

## Incoming Tenure Track Faculty Fall 2018

### *Assistant Professor of Biology*

**Heather L. Bennett** will be joining the tenure-track faculty as Assistant Professor of Biology, coming to Bard College following three years as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She was also a recipient of an Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA) postdoctoral fellowship sponsored by the National Institute of Health's division of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Professor Bennett earned her PhD from Brown University in the Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry graduate program, and her Bachelor of Science degree from Stockton University in New Jersey.

Professor Bennett's research focuses on understanding how the nervous system senses, responds to, and compensates for environmental and internal stress. In her PhD and postdoctoral studies, she made important discoveries related to how different stressful environments effect normal biological processes, such as sleep, using the nematode roundworm *Caenorhabditis elegans*. At Bard, she plans to engage student researchers by continuing to use the worm as a model system of choice drawing upon scientific principles found in genetics, neuroscience, developmental biology, and molecular biology.

### *Assistant Professor of Psychology*

**Justin Dainer-Best** will be joining the tenure-track faculty as Assistant Professor of Psychology. Professor Dainer-Best received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Texas, Austin, and B.A.'s in Psychology and English from Haverford College; he completed his pre-doctoral clinical internship at the University of Vermont.

Professor Dainer-Best's research focuses on the genesis and maintenance of depressed mood. His research continues to ask questions about how people with depression describe themselves—and how to increase positive self-description. The Affective Science Lab will use clinical research methods to identify the neurocognitive bases of attention and mood disorders in adults, through online and in-person data collection, across the range of depressive symptoms.

### *Assistant Professor of Music*

**Whitney Slaten** will be joining the tenure-track faculty as Assistant Professor of Music. Professor Slaten received a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from Columbia in 2017. His dissertation *Doing Sound: An Ethnography of Fidelity, Temporality and Labor among Live Sound Engineers* examines the relationships between technological and social examples of fidelity within the context of professional live sound reinforcement engineering. His most recent publication is the article "Ethnography, Sound Studies and the Black Atlantic" (*Current Musicology*, 2017). His work is also published in *Souls* and *Ethnomusicology Review*. He has presented at Columbia, Cornell, Westminster Choir College, University of Toronto, University of Ottawa, University of Kentucky, Oberlin Conservatory, The International Association for the Study of Popular Music, The Art of Record Production Conference, and The International Musicological Society Congress.

Professor Slaten's research has been a part of his work as a live sound reinforcement and recording engineer dedicated to understanding relationships between the "cultivated" and the "vernacular" that encode reproductions of musical sound, as well as the experiences of music makers and listeners. He has designed courses about sound at Columbia, The New School/Lang College, William Paterson University, and Seton Hall University. His course design was awarded with a Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences fellowship. Professor Slaten has provided live sound reinforcement engineering services to *Jazzmobile*, a not-for-profit organization that produces outdoor professional jazz performances throughout neighborhoods in Harlem and various communities in New York City. He also records and archives the rare American keyboard instruments of Artis Wodehouse, as well as her performances of the music of early American composers. As a saxophonist, Professor Slaten has performed with artists including Babatunde Olatunji and Clark Terry, as well as ensembles under his own direction.

*Assistant Professor of Japanese*

**Wakako Suzuki** will be joining the tenure-track faculty as Assistant Professor of Japanese. She holds a B.A. in German Literature from Rikkyô University, Tokyo, an M.A. in Modern European Studies from Columbia, and an M.A. in Japanese Literature from Stanford; she will receive her Ph.D. from UCLA in 2018 and has also served as a Research Fellow at Waseda University in Tokyo.

Professor Suzuki's scholarly interests range from the history of childhood, childhood memories, children's literature to women's writing in 19th- and 20th-century Japan; her dissertation at UCLA is entitled "Writing Boys and Girls in Imperial Japan: Politics and Poetics of Childhood, 1868-1912." Her teaching interests include gender & sexuality in Japanese literature, Japanese folklore, and translation. She has published in both English and Japanese; a new article "Sacred or Profane? Representing War Orphans in the Post-war Occupation of Japan: Ishikawa Jun's *The Jesus of the Ruins*" will be published this year in the *Japan Studies Association Journal*.

*Assistant Professor of Classics*

**David Ungvary** will be joining the tenure-track faculty as Assistant Professor of Classics. He received his Ph.D. in Medieval Latin from Harvard University in 2018, his MSt in Latin language and literature from the University of Oxford in 2011, and a B.A. in Classical Languages from Duke University in 2010.

Professor Ungvary is a literary and cultural historian whose research revolves around intersections of writing, reading, selfhood, and social life in the late ancient West. His dissertation, *Verse and Conversion: Poetship, Christianity, and the Transformation of the Roman World AD 400-700*, explored the evolution of Latin verse-writing habits, practices, and routines within late antique ascetic communities, and in the context of social and political reconfigurations after the fall of the Western Roman Empire. His ongoing projects include a translation of the Visigothic poet Eugenius of Toledo, the first into any language, for the Routledge Later Latin Poetry series; and a social history of the emergence of Latin rhythmic poetry, a form that rose to prominence ca. 400 AD in concert with the spread of Christianity in the Roman West.

Professor Ungvary has previously taught courses in ancient Greek, medieval and classical Latin, the ancient novel, and Virgil and his reception. At Bard, he will teach courses in Greek and Latin, and broadly on Roman history, early medieval culture, and ancient literary theories and practices.