New Faculty Orientation

Welcome and Overview

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August 2018

USC Viterbi
School of Engineering

University of Southern California

New and Recent Faculty Hires

Assistant Professors

- Heather Culbertson, CS *
- Bistra Dilkina, CS *
- Manuel Monge, EE-EP **
- Stefanos Nikolaidis, CS **
- Barath Raghavan, CS **
- Xiang Ren, CS *
- Constantine Sideris, EE-S **
- Jennifer Treweek, BME ***

Associate Professor

- Mercedeh Khajavikhan, EE-EP ***

Professors

- Assad Oberai, AME *
- Carlos Pantano-Rubino, AME ***

* *Joined in Spring 2018*
** *Joins in Fall 2018*
*** *Joins in Spring 2019*

Lecturer

- Ramtin Sheikhhassani, AME **

Associate Professor of Practice

- David Gerber, CEE*

Professor of Practice

- Garrett Reisman, ASTE **

Research Assistant Professors

- Francesco Cutrale, BME **
- Gale Lucas, CS **
- Nanyun Peng, CS **
- Jay Pujara, CS **
- Srivatsan Ravi, CS **
- T.K. Satish Kumar, CS **
- Lionel Vincent, AME **

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hires

Assistant Professors

- Heather Culbertson, CS *
- Bistra Dilkina, CS *
- Manuel Monge, EE-EP **
- Stefanos Nikolaidis, CS **
- Barath Raghavan, CS **
- Xiang Ren, CS *
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Associate Professor

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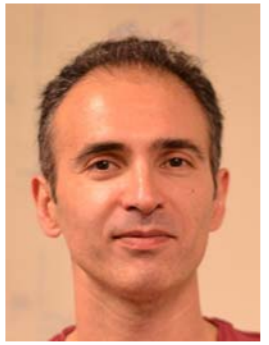


Joined in Spring 2018
** *Joins in Fall 2018*
*** *Joins in Spring 2019*

New and Recent RTPC Faculty Hires

Lecturer

- Ramtin Sheikhhassani, AME **

Associate Professor of Practice

- David Gerber, CEE*

Professor of Practice

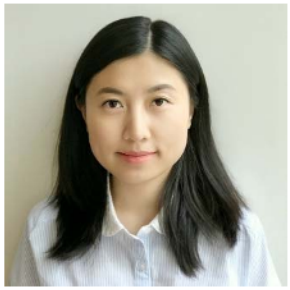
- Garrett Reisman, ASTE **

Research Assistant Professors

- Francesco Cutrale, BME **
- Gale Lucas, CS **
- Nanyun Peng, CS **
- Jay Pujara, CS **
- Srivatsan Ravi, CS **
- T.K. Satish Kumar, CS **
- Lionel Vincent, AME **









* *Joined in Spring 2018*
** *Joins in Fall 2018*
*** *Joins in Spring 2019*

USC at a Glance*

USC Academic Units

- USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences; 21 schools

USC Faculty (6,018 total)

- Approximately 4,361 full-time faculty: 1,499 T/TT faculty and 2,781 Research, Teaching, Practice and Clinical faculty; approximately 1,860 part-time faculty
- Over 150 elected fellows of prestigious societies (AAAS, AAAL, APS, ALI…)
- Over 50 affiliated faculty in National Academies (NAS, NAE, IOM)
- 10 National Medal award winners and 6 Nobel Laureates (current & past)

USC Students (45,500 total)

- Approximately 19,000 undergrads; 26,500 grad & professional students
- Degrees awarded June 2017: 5,046 Bachelor's; 10,476 advanced
- More than 375,000 living alumni

Annual Research Expenditures (FY'16-17) and Endowment (June 2017)

- Approximately $764 million in sponsored research; $5.1 billion in endowment

Viterbi School at a Glance*

Viterbi Academic Units

- Dept's: AME, ASTE, BME, CEE (Astani), CHEMS (Mork), CS, EE-EP/S (Hsieh), ISE (Epstein)
- Academic Program Units (non-degree granting): EWP, ITP

Viterbi Faculty

- Nearly 310 full-time faculty: ~189 T/TT; ~119 Research and Teaching
- Over 90 elected fellows of prestigious societies (AAAI, ASME, ACM, BMES, IEEE, …)
- Over 80 NSF Career, Presidential Young Investigator, and/or PECASE Awardees**
- Over 90 endowed early-mid career chairs, senior career chairs and professorships
- Over 20 full-time (and 35 affiliated) faculty who are National Academy members

Viterbi Students

- Approximately 8,300 total: ~2,600 undergrad; ~5,700 grad students
- Over 76,000 alumni
- Ranked in Top 10 Graduate Engineering Schools (U.S. News & World Report)

Viterbi Annual Research Expenditures (~ 1/3rd of USC's)

- Typically over ~$200 million; more than 46 Research Centers and Institutes

** https://viterbischool.usc.edu/viterbi-at-a-glance/*
*** 13 MIT TR-35 Honorees since 2009*

Viterbi Academic Programs*

Academic Programs

- 15 BS programs
- 17 active minors
  - 58 Master's programs
    - 37 Master's programs and 5 grad certificates on-line via DEN@Viterbi
- 13 Doctoral programs

Education and Outside-the-Curriculum Efforts

- KIUEL (Klein Institute for Undergraduate Engineering Life)
- VAST (Viterbi Adopt-a-School, Adopt-a-Teacher) K-12 STEM Outreach
- Maseeh Entrepreneurship Prize Competition (MEPC)
- Min Family Engineering Social Entrepreneurship Challenge
- USC Viterbi Student Innovation Institute (VSI2) and Viterbi Startup Garage
- Student-led efforts (Rocket Propulsion Lab, USC Racing Team, ...)

Useful USC Resources

Policies and Faculty Portals

- Policies, Faculty Handbook, UCAPT Manual, strategic vision, & core doc's
  http://policy.usc.edu
- Faculty resources, governance, support, guides, calendars, news, events
  http://faculty.usc.edu
- Useful links and information (e.g., for new faculty (T/TT & RTPC), chairs, mentors)
  https://employees.usc.edu/

Center for Work and Family Life (CWFL)

- https://employees.usc.edu/work-family-life/

Center for Excellence in Research (CER)

- Proposal writing workshops, proposal review, funding opportunities, ...
  https://research.usc.edu/about/vp/cer/

Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET)

- Workshops, seminars, programs, and resources for teaching innovation
  http://cet.usc.edu/
- See the CET New Faculty Institute: http://cet.usc.edu/institutes/new-faculty-institute

Useful Viterbi Resources

Viterbi Research Portal

- Funding opportunities, research centers/labs, other info for faculty
  http://viterbischool.usc.edu/faculty/faculty-research-resources/

Viterbi Faculty Portal

- School policies, academic integrity, useful links, and other resources
  https://viterbischool.usc.edu/faculty/

Viterbi Mentoring Program

- Mentorship of junior faculty
- WiSE Program
- Mentor-mentee and peer-mentoring luncheons sponsored by School
- Annual group mentoring sessions (Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs)
- NSF Career proposal internal review (Vice Dean for Research)
- Understand mentoring roles, responsibilities, benefits and expectations—identify your needs and set attainable goals
  https://viterbischool.usc.edu/faculty/#Mentoring

Graduate Recruitment

USC and Viterbi Ph.D. Fellowships and Awards

- Provost, Annenberg, Viterbi, Mork, Alfred Mann, Ming Hsieh, Chevron Fellowships
- Viterbi Supplemental, Merit Top-off, WiSE Top-off, GEM, Diversity Top-off Awards
  https://gapp.usc.edu/graduate-programs/doctoral/fellowship

On-Campus Recruitment Events

- Master's Student Preview Day
  http://gapp.usc.edu/MSPreview
- REACH (*R*ecruitment of *E*ngineering *Achi*evers) PhD Preview
  http://gapp.usc.edu/REACH
- Conversion Visitation Days each Spring (coordinated by departments)

Agenda

8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	**Refreshments**	
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Opening and Introductions	Timothy Pinkston Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	School Administration (Including student-focused offices and introduction of key staff)	Louise Yates Senior Associate Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs Linda Rock Vice Dean for Administration Kelly Goulis Senior Associate Dean, Graduate and Professional Programs Brandi Jones Vice Dean for Diversity and Strategic Initiatives
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Global Initiatives	Raghu Raghavendra Vice Dean for Global Academic Initiatives
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure	Michael Kassner 2017-2018 APT Chair
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Academic Programs	Erik Johnson Vice Dean for Academic Programs
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Faculty Affairs	Timothy Pinkston Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Break/Lunch Service	

Agenda

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	**Lunch**	
	Welcoming Remarks (12:00 p.m. – 12:25 p.m.)	Yannis Yortsos Dean
	Mentoring Ph.D. Students (12:25 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.)	Gaurav Sukhatme Executive Vice Dean of Engineering Maja Mataric Vice Dean for Research
	Communications at Viterbi (12:50 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	Michael Chung Associate Dean, Communications and Marketing
	Faculty Awards and Honors (1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.)	Kim Matsunaga Faculty Awards Administrator
	Corporate and Foundation Relations (1:10 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.)	Todd Logan Executive Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations Jennifer Lidar Associate Director, Foundation Relations
	VAST: K-12 STEM Outreach (1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.)	Gisele Ragusa Chair, USC STEM Consortium
1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	USC'S High Performance Computing (HPC)	Erin Shaw ACI Research and Education Facilitator
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Break	
[2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	**Concurrent Mentoring Workshop for Teaching Faculty (OHE 136)]**	

Agenda

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	**Research at USC**	**Maja Mataric** **Vice Dean for Research** **Nichole Phillips** **Director of Research Administration** **Amanda Salazar** **Principal Contracts and Grants Office,** **Dept. of Contracts and Grants, Office of Research**
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Federal Funding Update Open Q&A	Steven O. Moldin Executive Director, Research Advancement Maja Mataric Vice Dean for Research
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Wine and Cheese Welcome Reception with Viterbi Department Chairs and Faculty Location: Traditions, Ronald Campus Tutor Center	

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Assistant Professors

Heather Culbertson*, WiSE Gabilan Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Heather Culbertson is a Gabilan Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at USC. Her research focuses on the design and control of haptic devices and rendering systems, human-robot interaction, and virtual reality. Particularly she is interested in creating haptic interactions that are natural and realistically mimic the touch sensations experienced during interactions with the physical world. Previously, she was a research scientist in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University where she worked in the Collaborative Haptics and Robotics in Medicine (CHARM) Lab. She received her Ph.D. in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics (MEAM) at the University of Pennsylvania in 2015 working in the Haptics Group, part of the General Robotics, Automation, Sensing and Perception (GRASP) Laboratory. Dr. Culbertson completed a Masters in MEAM at the University of Pennsylvania in 2013, and earned a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2010. She is currently serving as the Vice-Chair for Information Dissemination for the IEEE Technical Committee on Haptics. Her awards include a citation for meritorious service as a reviewer for the IEEE Transactions on Haptics, Best Paper at UIST 2017, and the Best Hands-On Demonstration Award at IEEE World Haptics 2013.

Bistra Dilkina*, WiSE Gabilan Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Bistra Dilkina joined USC in January 2018 as a WiSE Gabilan Assistant Professor of Computer Science and an Associate Director of the USC Center for AI in Society. She was an Assistant Professor of Computational Science and Engineering at Georgia Tech and the co-director of the Data Science for Social Good (DSSG) Atlanta summer program. At Georgia Tech, she has been recognized with multiple faculty awards. Before Georgia Tech, she was a Postdoctoral Associate at the Institute for Computational Sustainability at Cornell University, where she received her Ph.D. in 2012 under the supervision of Carla Gomes. Dr. Dilkina's research focuses on combining machine learning and combinatorial optimization techniques for solving real-world large-scale decision-making problems, particularly ones that arise in sustainability areas such as biodiversity conservation and urban environments.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Assistant Professors

Manuel Monge**, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering-Electrophysics

Manuel Monge is joining the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering at USC as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2018. He received the B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru in 2008, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Caltech in 2010 and 2017, respectively. He spent a year working at Neuralink Corp., developing ultra-high-bandwidth brain-machine interfaces before joining USC. His research interests focus on the miniaturization of medical electronics by combining and integrating physical and biological principles into the design of microscale integrated circuits. He is the recipient of the 2017 Charles Wilts Prize from the Department of Electrical Engineering at Caltech for outstanding independent research in electrical engineering leading to a Ph.D., and the 2017 Demetriades-Tsafka-Kokkalis Prize in Biotechnology from the Division of Engineering and Applied Science at Caltech for the best thesis in the field of biotechnology.

Stefanos Nikolaidis**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Stefanos Nikolaidis joined the Department of Computer Science at USC as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2018. He completed his Ph.D. at Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute, and his research lies at the intersection of human-robot interaction, algorithmic game-theory, and planning under uncertainty. Dr. Nikolaidis develops decision-making algorithms that leverage mathematical models of human behavior to support deployed robotic systems in real-world collaborative settings. He has an M.S. from MIT, a M.Eng. from the University of Tokyo and a B.S. from the National Technical University of Athens. He has additionally worked as a research associate at the University of Washington, as a research specialist at MIT and as a researcher at Square Enix in Tokyo. He has received a Best Enabling Technologies Paper Award from the IEEE/ACM International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction, had a best paper nomination from the same conference this year and was a best paper award finalist in the International Symposium on Robotics.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Assistant Professors

Barath Raghavan**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Barath Raghavan received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from UC San Diego in 2009 and his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from UC Berkeley in 2002. Before joining USC in 2018, he split his time between industry and academia working on a wide range of projects in core Computer Science areas such as computer networking, security, and distributed systems and on socially-focused topics such as rural Internet access and sustainable agriculture.

Xiang Ren*, Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Xiang Ren joined the Department of Computer Science at USC as an Assistant Professor in Spring 2018. Previously, he was a visiting researcher at Stanford University. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2017), where he was a Google Ph.D. Fellow and a Richard T. Cheng Fellow working with Jiawei Han. His research focuses on developing automated and scalable techniques for extracting structured information from massive text data and applying structured knowledge to power intelligent services. He is particularly interested in designing effective computational models for partially- and noisily-labeled data, learning with complex label space, automating knowledge base construction, and knowledge acquisition with human in the loop. Dr. Ren's research has been recognized with several prestigious awards including a Yahoo!-DAIS Research Excellence Award, a Yelp Dataset Challenge award, a C. W. Gear Outstanding Graduate Student Award and a David J. Kuck Outstanding M.S. Thesis Award. Technologies he developed have been transferred to U.S. Army Research Lab, National Institute of Health, Microsoft, Yelp, and TripAdvisor.

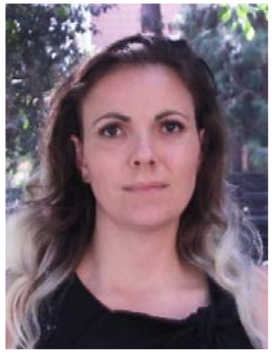
New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Assistant Professors

Constantine Sideris**, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering-Systems

Constantine Sideris received the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees with honors from Caltech in 2010, 2011, and 2017 respectively. He was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley's Wireless Research Center from 2013 to 2014. He was a lecturer in the Electrical Engineering department for Caltech's popular machine learning project course in 2017. He was a recipient of an NSF graduate research fellowship in 2010, the Analog Devices Outstanding Student Designer Award in 2012, and the Caltech Leadership Award in 2017. Dr. Sideris was a postdoctoral fellow in the departments of Electrical Engineering and Computing and Mathematical Sciences at Caltech from January 2017 to August 2018. He joined the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering at USC as an Assistant Professor in August 2018. His research interests include analog and RF integrated circuits and computational electromagnetics for biomedical applications, wireless communications, and silicon photonics.

Jennifer Brooke Treweek***, WiSE Gabilan Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering



Jennifer Treweek holds a B.S. in Chemistry and Economics from Caltech, and she completed her Ph.D. in Chemistry at The Scripps Research Institute (2011), where she was advised by Dr. Kim Janda. Major thesis projects included the design of immunotherapies to combat drug abuse and the in vivo validation of a chemical hypothesis for the aberrant formation of methamphetamine-conjugated advanced glycation endproducts during drug addiction. She then returned to Caltech as a postdoctoral fellow and NARSAD Young Investigator in the Division of Biology and Bioengineering, where her research with Dr. Viviana Gradinaru has centered on the optimization of tissue-clearing methodologies and their application to mapping neurocircuits involved in the regulation of sleep, mood, and psychomotor behaviors. When Dr. Treweek joins the Department of Biomedical Engineering at USC as a Gabilan Assistant Professor in January 2019, her laboratory will work to develop new tools and techniques for probing difficult-to-study circuits, such as the neuropeptide signaling pathways that convey chronic stress disorders.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Associate Professor

Mercedeh Khajavikhan*, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering-Electrophysics**

Mercedeh Khajavikhan will join USC in Spring 2018 as Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering-Electrophysics. Currently she is Associate Professor of Optics and Photonics at the University of Central Florida (UCF). She received her B.S. and M.S. in Electronics from Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, in 2000 and 2003, respectively, and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from University of Minnesota in 2009. In 2009, she joined UC San Diego as a postdoctoral researcher where she worked on the design and development of nanolasers, plasmonic devices, and silicon photonics components. Dr. Khajavikhan has been recognized with an ONR Young Investigator Award and NSF CAREER award. At UCF she also helped build the college's new bachelor's degree in photonic science and engineering and was recognized with the school's Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award (College Level).

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Professors

Assad Oberai*, Hughes Professor and Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Assad Oberai joined USC as a professor in Spring 2018. He holds the Hughes Professorship and is Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. He was a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Aerospace and Nuclear Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the School of Engineering, and the Associate Director of the Scientific Computation Research. He was an Assistant Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at Boston University. He received a Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1998, an M.S. from the University of Colorado in 1994, and a Bachelor's degree from Osmania University in 1992, all in Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Oberai is a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering and United States Associate of Computational Mechanics. His honors include the Humboldt Foundation Award for experienced researchers, Thomas J.R. Hughes Young Investigator Award (ASME), NSF CAREER Award, and Department of Energy Early Career Award. He is on the board of academic editors for three journals including PlosOne.

Carlos Pantano-Rubino***, Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Carlos Pantano-Rubino will join USC as Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering in Spring 2019. He currently is Professor of Mechanical Science and Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from UC San Diego in 2000, M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from UC San Diego in 1998, M.S. in Applied Mathematics from the Ecole Centrale Paris in 1995, and B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Sevilla. His honors include election as Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). Dr. Pantano-Rubino's research centers on turbulent flows with special focus to combustion, fluid-structure interaction and numerical methods for accurate simulation of the Navier-Stokes equations in simple and complex domains.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Lecturer

Ramtin Sheikhhassani, Lecturer of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering**	
Photo not available	Ramtin Sheikhhassani is Lecturer of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at USC. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from USC and his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Iran University of Science and Technology.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Associate Professor of Practice

David Gerber*, Associate Professor of Practice in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Architecture

David Gerber joined USC Viterbi in Spring 2018 as Associate Professor of Practice in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Architecture. He also serves as the program director for the Civil Engineering Building Science undergraduate program. Dr. Gerber's professional experience includes working in architectural, engineering and technology practices in the United States, Europe, India and Asia for Zaha Hadid Architects in London, England; for Gehry Technologies in Los Angeles; for Moshe Safdie Architects in Massachusetts; The Steinberg Group Architects in California; and for Arup as the Global Research Manager. His research has been industry, fellowship, and NSF-funded and is focused on the development of innovative systems, tools, and methods for design of the built environment. He currently advises, and co-advises Ph.D. students from Architecture and Engineering on topics that integrate computer science, robotics, and engineering, with architecture. He received his B.A. from UC Berkeley, M.A. from the Design Research Laboratory of the Architectural Association in London, and Master of Design Studies and Doctor of Design from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Professor of Practice

Garrett Reisman , Professor of Astronautics Practice**

Garrett Reisman is joining the USC faculty as a Professor of Engineering Practice in the Department of Astronautical Engineering. He holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics and in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Caltech. Most recently, Dr. Reisman was the Director of Space Operations at SpaceX. Before his work at SpaceX, Dr. Reisman was an astronaut for NASA and has flown on three space shuttle craft — Atlantis, Discovery and Endeavour. He served with both the Expedition 16 and 17 crews as a flight engineer aboard the International Space Station and has participated in three spacewalks.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Research Assistant Professors

Francesco Cutrale** , Research Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering

Francesco Cutrale applies his knowledge in physics and microscopy to develop innovative tools for imaging in surgery and bio-development research and translates them into real world applications. After completing his Masters in Physics Applied to Biomedicine in University of Trento he received his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at UC Irvine. He then worked at Caltech as a research associate and, subsequently, at USC, where he is Research Assistant Professor and Director of Computation and Image Processing for the Translational Imaging Center led by Provost Professor Scott E. Fraser. His several years of experience developing advanced optical technology built a strong multi-disciplinary background spanning from pure physics to biology, from hardware and software development to microscopy and medical image processing. Dr. Cutrale is co-founder and inventor of multiple startups dedicated to designing, prototyping, and developing advanced imaging applications for surgery, endoscopy, and consumers. His recent works have been published in high profile scientific journals with considerable media coverage. His research topics span from the domain of single cells scaling up to real-life hospital use, translating advanced microscopy techniques into applications that benefit human health.

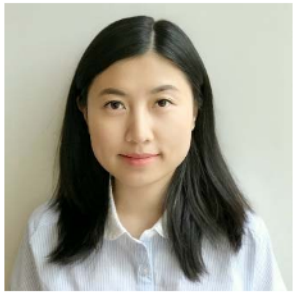
Gale Lucas** , Research Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Gale Lucas is a research assistant professor at USC in the Viterbi School of Engineering and works at the USC Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT). She obtained her B.A. from Willamette University in 2005 and her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 2010. After teaching for a couple of years at small liberal arts colleges, she went back for a post-doc. Dr. Lucas completed her post-doc with Dr. Jon Gratch at ICT, and then has stayed on at ICT as a senior research associate. She works in the area of human-computer interaction and affective computing. Her research focuses on rapport, disclosure, persuasion, and negotiation with virtual agents and social robots.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Research Assistant Professors

Nanyun Peng**, Research Assistant Professor of Computer Science



Nanyun Peng is a Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science, and a Computer Scientist at the USC Information Sciences Institute (ISI). She is broadly interested in Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, and Information Extraction. Her research focuses on low-resource information extraction, creative language generation, and phonology/morphology modeling. Dr. Peng received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, where she received the Fred Jelinek Fellowship. She has a background in computational linguistics and economics and holds B.A.s in both.

Jay Pujara**, Research Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Jay Pujara is a Research Assistant Professor at USC and a research scientist at the USC Information Sciences Institute (ISI) whose principal areas of research are machine learning, artificial intelligence, and data science. He completed a postdoc at UC Santa Cruz, earned his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland, College Park and received his M.S. and B.S. at Carnegie Mellon University. Prior to his Ph.D., Dr. Pujara spent six years at Yahoo! working on mail spam detection, user trust, and contextual mail experiences, and he has also worked at Google, LinkedIn, and Oracle. He is the author of over thirty peer-reviewed publications and has received three best paper awards for his work. He is a recognized authority on knowledge graphs, and has organized the Automatic Knowledge Base Construction (AKBC) and Statistical Relational AI (StaRAI) workshops, has presented tutorials on knowledge graph construction at AAAI and WSDM, and has had his work featured in AI Magazine. For more information, visit https://www.jaypujara.org

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Research Assistant Professors

Srivatsan Ravi**, Research Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Srivatsan Ravi is a Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science and computer scientist at the USC Information Sciences Institute (ISI). His research interests are centered around the theory and practice of distributed computing. Specifically, he works on algorithms and lower bounds for fault-tolerant distributed systems. His research is motivated by emerging new hardware trends that require a new abstract computation model or via introduction of distributed computing techniques to domains where the sequential implementation continues to be state-of-the-art. Dr. Ravi received his Ph.D. degree from Technical University of Berlin in Germany, where he received the Marie Curie Ph.D. Fellowship and was a member of Deutsche-Telekom Labs, Berlin. His Masters degree is from Cornell University and his Bachelors degree is from Anna University, India.

T. K. Satish Kumar**, Research Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Satish Kumar Thittamaranahalli (T. K. Satish Kumar) leads the Collaboratory for Algorithmic Techniques and Artificial Intelligence at the USC Information Sciences Institute (ISI). He has published extensively on numerous topics in Artificial Intelligence spanning such diverse areas as Constraint Reasoning, Planning and Scheduling, Probabilistic Reasoning, Robotics, Combinatorial Optimization, Approximation and Randomization, Heuristic Search, Model-Based Reasoning, Knowledge Representation and Spatio-Temporal Reasoning. He has served on the Program Committees of many international conferences in Artificial Intelligence and is a winner of the 2016 Best Robotics Paper Award and the 2005 Best Student Paper Award from the International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling. Dr. Kumar received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stanford University in March 2005. In the past, he has also been a Visiting Student at the NASA Ames Research Center, a Postdoctoral Research Scholar at UC Berkeley, a Research Scientist at the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of West Florida, and a Senior Research and Development Scientist at Mission Critical Technologies.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios

Research Assistant Professors

Lionel Vincent , Research Assistant Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering**

Lionel Vincent is a Research Assistant Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at USC. His research interests span from the dynamics of passive flyers to liquid fragmentation and bacterial rheotaxis. He most recently was a post-doctoral scholar in Professor Eva Kanso's biodynamics lab. Dr. Vincent received his Ph.D. in Physics of Fluids and Fluid Mechanics from IRPHE laboratory at Aix-Marseilles University, M.S. from Universite Joseph Fourier, and M.Eng. and B.S. from Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble.