



Yale University

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Convocation

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Yale University Art Gallery

Order of Exercises

CONVOCATION

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Academic Procession

Lynn Cooley

Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Vice Provost for Postdoctoral Affairs

C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics

*Professor, Cell Biology and Molecular, Cellular, and
Developmental Biology*

Michelle Nearon

*Senior Associate Dean and Director of the Office for
Graduate Student Engagement and Development*

John Alvaro

*Associate Dean for the Biological and Biomedical
Sciences Program*

Robert Harper-Mangels

Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Support

Sarah Insley

Associate Dean for Academic Support

Ksenia Sidorenko

Assistant Dean for Access and Engagement

Suzanne Young

*Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Professional
Development*

Joseph Craft

*Paul B. Beeson Professor of Medicine
(Rheumatology) and Professor of Immunobiology*

Jessica Peritz

Assistant Professor of Music

Ivan Loseu

Professor of Mathematics

Egor Lazarev

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Welcome

Lynn Cooley

Student Prizes

Presented by Sarah Insley

Prize Teaching Fellows

Presented by Sarah Insley

Graduate Mentor Awards

Presented by Lynn Cooley

Graduate School Student Prizes

Academic Awards

The **Marston Anderson Prize** is awarded on an occasional basis to truly outstanding dissertations in the field of East Asian Languages and Literatures in memory of Professor Anderson, for his contribution to the intellectual and pedagogical mission of the department.

EMILY JIN

East Asian Languages and Literatures

Adviser: Jing Tsu

“Cyborgian Modernity: Translation and Translatedness of Chinese Science Fiction”

This dissertation offers a panoramic account of the intertwined worlds of Chinese internet fiction and science fiction in contemporary China. With rare insider insight and critical acuity, it reconsiders institutionalized literary frameworks, advancing a fresh and incisive critique of how authority, value, and genre are produced in modern Chinese culture.

The **Francis J. Anscombe Award** is given on an occasional basis for outstanding academic performance in the Department of Statistics and Data Science.

YINGXI (KAYLEE) YANG

Statistics and Data Science

Advisers: Zhou Fan, Andre Wibisono

“From high-dimensional Bayesian inference to generative models: Information, computation, and optimality”

Yang’s dissertation advances our understanding of high-dimensional probabilistic inference and generative modeling. It resolves open conjectures on

group synchronization, develops novel connections between inference for latent matchings and models of mathematical physics, and provides theoretical guarantees for score estimation and sampling accuracy of score-based generative models, shedding light both on fundamental limits of inference and the algorithms that achieve them.

The **Frances Blanshard Fellowship Prize** is awarded annually for the outstanding doctoral dissertations submitted to the Department of History of Art.

CATERINA FRANCIOSI

History of Art

Adviser: Tim Barringer

“Latent Heat: Art and Energy in Nineteenth-Century Britain”

Franciosi’s dissertation stands at the forefront of contemporary thinking about science and aesthetics as manifested in the visual and material record. The work radically revises our approach to the canon of British art in the nineteenth century and demonstrates deep knowledge of eighteenth and nineteenth-century scientific thought, and attunement to the form, poetics, and politics of the image.

The **Sylvia Ardyn Boone Prize** is awarded annually in memory of Sylvia Boone, a noted scholar of African art, who was the first tenured African American woman on the Yale faculty. In her memory, Vera Wells, Yale College 1971, has established a prize to honor Sylvia Boone’s life and work.

ALEX FIALHO

History of Art and Black Studies

Advisers: Pamela Lee, Tavia Nyong'o

“Apertures Onto AIDS: Black Queer Photography and the Art History of the Storage Unit”

Fialho's highly original and meticulously researched dissertation has profound implications for contemporary art-historical methodology. Driven by a powerful imperative, it rebukes the whitewashing of the ongoing HIV/AIDS crisis within society and (art) history at large. The work reveals the creativity, collective resilience and communitarian interests of its subjects while interrogating the discipline's assumptions around the archive and its institutions.

The **George Washington Egleston Historical Prize**, established in 1901, is awarded annually to a research student who discovers new facts of importance for American history, gathers information, or reaches conclusions that are useful from a historical, literary, and critical point of view.

SOPHIA DELEONIBUS

History

Advisers: Carolyn Dean, Regina Kunzel

“Gender in the Age of Identity: Childhood and the Science of Sexuality in the Postwar United States”

DeLeonibus has written a superb dissertation – deeply researched, smart and sophisticated in its analysis, significant in its historiographic interventions. In sum, this is an outstanding dissertation, deeply grounded in research and theory.

The **Harry Burr Ferris Prize** was established by Harry Burr Ferris (BA 1887, MD 1890), who was the E. K. Hunt Professor of Anatomy in the Department of Anatomy, the predecessor to the current Department of Cell Biology. The Prize is awarded to a Cell Biology student for a doctoral dissertation demonstrating exceptional research and scholarship.

DAZHI LI

Cell Biology

Adviser: Karin Reinisch

“Mechanisms of Lipid Transport and Scrambling in Cellular Lipid Dynamics”

Li made seminal contributions to our understanding of protein-mediated lipid transfer. He established that protein insertases also scramble phospholipids supporting the emerging principle that organellar membrane formation involves both lipid transport and lipid scrambling. Further, he laid the groundwork for understanding the regulation of VPS13 proteins, bridge-like lipid transport proteins whose dysfunction gives rise to severe neurological diseases.

The **Hans Gatzke Prize** is awarded upon the recommendation of the Department of History for the outstanding dissertation or dissertations in a field of European history.

LAUREN CRAWFORD

History

Advisers: Samuel Moyn, Carolyn Dean

“Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and the ‘War on Terror’ in Germany”

In the wake of the Holocaust, explicit efforts to combat antisemitism in (West) Germany

manifested in the mantra “Never again Auschwitz.” Crawford charts nothing less than the transformation of the anti-colonial Left into a liberal internationalist, Islamophobic, and philo-semitic party. This is a brilliant achievement.

ALEJANDRO QUINTANA

Classics and History

Adviser: Joseph Manning

“Mobility Makes History: Human Migration in Greco-Roman Egypt”

This dissertation, “Mobility Makes History: Human Migration in Greco-Roman Egypt,” is a distinguished piece of scholarship that makes a genuine and substantial original contribution to the field of ancient history. Quintana is to be praised for this brilliant, richly detailed, and innovative dissertation.

ELIZABETH O’NEIL

History of Science and Medicine

Adviser: Deborah Coen

“The Science of Not Knowing: Systems Thinking between Vienna and the United States, 1900-1972”

This fantastic dissertation succeeds in using in-depth archival research to offer an important commentary on the use of technology to theorize social relations. In summary, this dissertation marks a major contribution to European and American cultural history of technology. The writing and storytelling are wonderful.

The **James B. Grossman Dissertation Prize** was established in memory of a doctoral student in the Department of Psychology. It is given to the author of an outstanding PhD dissertation in Psychology, with preference for research embodying some of the characteristics of James Grossman’s scholarship, such

as creativity, use of other disciplines, and clinical work with children.

AMANDA ROYKA

Psychology

Advisers: Laurie Santos, Julian Jara-Ettinger

“Monkeys and Mindsharing: An Exploration of the Unique Power of Human Theory of Mind”

This dissertation explores the nature of “theory of mind” (ToM) – our capacity to think about the minds of others. Royka studied this capacity from two separate perspectives: an evolutionary perspective examining ToM capacities in non-human primates and a computational perspective examining a new aspect of adult human ToM that she’s christened “mind-sharing.”

The **William J. Horwitz Prize** is awarded for continuous excellence and distinction in a chosen discipline within the field of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations.

GHAYDE GHRAOWI

Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Adviser: Shawkat Toorawa

“Late Adab: The Classical Arabic Anthology and the Ends of Literary History”

In this first comprehensive study of the seventeenth-century author Shihābaddīn al-Khafāji and of his celebrated anthology the Rayhānāt al-alibba, Ghraoui demonstrates how the Arabic classical tradition was constituted differently in different eras until our own. He illuminates the literary culture, professional lives, and poetry of Syrian and Egyptian Arabic authors under Ottoman rule.

The **Mary Ellen Jones (PhD 1951, Biochemistry) Prize** is awarded to the most distinguished dissertation in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry submitted during the academic year. Dr. Jones was a leading scientist and a pioneer in the advancement of women in academia.

ISAAC VOCK
Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry
 Adviser: Matt Simon

“Extending and Improving the Study of Gene Expression Regulatory Mechanisms”

This dissertation investigated how cells make use of their genetic information, a process known as gene expression. To better understand this process, Vock developed new statistical methods and computational tools to measure RNA synthesis and degradation from sequencing experiments. These tools uncovered new biology, including insights into the role of RNA decay in shaping gene expression across human cell types.

The **Annie Le Fellowship** is awarded each year to one or more PhD students in the biological and biomedical sciences whose demonstrated commitment to bettering the world around them and outstanding record in research exemplify the life and career of Annie Marie Le, a Yale graduate student between 2007 and 2009.

ARCADIA KRATKIEWICZ
Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
 Adviser: Josien van Wolfswinkel

The **Elias Lolis Prize** honors one current Pharmacology graduate student a year on the submission of an excellent paper to a scientific journal within the past two years.

JOÃO VICTOR GOMES
Pharmacology
 Adviser: Joel Butterwick
 “Structural Basis of Fructose Recognition by an Insect Gustatory Receptor”

This work investigates the molecular basis of insect sugar detection, focusing on the silk moth gustatory receptor 9 (BmGr9), a member of a highly conserved subfamily of insect fructose receptors with remarkable sugar selectivity. The mechanistic framework for sugar selectivity established in this work reveals general strategies of chemical recognition, offering potential routes to modulate insect feeding and host-seeking behavior.

The **Neuroscience Doctoral Thesis Prize** was established in 2020 by Sandra and Charles Greer and is awarded annually to a graduate student in Neuroscience whose PhD thesis reflects the highest standards of scientific achievement.

CHUYUE YU
Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program
 Adviser: Rui Chang
 “Functional Dissection of Neuro-Cardiac Circuit in the Vagus Nerve

Yu’s primary thesis work addresses the question of how the vagus nerve encodes cardiac physiological signals. Through systematic experiments to distinguish primary cardiac sensory neurons from secondary responders, she identified distinct neuronal populations that detect blood volume, cardiac contraction, and cardiac ischemia, and uncovered their underlying anatomical and molecular mechanisms. She further discovered how these sensations contribute to cardiovascular homeostasis.

The *John Spangler Nicholas (PhD 1921)*

Prize was established in 1972 by bequest of Helen Brown Nicholas in memory of her husband. The prize is awarded annually to outstanding doctoral candidates in experimental zoology.

JEREMY MOORE

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Adviser: Thierry Emonet

“Chemosensory Variation Within and Across Bacterial Species”

The results presented in this thesis shed light on a mechanism by which cell populations can use a single signaling network to drive two very different population-level behaviors. With this mechanism, populations can diversify their sensitivities to avoid catastrophic over-commitment to following a transient attractant.

SHUBHI SHARMA

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Adviser: Walter Jetz

“Inferring the Niches and Distributions of Data-Scarce Species Using Phylogenetic Information in a Changing World”

Adequate information about where species occur is central to preventing extinctions but still lacking for most of biodiversity. The thesis leveraged evolutionary principles and rapidly growing data on the tree of life to improve geographic distribution predictions. For hummingbirds and amphibians globally, the novel approaches deliver a substantially improved understanding of occurrence, protection and threat, and support more effective conservation.

WENXIN YUAN

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Adviser: Yannick Jacob

“Exploration of the Mechanisms Regulating Genomic Stability in Plants”

This thesis represents a substantial body of work with important implications for understanding DNA repair mechanisms and maintaining genome stability. It also addresses the urgent global need to improve crop productivity and resilience.

SISI ZHENG

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Adviser: Craig Crews

“Reverse IMiD Screen Identifies ZBTB7A Degradator with Fetal Hemoglobin Induction Effects and Anti-Tumor Effects in Colorectal Carcinoma”

Although transcription factors (TFs) have traditionally been hard to inhibit with small molecules and are considered an “undruggable” class of proteins, IMiDs have shown that they can be used to induce degradation of these proteins. This thesis represents fundamental work in the development of plausible treatments for two entirely different disease states.

The ***Marguerite A. Peyre Prize*** was established in 1964 and is awarded at the discretion of the chair of the Department of French to a graduate student in that department.

TIFFANY PREMAMD

French

Adviser: Morgane Cadieu

“Canonique Ta Mère! Rewriting The French Classics in The #MeToo Era”

Premamd's dissertation proposes to examine what becomes of seventeenth-century canonical literature when it is revisited by contemporary women authors such as Neige Sinno, Vanessa Springora, Annie Ernaux, Maria Pourchet and Christine Angot. This corpus prompts us to think about sexual violence at the juncture of twentieth and twenty-first centuries, giving voice to the silences of classical texts.

The Leonard J. Savage Writing Prize

is named for Department of Statistics and Data Science Emeritus Professor Leonard J. (Jimmie) Savage. This prize is awarded annually to a student who has submitted the best written work.

XINYANG HU

Statistics and Data Science

Adviser: Zhuoran Yang

“Large Language Models Through the Lens of Statistics: Theory, Systems, and Evaluation”

This dissertation establishes a rigorous statistical foundation for modern AI, providing a novel theoretical framework of formalizing Chain-of-Thought reasoning as Bayesian model averaging. This allows for a precise decomposition of prediction risk and proves that prompting errors decay exponentially with increased demonstrations. Theoretical insights are supported by rigorous empirical results, including controlled experiments on transformers trained from scratch.

The **Carolyn Slayman Prize** in Genetics recognizes the remarkable achievements of our best students in the Department of Genetics, based on their body of work, the impact of their findings in the field of Genetics, and their commitment to the Genetics graduate program and graduate education at Yale.

JOSEPH BRANCALE

Genetics

Adviser: Silvia Vilarinho

“Integrating Genomics and Experimental Models to Uncover Mechanisms of Liver Pathobiology”

Brancale's dissertation significantly advances our understanding of liver disease by employing cellular and molecular approaches to model monogenic liver diseases. His work includes creating a detailed cellular map of the human liver and identifying how specific genetic errors disrupt vital cell functions, contributing to liver disorders. This foundational research suggests new approaches for diagnosing and treating liver conditions.

JOY LEE

Genetics

Adviser: Kristen Brennand, Laura Huckins

“Developmental Dynamics and Cell-Type-Specific Regulatory Activity in Human Microglia”

Lee's dissertation interrogates the role of microglia in neurodegenerative disease pathogenesis. Her work, utilizing iPSC-derived microglia to model the impact of non-coding variants associated with neurodegenerative diseases, reveals that neurodegenerative disease risk is embedded in dynamic microglial regulatory programs from early ontogeny - providing insights

into disease mechanisms and identifies novel therapeutic targets for neurodegenerative disorders, i.e. Alzheimer's disease.

KAIYUAN TANG

Genetics

Adviser: Sidi Chen

“Multiplexed in Vivo Genome Engineering: Novel Cas12a Mice Platforms Development and Combinatorial CAR-T Screen”

Tang's dissertation advances genome engineering tools by developing CRISPR-Cas systems for multiplexed gene editing. His work establishes a system for simultaneous gene activation and knockout for single-cell level gene manipulation and demonstrates utility in combinatorial screens for synergistic gene perturbations that enhance immunotherapeutic functions of CAR-T cells, providing tools for applications in genome editing, disease modelling and immune-cell engineering.

The **Edwin W. Small Prize** was established in memory of Edwin W. Small (BA 1930, MA 1934) and is awarded in recognition and furtherance of outstanding work in the field of American history.

JOSHUA AIKEN

History and Black Studies

Adviser: Crystal Feimster

“The Armed Individual: Race, Guns, Law and American Violence (1960-2005)”

Ambitious in scope and deeply researched, it places gun law at the center of the rise of the carceral state. This is an original, rigorously researched, and theoretically sophisticated dissertation.

MARIANA DIAZ CHALELA

History

Advisers: Gilbert Joseph, Greg Grandin
“Borrowing Out of Poverty: Credit and State Formation in the Making of Rural Colombia (1929-1975)”

This is a creatively conceived, well-researched, and gracefully written dissertation, the product of an ambitious research agenda, substantial international travel, and sustained engagement with local archives. The dissertation is remarkably well-written; the writing is alive to the human stakes of its subject in a way that distinguishes the best historical work from mere institutional analysis.

JACOB MORROW-SPITZER

History

Adviser: David Sorkin

“Worthy Citizens: Jewish Citizenship Politics in the Age of American State Transformation, 1850-1933”

Morrow-Spitzer's pioneering dissertation combines the categories of American political history with those of Jewish history. The dissertation fully succeeds in proving how Jewish political activism had lasting impact on state development. He proves himself a truly gifted historian.

The **George Trimis Prize** was established in May 2003 in memory of a doctoral student in Economics who succumbed to cancer. In recognition of the extraordinary example that Trimis set, the prize is awarded to students whose dissertations demonstrate exceptional and distinguished achievement.

JINGYI CUI

Economics

Adviser: Philip A. Haile

“Information and Matching in Digital Labor Markets

Cui makes novel contributions at the intersection of Industrial Organization and labor economics. Her empirical analysis of an online job platform, where workers often bid for jobs at low wages early, is timely and technically advanced. Using a sophisticated dynamic equilibrium model, she quantitatively evaluates the importance of reputations and human capital in the digital market.

TIANYU FAN

Economics

Advisers: Fabrizio Zilibotti, Michael Peters

“Essays in Macroeconomics”

Fan examines important macroeconomic issues concerning inequality and economic growth, drawing on empirical and theoretical frameworks from political economy and international trade. His research sheds new light on how emerging technologies (such as automation and AI) and geopolitics shape these issues, and in doing so he develops novel modeling approaches.

DANA SCOTT

Economics

Advisers: Costas Meghir

“Essays on the Role of Non-Pay Amenities in the Labor Market”

Scott’s thesis provides a new framework to study the role of amenities provided by firms (e.g. schedule flexibility) in the labor market. In particular, she uncovers the mechanism in which production technology, together with

workers’ preferences, affects important labor market outcomes such as earnings differences and gender composition, through firms’ provision of amenities.

NICHOLAS WU

Economics

Adviser: Dirk Bergemann

“Essays on Microeconomic Theory”

Wu makes impressive contributions to microeconomic theory, providing elegant frameworks for studying how information and learning shape innovation processes, technology, and organizational design, with a focus on digital markets. His analysis of online platforms offers theoretical foundations for studying features and mechanisms used in digital marketplaces, thereby speaking to topical issues, while being technically novel and sophisticated.

The **Richard Wolfgang Prize** was established in 1971 in memory of Richard Leopold Wolfgang, MA Hon. 1962, and member of the faculty from 1956 to 1971. It is awarded each year for the best doctoral theses of graduating chemistry students.

ABHIJIT RANA

Chemistry

Adviser: Mark Johnson

“Water-Mediated Proton Transfer in Microhydrated 4-Aminobenzoic Acid: Structural Characterization and Microcanonical Kinetics Using Cryogenic Ion Spectroscopy”

Rana developed a new experimental method to study chemical reactions at the nanoscale by combining cryogenic mass spectrometry with laser spectroscopy. He then exploited

this capability to reveal how a handful of water molecules act in concert to enable the transport of positive electric charge through water.

NICOLÒ TAMEPELLINI

Chemistry

Adviser: Scott Miller

“On Atomistic Modeling
and Asymmetric Catalysis:
Stereocontrolled Synthesis by Design”

Tamepellini is recognized for his outstanding contributions to the study of asymmetric catalytic reactions. In a dissertation of uncommon breadth, he developed new catalysts for a very broad set of reactions, addressing numerous types of stereochemically complex situations. Throughout, his discoveries bridged experiments, computations, and theoretical issues.

The **Arthur and Mary Wright Prize** is awarded upon the recommendation of the Department of History for the outstanding dissertation or dissertations in the field of history outside the United States or Europe.

KELVIN NG

History

Advisers: Rohit De and Sunil Amrith

“Vernacular Equality: Migration and Political Thought Across Maritime Asia, C. 1918–1939”

This ambitious and original dissertation adopts an innovative perspective on struggles for equality in the twentieth century, foregrounding the political creativity that was made possible by mass migration in South and Southeast Asia.

University Awards

The **Theron Rockwell Field Prize** was established in 1957 by Emilia R. Field in memory of her husband, Theron Rockwell Field, PhD 1889. It is awarded for poetic, literary, or religious works by any students enrolled in the University for a degree. This prize is awarded by the Office of the Secretary of Yale University.

JEANNE SAUVAGE

French

Adviser: Alice Kaplan

“The Translator’s Workshop: The French Invention of U.S. Literature”

This dissertation opens the door to the translator’s workshop, turning to translators’ drafts, working documents, correspondence, legal contracts, and invoices to analyze their role in importing U.S. literature to France. Combining archival research and literary close reading, Sauvage traces a history of U.S. literature in France centered on translation agents, networks, and practices to show how translators collectively invented a “French” U.S. literature, defining its language and its canon.

The **John Addison Porter Prize**, named in honor of Professor John Addison Porter, BA 1842, is awarded for a work of scholarship in any field where it is possible, through original effort, to gather and relate facts or principles, or both, and to present the results in such a literary form as to make the project of general human interest. This prize is awarded by the Office of the Secretary of Yale University.

DANIEL GRAVES

Classics and History

Adviser: Noel Lenski

“Thomas Jefferson: Ancient and Modern”

Graves’ dissertation shows how a late seventeenth century debate within the French Academy, now known as the Quarrel of the Ancients and the Moderns, became the animating force of political culture and intellectual life in the early American republic. His dissertation narrates the American version of this debate through the eyes of Thomas Jefferson, who was a champion of the Moderns and a connoisseur of the Ancients. Jefferson believed in the possibility of indefinite progress in the human condition, but he also admired the achievements of the ancient Greeks and Romans.

Public Service Awards

The **Graduate School Community Service Award** honors a graduate student’s volunteer work in the local community while enrolled at Yale.

ALAADDIN IBRAHIMY

Biomedical Engineering

The **Public Scholar Award** recognizes research and activism pursued by a Yale graduate student that engages and betters the world at large.

SOPHIA (JINGHONG) WANG

Political Science

Graduating Winners of Prize Teaching Fellowships

Xinyu Guan

French

Brandon Hubbard

*Cellular and Molecular Physiology; MD/
PhD*

Tyler Myers

Chemistry

Maryam Parhizkar

American Studies and Black Studies

Alejandro Quintana

Classics

Alexa Williams

Chemistry

Graduate Mentor Awards

This year the Graduate School honors faculty members at Convocation for their exemplary qualities as mentors. Many dissertation advisers were nominated, and the honorees were chosen by a committee of students and faculty.

In the Biological Sciences

JOSEPH CRAFT

Paul B. Beeson Professor of Medicine (Rheumatology) and Professor of Immunobiology

“Joe has an encyclopedic knowledge of immunology that is frankly intimidating, but he wields it generously. He does not hand you answers. He asks the question that exposes the gap in your reasoning, sits with you in the discomfort of not knowing, and helps you build toward something stronger. I have left his office more than once needing to rethink an entire line of investigation, and every time, the work that came out was dramatically better. He taught me that real mentorship sometimes means making someone uncomfortable in service of their growth and doing so with enough warmth that you never feel torn down.”

“Joe balances intellectual rigor with genuine care for the whole person. He is genuinely invested in his students as both scientists and people. It shows up in the way he makes himself available even when his schedule is impossibly full, remembers the details of your project months later, and pushes you to think harder even when you thought you were done thinking. He challenges us to think about ethics, about the broader world, about what kind of scientists we want to be, without imposing his own views. Joe makes you feel like your trajectory matters to him personally.”

In the Physical Sciences and Engineering

IVAN LOSEU

Professor of Mathematics

“Professor Loseu is without question the best mentor I have ever had. Through his transformative guidance, intellectual leadership, and unwavering advocacy, he has profoundly shaped my growth as an independent scholar. His feedback is remarkably detailed and individualized. Whether responding to research drafts or job materials, he reads every line with care—commenting on both overarching structure and the smallest details. A five-page draft may return with dozens of comments. Though initially overwhelming, this rigor sharpened my writing and clarified my thinking. Frank and exacting, his critiques are always directed toward growth. Over time, his advising shifted from close supervision to fostering independence: early on, he explained questions in detail; later, he encouraged me to solve—and even pose—problems independently, offering references only when needed. This gradual shift trained me to think and act as a colleague, take full responsibility for my work, and prepare for my academic career.”

“As a research advisor, Ivan is patient and accessible. He responds quickly to emails, and he is always willing to reschedule meetings if a conflict comes up, even at the last minute. Even though he is extremely precise and careful in his own work, he has always been kind when I make mistakes. As a teacher, as an advisor, and as a mentor, Ivan holds himself to the highest standard while meeting others wherever they’re at.”

In the Humanities

JESSICA PERITZ

Assistant Professor, Department of Music

“Jess offers a balance of rigor and approachability in her advising. When I have sent her dissertation chapters in progress, she has been incredibly thorough in her feedback, offering page-by-page line edits in addition to broader conceptual comments which challenge me to dig deeper, make more nuanced connections, and question my own assumptions. She has cared just as much about helping me grow into the style of humanities academic writing as she has about helping me think through my research ideas. While maintaining a high standard for my work, Jess is also skilled at creating an advising relationship where we can have a laugh and chat about what we have been watching or reading outside of work—I have felt that Jess genuinely cares about me not only as a scholar but also as a person navigating the tricky early stages of an academic career.”

“Jess is an incredible mentor who always makes time for students, even at short notice and regardless of whether they are her formal advisees. She is approachable regarding issues from professional development to academics, and she genuinely takes an interest in her students’ wellbeing. She always gives insightful and applicable feedback and is an absolute inspiration as a teacher, a researcher, and an all-round lovely human being.”

In the Social Sciences

EGOR LAZAREV

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

“He is a shrewd reader whose feedback on drafts and field reports has improved the quality of my research immeasurably. Professor Lazarev’s passion for social science means that he approaches the projects of diverse students with curiosity and openness. He often encourages students to pursue creative approaches to field research that push disciplinary boundaries otherwise constraining social science. Simultaneously, his expectations for students are high. When discussing my own field research, he has often encouraged me to leave no stone unturned, challenging me to investigate relationships and figures that I may have otherwise disregarded. Professor Lazarev is also attentive to students’ professionalization. He frequently makes efforts to introduce me to campus visitors or scholars within his professional network. Professor Lazarev is a mentor who is eager to learn with and from his students and rejoices in their successes.”

“Professor Egor Lazarev’s advising and mentorship changed my life. I am a first-generation refugee student at Yale who arrived from a war zone in Ukraine. He treats students as real partners in thinking, even when they are still learning. He listened to my ideas seriously and showed me that my perspective mattered. One of the most important things about Professor Lazarev is that he treats students as whole people, not just as students. My family is still in occupied Ukraine, and this fall my grandfather was killed. He made me feel seen and supported at a moment when I truly needed it.”



THE SHIELD OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The design for the Graduate School shield was drawn by Yale art professor Theodore Sizer and approved by the University. Four themes are symbolized in the arms of the School. The background of the “chief” (the place of honor) is Yale blue, with Roman numerals in white representing 1847, the year of the founding of the Department of Philosophy and the Arts, the earliest formal organization for graduate study at Yale and, in fact, in the entire United States. Below, on a white background, is a black Y-shaped device representing the “pallium,” a garment worn by philosophers in ancient Rome, and frequently used as a symbol for Yale. The three red crosses are derived from the arms of Bishop George Berkeley, who established in 1732 an endowment for Yale College graduates “reading for the second degree.” These were the first scholarships exclusively for graduate study at Yale.