

Meet the Teacher Scholars Cohort 3, 2025-2026



ADRIANA LEELA BOHM
Delaware County
Community College

Adriana Leela Bohm is a Sociology Professor at Delaware County Community College (DCCC), in Media, PA, where she teaches stratification courses with an emphasis on racism & white privilege, intersectionality, heterosexism and transphobia, activism, resistance, and organizing. Along with teaching, Adriana helped found DCCC's Institutional Diversity Committee, the Faculty Diversity Committee, and the Women's Empowerment Initiative. She is currently the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Fellow in DCCC's Office of Institutional Equity. Along with her work at the college, Adriana served on the Red Clay School Board for 10 years, where she led and wrote the Board's DEI initiatives.



ANTONIO RAMIREZ
Elgin Community
College

Antonio Ramirez (he/him) is Associate Professor of History at Elgin Community College. Ramirez helped establish and currently directs ECC's Center for Civic Engagement. Ramirez has worked as a historical consultant for the National Park Service, a journalist, bilingual high school teacher, and educator of agricultural migrant workers. Ramirez also served as Director of Outreach and Leadership Development at a transnational migrant rights legal center in central Mexico and as a low-wage worker organizer in Chicago. He also directs the Chicagolandia Oral History Project, which documents the lives of Latina/o residents of Chicago's suburbs. His written work has been published in TIME Magazine, The Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Nation, The Progressive, and others.



ASHLEY BABER
Augsburg University

Ashley Baber is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Urban Studies at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Loyola University Chicago. Her research and teaching interests include inequality, poverty mitigation, guaranteed basic income, the gig economy, labor markets, urban governance, the political economy of cities and spatial analysis. She has two ongoing research projects that focus on inequality and how cities directly and indirectly shape local labor markets. As a teacher and scholar, Ashley prioritizes experiential and community-engaged learning working to bring together lived experiences, civic engagement and academic scholarship.



BRANDON BAUER
St. Norbert College

Brandon Bauer (he/him/his) is an artist, educator, curator, and Associate Professor of Art at St. Norbert College in Wisconsin. His work critically investigates democracy, nuclear abolition, terrorism, and the climate crisis through photography, video, graphics, and installation, often engaging with archives and ephemera as a lens for ethical inquiry. As an educator, Brandon focuses on the intersection of art and democracy through collaborative community-based projects. Brandon has developed several iterations of an arts-based, civics-focused service-learning course where students study artists who creatively and critically engage with concepts of democracy, they participate in campus get-out-the-vote efforts, and engage in election-related civic service projects in the community.

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DAVID HUBERT
Salt Lake Community
College

David Hubert is the Associate Provost for Learning Advancement at Salt Lake Community College. David received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Connecticut, and he teaches an evening class at the Utah State Prison. His administrative portfolio includes OER, Honors, Study Abroad, Assessment, Community-Engaged Learning, General Education, Faculty Development, the Library, and Prison Education. He is the author of an OER textbook, *Attenuated Democracy: A Critical Introduction to U.S. Government and Politics* and writes an eponymous Substack newsletter of political commentary and occasional humor.



EMILY B. CAMPBELL
Rhode Island College

Dr. Emily B. Campbell is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Justice Studies at Rhode Island College. A political and cultural sociologist, she is interested in how people come together in the face of extraordinary challenges. In the classroom, Campbell encourages her students to take intellectual risks through a mix of research, oral presentation, debate, and artistic expression. Her writing has appeared in *Contexts*, *Critical Research on Religion*, *Open Theology*, *Philosophy and Society*, and *Teachers College Record*, among others.



GORDON MANTLER
George Washington
University

Dr. Gordon Mantler is a Professor of Writing and of History at the George Washington University and specializes in the history and rhetoric of 20th-century U.S. social movements, multiracial coalitions, memorialization, and writing pedagogy in history classes. He teaches history-intensive writing classes on social movements, public history, and film and is excited to teach a new community-engaged writing class on historical activism in Washington, D.C.



HANNAH ALMS
Transylvania
University

Hannah Alms (she/her) is Assistant Professor of History at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky. She holds a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Indiana University Bloomington. Her research focuses on gender, race, and labor in the Progressive Era United States. Her current book project examines African American domestic workers and their white women employers in Washington, D.C.

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JORDAN RAGUSA
College of
Charleston

Jordan Ragusa is a professor in the political science department at the College of Charleston. His research and teaching focus on American and South Carolina politics, the Congress, political parties, elections, political economy, and statistical methods for the social sciences. Ragusa often provides expert commentary to local, state, and national organizations, and has worked as an expert witness in recent redistricting litigation. He is the author of two books: "Congress in Reverse: Repeals from Reconstruction to the Present" (University of Chicago Press, with Nate Birkhead) and "First in the South: Why the South Carolina Presidential Primary Matters" (University of South Carolina Press, with Gibbs Knotts)



KATY SPEXARTH
Phoenix College

In the sixteen years Katy Spexarth has spent in the field of education, she has served students in multiple countries in grade levels ranging from preschool to junior high, high school to post-secondary. She is currently Reading faculty at Phoenix College, a community college in Phoenix, Arizona. Her education and credentials specialize in curriculum and instruction with emphasis in reading and critical thinking, disciplinary literacy, American history, and teaching English to speakers of other languages. She is passionate about the promotion of collaborative, engaging, effective learning environments, and is driven by the core belief that ALL students can be successful.



VEE KENNEDY
University of Central
Florida

Vee Kennedy (they/them/theirs) is a digital humanist and Instructor of Writing & Rhetoric at the University of Central Florida, where they are also a student in the Texts & Technology PhD Program. Their research interests are at the intersections of queer and trans rhetorics, disability, artificial intelligence and information literacy. They primarily work with english language learners and international students and are passionate about getting American college students interested in global issues



LIZ SMITH
Furman University

Dr. Liz Smith is a professor in the Department of Politics and International Affairs at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. She is also the Assistant Faculty Director of the Cothran Center, a center that works with students, faculty and staff on finding meaning and purpose. Her teaching and research interests are in American Politics with a focus on civic education and civil discourse, women and politics, political psychology and political socialization.

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MEGAN BROWN
Metro State
University

Megan Brown is an Assistant Professor in the Masters of Advocacy and Political Leadership program at Metro State University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. A geographer by training, her research focuses on contemporary strategies and tactics of the labor movement in response to economic shocks. She has collaborated with unions such as the International Transport Workers Federation, the Musicians Association, and the Service Employees International Union, and currently holds elected office in her faculty union, the IFO.



NAFISA NIPUN TANJEEM
Worcester State
University

Nafisa Nipun Tanjeem (she/her) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Worcester State University. Nafisa's research and teaching interests include transnational, postcolonial, and decolonial feminisms; critical race theory; globalization and feminist politics; critical community engagement; critical university studies; and transnational social justice movements with a specific focus on the United States and South Asia. She is an organizer of the Meye ("Woman" in Bangla) network and the Feminist Alliance of Bangladesh – both of whom are voluntary, grassroots, and organic networks advocating for feminist solidarity and organizing in Bangladesh.



KELSEY MARTINEZ
Chandler-Gilbert Community
College

Kelsey Martinez is currently library faculty at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Arizona. Being a community college graduate herself, she deeply understands the importance of these institutions and finds great joy serving in this context. Kelsey teaches critical research instruction sessions in a variety of disciplines to guide students in finding and evaluating sources for research projects. Kelsey anticipates earning her PhD in Education in the spring of 2026. Her dissertation topic focuses on the intersection of DEI and retention of nonwhite librarians from the perspective of community college library leaders using a framework combining organizational culture and the theory of racialized organizations. Her passion lies in working with students to enhance their critical thinking and information literacy skills.



KLARA NASZKOWSKA
Montclair State University

Klara Naszkowska is a Polish-born cultural historian of women; research scholar, writer, and adjunct professor in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program at Montclair State University, NJ. As an educator she gives priority to the intersections of gender, sexuality, class, wealth, immigration status, age, and ability, advocating for fostering socioeconomic and political change. Her own work is centered on the largely forgotten Jewish women pioneers of psychoanalysis who fled the Nazis for the US. She examines historical narratives, and patterns of generational storytelling, memory, and postmemory.

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NATHAN RIEMER

Morton College

Nathan Riemer (he/him) is a Professor of Sociology at Morton College in Cicero, Illinois, where he teaches courses including Introduction to Sociology, Social Problems, and Race & Ethnicity. His teaching and research interests center on cultural capital and social mobility, Black political behavior, and qualitative research methods. He also serves on Morton College's Illinois Equity in Attainment (ILEA) committee, a statewide initiative committed to eliminating racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps in higher education.



OLENA KOLUPAYEVA

Stetson University

Olena Kolupayeva is an Assistant Professor of Practice in Journalism at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. Originally from Ukraine, her teaching and research focus on media literacy and combating misinformation, particularly related to the war in Ukraine. She coordinates the Journalism Program and serves as faculty adviser for student media, supporting student-led publications and broadcasts.



PHILLIP ARDOIN

Appalachian State University

Phillip Ardoin: I'm a professor of American Politics at Appalachian State University in the mountains of Boone, NC. My research interests address a broad array of issues in American Politics and the broader field of political science. I currently serve as App State's Faculty lead for the UNC system's Foundations of American Democracy program and previously served as Co-Editor of PS: Political Science and Politics (2014-2022) and Chair of the Department of Government and Justice Studies (2014-2022).



SARA SIMONS

UT Austin

Sara Simons (she/her) is an Associate Professor of Instruction at UT Austin, where she heads up the Theatre Education BFA program, working with undergraduate students who are pursuing K-12 teacher certification in Theatre. Her research interests include the use of drama-based pedagogy in education; race and gender representation on stage; sex education curriculum and policy; and the experiences of preservice teachers. She routinely brings in student organizations to register her students to vote

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SCOTT HICKS
University of North
Carolina, Pembroke

Scott Hicks (he/him/his) is professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Pembroke, North Carolina's historically African American university. He teaches African American literature, environmental literature, and first-year composition. His research centers on African American and environmental literatures, teaching and learning, and service-learning. He served as chair of UNCP's faculty senate from 2014 to 2016, participated in the MLA Institute on Reading & Writing at Access-oriented Institutions at George Mason University in 2023, coordinates a shared-interest group for community-engaged faculty at UNCP, and mentors a youth climate action team at a local high school.



SONALINI SOPRA
School for International
Training

Sonalini Sopra: I currently work as an Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs and Faculty Development at the School for International Training (SIT). I am originally from New Delhi, India but have lived in the United States for close to 20 years now. My research and teaching interests are in environmental and climate justice, forced migration and refugee resettlement, Dalit studies, gender and international development and the scholarship of teaching and learning.



MICHAEL ANTHONY GOODMAN
UT Austin

Michael Anthony Goodman (he/him/his) is an Assistant Professor of Practice in Educational Leadership and Policy and Co-Coordinator of the Program in Higher Education Leadership and Policy at The University of Texas at Austin. Goodman is also affiliated with Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and LGBTQ Studies & is an instructor for the Joint Admission Medical Program of Texas. As a scholar-practitioner, Goodman has worked extensively in various student affairs functional areas, previously at Indiana University, the University of Maryland, and the National Association of Independent Schools.



LARA SCHWARTZ
American University

Lara Schwartz: At the American University Project on Civic Dialogue, I teach courses on dialogue skills including mediation and dispute resolution, event design and facilitation, appellate oral argument, and the Socratic Method. I believe dialogue across differences is a skill that can be taught and must be practiced, and that educational institutions should infuse opportunities for this practice and learning across the curriculum. We are at our best when we meet one another in a posture of curiosity, presuming good faith. I train student dialogue facilitators and offer grants for faculty, staff, and students to develop their own dialogue opportunities.

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KYLIE QUAVE
George Washington
University

Kylie Quave (she/her) is an associate professor in the University Writing Program at the George Washington University, with an affiliation in the Department of Anthropology. She teaches courses focused on writing in the sciences and pluralistic ways of knowing archaeology and the human past. She is an anthropological archaeologist reconstructing the contributions of marginalized peoples to the development of states and empires. She specifically conducts her research in the heartland of the former Inka empire in the South American Andes (11th to 18th centuries), where she compares the everyday lives of forcibly resettled ethnic groups and the rural communities that were excluded from imperial society.



JIM JEFFRIES
Clemson University

Jim Jeffries (he/him) occupies the position as principal lecturer in early America for the Department of History and Geography at Clemson University. Jim is currently involved with both teaching and coordinating sections on the History of the U.S. A specialist in the history of Native American religion and culture, his research interests coalesce around points of intersection between colonial America, ethnohistory, and comparative religion.



CAROLINA PRADO
San Francisco State University

Dr. Carolina Prado is an Assistant Professor in Latina/Latino Studies at San Francisco State University. She teaches courses in Latinx health, environmental health and Justice and gender/Latina feminisms. She works at the intersection of community based research, environmental justice, and border studies. Her main research collaboration is with the Tijuana, Mexico-based environmental justice collective, the Colectivo Salud y Justicia Ambiental. Outside of academic spaces, Carolina does work in the access to nature spaces and is a leader in the collective QTPOC Birders, making accessible and beginner friendly bird watching events for queer and trans people of color.



HYUNGJIN GILL
California State Polytechnic
University Pomona

Hyungjin Gill (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison) is an Assistant Professor of Communication at California State Polytechnic University Pomona, specializing in Multimedia Journalism. His research focuses on the intersection of media use, public opinion, and affective polarization, specifically exploring how media consumption patterns and perceptions relate to individuals' engagement with fake news. He examines how political communication via platforms like instant messaging apps can influence citizens' attitudes toward misinformation, as well as the role of media in shaping political behavior, attitudes, and divisions in society.

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BARRY STIEFEL

College of Charleston

Dr. Barry Stiefel is a professor at the College of Charleston, specializing in historic preservation, art and architectural history, and community planning. He has a diverse academic background, including a Ph.D. in Historic Preservation from Tulane University and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. Stiefel's work is significant because he focuses on how local preservation efforts impact broader policies in cultural resource management and natural heritage conservation. His research and publications cover various topics, such as sustainability in heritage preservation, cultural-ethnic architectural history, and community-building through historic places.



JEN EBBELER

UT Austin

Jen(nifer) Ebbeler is an associate professor in the Classics Department at UT Austin, where she's taught since 2002. I teach both undergraduate and graduate students, on topics related to Latin language/literature and late antiquity. Each fall I teach a seminar on the history of disability in the US in UT's First Year Experience Program. My research and publications focus on ancient letter writing; disability studies; and the history of Early Christianity. I have been very involved in several curriculum initiatives at UT Austin, including several related to making course materials freely available for students.



NICK PERRONE

Santa Rosa Junior College

Nick Perrone teaches history at Santa Rosa Junior College in Northern California. His research, writing, and teaching explore the intersection between environmental history and the history of capitalism. He teaches US History, US Environmental History, and California History. As an advocate for a student-centered approach to teaching, Nick serves on the Guided Pathways Workgroup, teaches sections supporting the Umoja and HSI grant programs, and serves on the IDEAA taskforce to advance equity initiatives across campus. He is actively involved in the IGNITE Program, which offers courses through SRJC at the Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Center. He also serves on the Academic Senate.



CHANCE D STEWART

South Puget Sound
Community College

Chance D Stewart is an adjunct faculty member at South Puget Sound Community College in Washington State, where he teaches in the Business program with a focus on an interdisciplinary approach to organizational development and success. His academic and professional work centers on leadership, ethics, and civic responsibility, with a strong emphasis on equity, access, and cross-disciplinary learning. Beyond the classroom, he has led community-based leadership development initiatives across Washington State's public, nonprofit, and educational sectors.

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STEFANIE SERTICH

LaGuardia

Community College

Stefanie Sertich is the Program Director and Professor of Theatre at LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York. She directs and choreographs plays and musicals at LAGCC and sometimes ventures Off-Broadway. She serves as the Co-Faculty Lead for LaGuardia's Advising Council and the ACTF (American College Theatre Festival) National ASPIRE Arts Leadership Chair with ACTF and LORT (League of Resident Theatres), a program she assisted in developing and has helped lead for the last decade. Currently author of "Devising Empathy: Radical Theatre Education for All", published by Routledge Press scheduled '26. Stefanie has developed a series of devised works with students called "Unpacking American Identity" which discuss social justice issues such as homelessness, Muslim identity, Black Lives Matter, and police brutality. She devised a play with her students last year called "Queens Heroes", honoring local heroes, and this spring will devise a new play based on "The Trojan Women".



WENDY WAGNER

University of Maryland

Wendy Wagner facilitates faculty development and support for service-learning courses and community-based participatory research. Her masters and doctoral work were in college student learning and development, with a focus on learning experiences that facilitate civic mindedness and leadership development. She builds campus-community relationships between UMD and the community partners.



ANNE CANAVAN

Salt Lake Community College

Anne Canavan (she/her) is an associate professor of English at Salt Lake Community College. She started off in North Carolina, then college in Tennessee, grad school in Illinois, 1st job in Kansas, and now living in Utah. Her research interests (at the moment) involve writing center efficacy, teaching in prison settings, mental health, and First Year Composition. In addition to her faculty work, she is the associate director of the Writing Center. In her free time, she loves horror movies, cooking, traveling with her husband, hanging out with her dogs, and scuba diving.



EMESE ILYÉS

John Jay College CUNY

Dr. Emese Ilyés (she/they) is a critical social psychologist, participatory action researcher, and educator at John Jay College, City University of New York. Born in a country that persecuted her ethnic community and raised as a refugee in the United States from age 10, her lived experiences inform her interdisciplinary approach to scholarship and teaching that centers the voices of those most impacted by systemic oppression. Through participatory action research, she collaborates with diverse populations to challenge dominant narratives and envision ethical futures. This methodology serves as both her primary research approach and pedagogical commitment, empowering marginalized communities by recognizing how systemic oppression impacts individuals and communities while recovering historical memories that support liberation struggles.

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SHETAL VOHRA GUPTA
University of Denver

Dr. Shetal Vohra-Gupta is an associate professor and executive director of the Center for Equity Research at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver. She is a health and social policy researcher, and her work explores how upstream structural factors—particularly structural racism—shape racial health disparities. Trained as a social worker, she brings a multilevel approach to research, integrating macro, mezzo, and micro perspectives. She uses intersectionality and bio/psycho/social theories as guiding frameworks to analyze social and health policies.