Bates.

## Raquel Portes

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Raquel Portes joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Earth and Climate Sciences. Raquel is a Brazilian physical geographer and Ph.D. in soil science. Her research projects focus on how soils and landscapes coevolve across timescales. Raquel is arriving from Alaska, after two years leading research projects in the coastal rainforest of Southeast Alaska in collaboration with the Juneau Forestry Science Laboratory, U.S. Forest Service (USDA). Previously, she did her postdoctoral work at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, studying the evolution of soil erosion rates in alpine areas of the Rockies. At Bates, Raquel is looking forward to conducting collaborative research and teaching courses in soils-landscape evolution, and sedimentary processes and environments.

## Elizabeth Phillips

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Elizabeth Phillips is joining Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater. Elizabeth is a scholar of drama history and performance studies and holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. Her research looks at boredom in captive settings such as theaters and solitary confinement. She teaches courses on prison abolition, devised performance, theater for social justice, and queer and feminist performance theory. She is also a director, actor, and dramaturg, and will be working with the Harvard Center this year to create new artistic partnerships between the Bates community and theater makers with involvement with the justice system in southern Maine. She welcomes new collaboration, friendship, artistic energy, and students from all paths.

## Chris Price

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Chris Price joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics. Chris studies the dynamics and legacies of political violence, and is particularly interested in how violence affects ethnic and other group identities. He received his doctorate from Yale University (2019), and before graduate school served with the U.S. Army in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Outside of work, he enjoys going to art museums, running, and aimless walks.

## Logan Puck

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Logan Puck joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics. Logan earned an M.A. in Latin American Studies from UC Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in politics from UC Santa Cruz. His research focuses on policing and private security in Mexico. His current project investigates Mexican states' use of hybrid police forces to profit from the market for security and their impact on democracy.

## Silvia Saccon

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Silvia Saccon joins Bates College as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Her research area is in commutative algebra; in particular, she is interested in studying how algebraic objects factor (non-uniquely) as products of simpler ones. She loves interacting closely with students to inquire into their mathematical thinking, and she uses inquiry-based learning in her classes to help students build their conceptual understanding of the subject and grow as independent problem-solvers and effective thinkers. Since graduate school, she has been involved in several mentoring and outreach programs, including a summer camp for high-school girls and a summer program for students starting graduate school in the fall.

## Akwete Roman

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Akwete Roman joins the faculty of Bates as a Lecturer in the Humanities. She received her Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Syracuse University in 2010 and an M.A. from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Her doctoral training encouraged social justice and is the motivation for Akwete's desire to assist students identify ways in which the dimensions of diversity shape their thoughts, perceptions, beliefs, interactions and behaviors. Akwete's research interests lie in the metaphysical perspective of relationships, spiritual psychology, and ancient philosophies of love.

## Subhshri Sahu

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Subhshri Sahu joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology. She did her doctoral work at National Centre for Cell Sciences, India, and postdoctoral work at University of South Carolina, studying how interorgan communication mounts systemic response to nutritional changes using *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model system. She has taught at University of South Carolina as a co-instructor and guest lectured at Presbyterian College, South Carolina. She is interested in developing activity-based science education. In her free time she likes to travel, explore new places and restaurants with her husband, and gardening.

## Eshita Samajpati

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Eshita Samajpati joins Bates as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Earth and Climate Sciences. Born and raised in India, Eshita moved to Miami to continue pursuing her love for rocks and adventure. She completed her bachelor's and master's in Geology in India before receiving another master's and a doctorate right in the middle of the pandemic at Florida International University. Eshita is interested in the geochemistry of volcanic rocks and minerals and learning and applying new analytical methods to improve such studies. In her spare time, she has pursued many interests because she loves to learn new things.

## Cheryl Stephenson

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Cheryl Stephenson joins Bates as a Lecturer in Russian. In 2018 she received her Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Chicago, where she focused on Central and East European cultural history. Her research focuses on animation, puppet theater, and other modes of popular culture and its engagements with questions of body and identity. Outside of academic life, she is an avid fiber artist, practicing weaving, spinning, and knitting, and is very much looking forward to getting to know Maine's sheep, shepherds, and wool producers.

## Kate Snyder

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Kate Snyder joins Bates as a Visiting Associate Professor of Psychology. She earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Duke University and has worked as faculty at the University of Louisville and Hanover College. In her research program, Kate focuses on understanding the role of achievement motivation in the development of academic underachievement, particularly among academically gifted students. Kate is a sixth-generation New Englander who enjoys spending time with her partner, three cats, and racehorse-turned-dressage-horse.

## Keith Taylor

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Keith Taylor joins Bates as a Lecturer in Earth and Climate Sciences. Keith received his B.S. in Geology from Bates in 1982 and continued his education with a M.S. in Geology from the University of New Mexico. Since that time he has been a consulting environmental geologist for various mid-sized companies in Maine as well as a technical consultant for a large Maine law firm. His expertise includes contaminant geochemistry, groundwater and surface water resources, and contaminated site investigation. Keith was selected by the Governor in 2015 to be a member of the State Board of Licensed Geologists, is a member of the Maine State Geologic Mapping Committee, and is a trustee for the Hallowell Water District, where he lives.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Since 1855, Bates College has been dedicated to the emancipating potential of the liberal arts. Bates educates the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. With ardor and devotion — *Amore ac Studio* — we engage the transformative power of our differences, cultivating intellectual discovery and informed civic action. Preparing leaders sustained by a love of learning and a commitment to responsible stewardship of the wider world, Bates is a college for coming times.

# Bates

**Office of the Dean of the Faculty**

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Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

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