Dale Barr  
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Ph.D., 1999, The University of Chicago  

Professor Barr comes to UCR following a postdoctoral position as a Beckman fellow at the Beckman Institute in Urbana, Illinois. His research investigates how people coordinate understanding in conversation, and focuses on the primary areas of eyetracking, face-to-face conversational interaction and multimodal-communication, and how members of a language community establish conventions of language use. Using techniques of multi-agent computer simulation, he is able to investigate large-scale processes of language. His research suggests that coordination in language communities does not require high-level strategic reasoning by agents, but emerges as a by-product of processes of dyadic coordination.

Mariam Beevi  
Acting Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages  
Ph.D. expected 2002, University of California, Irvine  

Professor Beevi specializes in Southeast Asian literature and visuality, diasporic expressive cultures, gender, and community. Her dissertation, “Surfin’ Vietnam: Trauma, Historical Memory, and Cultural Politics in 20th Century Literature and Film,” will complete her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UC Irvine with emphases in Women’s Studies and Asian American Studies. The work analyzes cultural production and community politics in three national contexts: Vietnam, France, and the United States.

Peter Burke  
Professor of Sociology  
Ph.D., 1965, Yale University  

Professor Burke joins UCR from Washington State University, where he has been professor of sociology and research scientist since 1988. He is one of the originators of Identity Theory, one of the fundamental areas in social psychology. His research draws on Complexity Theory, artificial intelligence, and computer simulation to understand how individuals, acting as agents with particular identities, come together in interaction to create larger aggregates, groups, organizations and societies, and how these social structures constrain and limit the kinds of actions that individuals can take.
Derek Burrill
Assistant Professor of Dance
Ph.D., 2001, University of California, Davis

Professor Burrill’s expertise and research includes digital media and video games, particularly in relation to theories of the body and masculinity. His dissertation focused on digital culture – the cultural matrix surrounded by and subsumed by digital technologies – and how live performance practices, video games, and masculinity coalesce to produce a new technological subjectivity for the 21st century. Secondary areas of research include cinema, televisual studies, and communications theory, as well as informatics and digital media production.

Anil Deolalikar
Professor of Economics
Ph.D., 1981, Stanford University

Professor Deolalikar joins UCR from the University of Washington, where he was director of the South Asia Center and an affiliate of several research centers, including the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Research Center for International Economics, and the Center for Research on the Family. He is established as an outstanding researcher in the economics of household behavior and decision making with respect to health, nutrition, education and poverty outcomes. This year he is on leave from UCR to serve as the lead human development economist for the South Asia Region of the World Bank. He will return to Riverside in Fall 2003.

Manali Desai
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Ph.D., 1999, University of California, Los Angeles

Professor Desai specializes in social movements, comparative-historical sociology, global studies, and development. Her work addresses the effects of political struggles on poverty and inequality, the dilemmas of democracy and citizenship in post-colonial societies, and the politics of globalization. Her dissertation focused on a comparative analysis of the social policy successes of the state of Kerala, India, in which she examined the causes and consequences of left party-led political mobilization. She is also interested in issues of gender and globalization, political violence, and the rise of the religious right. Her work has been published in the leading sociology journals, and she is presently completing a book manuscript based on her dissertation, under contract with Stanford University Press.

Michael A. Erickson
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Ph.D., 1999, Indiana University

Professor Erickson joins UCR from Carnegie Mellon University where he was an NIMH postdoctoral fellow. His research explores how people classify and identify objects in the world around them. His work centers around two issues – categorization and category learning and statistical and quantitative modeling of behavioral data. He investigates category learning using normal human subjects and quantitative models, and also integrates neuropsychological and cognitive neuroscience methodologies into his research to provide converging evidence for a theory of category learning he has developed. He is also interested in how these theories and methodologies can be applied to the understanding of the role of cognition in psychopathology and in aging.

Michael Feener
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
Ph.D., 1999, Boston University

Professor Feener comes to UCR from the Reed College in Portland, Oregon where he taught religion and humanities. His research covers aspects of Southeast Asian Islam from the early modern to contemporary periods, focusing on issues related to the impact of various epistemological shifts of modernization on the development of Muslim thought and culture. His published articles cover a broad range of materials from Sufi hagiography to jurisprudence; however, they all share a central concern with the impact of Western academic scholarship on the internal development of religious traditions. He is currently working on a monograph tracing the development of Muslim legal thought in twentieth century Indonesia, as well as a study of Arabic biographical texts as sources for the history of Islam in Southeast Asia.
Tracy Fisher  
Assistant Professor of Women's Studies  
Ph.D., 2001, City University of New York

Professor Fisher is a cultural anthropologist with an interdisciplinary background in political science and African American studies. Her teaching and research focus on issues of gender, race, nationalism and citizenship, and community organizing. Her dissertation, “Shifting Ideologies, Social Transformations: Black Women's Grass-Roots Organization, Thatcherism, and the Flattening of the Left in London,” examines the political transformations of black women’s grassroots organizations that occurred alongside shifts in Britain’s political economy. Her research, both historical and ethnographic, analyzes the relationship between larger political-economic processes and local organizational strategies. A central concern of her work is how gender and racialization processes are situated within a field of changing economic and political processes and structures.

Martin Johnson  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Ph.D., 2002, Rice University

Professor Johnson’s research and teaching interests include American political behavior, public opinion, social influence, public policy, and race and ethnicity. His work incorporates public opinion surveys, archival election data, and behavioral experiments. His research on public opinion in the American states has been recognized by the National Opinion Research Center and the State Politics and Policy section of the American Political Science Association. His research has appeared in the American Journal of Political Science, Electoral Studies, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Political Analysis, and State Politics and Policy Quarterly.

Anthea Kraut  
Assistant Professor of Dance  
Ph.D., 2002, Northwestern University

Professor Kraut’s research involves the interconnections between American performance and cultural history and the raced and gendered dancing body. Her current book-length project, “Re-framing the Vernacular: The Dance Praxis of Zora Neale Hurston,” recovers the history of Hurston’s stagings of black diasporic folk dance, and uses those stagings to reconsider the relationship between Hurston and the vernacular while re-examining the place of the black vernacular within the American dance landscape in the 1930s. Her next project will situate Hurston’s choreographic work in relation to that of two of her contemporaries, Josephine Baker and Katherine Dunham.

Timothy Labor  
Assistant Professor of Music  
Ph.D., 1995, University of California, San Diego

Professor Labor’s research specializes in music technology, music for media, and theatrical sound design. He has taught at the University of California, San Diego, and Chapman College. His research interests include the development of surround music sequencing tools, the exploration of the uses of sound in interactive narrative, and original music composition and sound design, including theatre and film. He is currently interested in developing musical applications of formal techniques of narrative construction, which make use of types of (musical) symbolism, which can be uniquely enhanced through computer audio technologies (such as sound editing, processing, and spatialization). He is also co-authoring a book on sound design aesthetics for film and video, which emphasizes the holistic role of sound in narrative film-making.

Bronwyn Leebaw  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Ph.D., 2002, UC Berkeley

Professor Leebaw’s main areas of study are international politics and political theory. Her research examines the theory and politics of “transitional justice” institutions that address human rights abuses committed under a prior regime as part of a process of democratic change. Her work has focused specifically on truth commissions and international criminal tribunals. Her current research interests also include the relationship between human rights and humanitarianism, and education reform in war-torn countries. Prior to her arrival at UC Riverside, she spent two years working at the UC Berkeley Human Rights Center and conducted field research in South Africa and Bosnia-Herzegovina.
Robin Russin  
Assistant Professor of Theatre  
MFA, 1991, University of California, Los Angeles

Professor Russin is an accomplished screenwriter who has written for film, television, and theater. He has five films produced: Code 99, which is currently in pre-production, Shark in a Bottle, On Deadly Ground, Other People's Secrets, and Abracadaabra. His extensive television credits include “The Prosecutors” for Discovery, “Vital Signs” for ABC, and “America’s Most Wanted” and “Alcatraz: The Escape” for Fox. In addition to his creative work, he has co-written a screenwriting text entitled Screenplay: Writing the Picture. Professor Russin has twice received the Jack Nicholson prize for excellence in screenwriting.

Priya Srinivasan  
Acting Assistant Professor of Dance  
Ph.D. expected, 2003, Northwestern University

Professor Srinivasan’s work explores the inter-relations between gender, immigration, and performance in the United States and various Asian diaspora. Ranging from the intertwining histories of American modern dance and Bharata Natyam, an Indian classical dance form, she also explores the influence of Asian films on Asian American youth performance practices. She has been working as an experimental dance/theatre choreographer in Chicago and has extensive training as a professional dancer in Australia.

Jan Stets  
Professor of Sociology  
Ph.D., 1987, Indiana University

Professor Stets’ research focuses on using and extending Identity Theory in sociological social psychology with applications to social psychological, gender, and family processes. She is currently using new developments in Identity Theory to study people’s emotional reactions to injustice in a series of experiments funded by the National Science Foundation. Professor Stets joins UCR from Washington State University, where she has been on the faculty of the Sociology Department since 1988.

James Tobias  
Assistant Professor of English  
Ph.D., 2001, University of Southern California

Professor Tobias’ research interests include several areas crucial to the study of digital media and contemporary culture. He analyzes the audio, visual, and gestural dimensions of time-based media works in terms of the most appropriate cultural and critical contexts. He is particularly interested in methodologies and frameworks for the analysis of comparative media, especially in such terms as might contribute to the understanding of interactive networked forms of globalizing digital media. His research, conference presentations, work as interaction designer and installation artist, and scholarly publications have emphasized identity construction at the interface of human and computer, the public and private, the local and the networked.

Amir Zaki  
Assistant Professor of Art  
MFA, 1999, University of California, Los Angeles

Professor Zaki’s work utilizes many different media including photography, video, and digital presentations with a specialization and emphasis in the intersection of digital and analog photography. His work is exhibited across the country and has become part of major museum permanent collections including the Orange County Museum of Art, the New York New Museum of Contemporary Art, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, as well as several corporate collections. In conjunction with two upcoming exhibitions in Los Angeles and Seattle, he is currently publishing a book consisting of images of suburban, domestic structures that, through intensive digital reworking, start to resemble mausoleums rather than people’s homes. His specialization also entails expertise in technical aspects of large format drum scanning, digital archival pigment printing, and color management theory.