Approved by the Board of Trustees

March 30, 2023

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Board Meeting

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## APPOINT ASSOCIATES TO THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY,

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024, URBANA

**Action:** Appoint Associates to the Center for Advanced Study, Academic Year 2023-2024

**Funding:** State Appropriated Funds

Each year, the Center for Advanced Study awards appointments as Associates in the Center, providing one semester of release time for creative work. Associates are selected in an annual competition from the tenured faculty of all departments and colleges to carry out self-initiated programs of scholarly research or professional activity.

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois System, recommends the following list of Associates selected for the 2023-2024 academic year and offers brief descriptions of their projects:

**John Barnard, Associate Professor, Comparative Literature,** *The Edible and the Endangered: Food, Empire, Extinction*

This book is a work of environmental cultural studies that explores the concomitant rise of industrial meat culture and U.S. empire in order to draw out their ecological implications for our present moment. Through a survey of literary and other representations of hunting, fishing, ranching, and ultimately mass production, along with the forms of domestic consumption they enable, the book shows how animal foods ranging from the Thanksgiving turkey to the fast-food burger have come to be viewed as essential to both material existence and national identity in the United States, even as they have contributed significantly to a planetary ecological emergency.

**Yuguo Chen, Professor, Statistics,** *Scalable Algorithms for Statistical Inference on Large Network Data*

The goal of this project is to develop a new set of methods that will enable statistically rigorous inference on large-scale networks. The project is strongly motivated from real-world applications, and the tools developed will be useful for a variety of disciplines, such as epidemiology, social science, and digital health.

**Kathryn Clancy, Professor, Anthropology,** *This Is How a Pregnancy Ends*

This book will be on the history and science of how pregnancies end; from miscarriage to stillbirth to abortion. It will be for a broad audience, in the spirit of offering truthful information on the physiology of pregnancy loss.

**Peter Fritzsche, Professor, History,** *A Global History of the Year 1942*

This book project explores World War II as a planetary event in which the vast majority of victims were non-combatant civilians. It examines the unsettlement of mobilization (the Road) and the inadequacy of conventional narratives (the Story) across military battlefields and civilian communities throughout the world at the precise moment when the war became global.

**Marius Junge, Professor, Mathematics,** *From Quantum Dynamics to Quantum Computation*

Quantum devices have advanced considerably in the last 15 years. This work will illuminate the theoretical and feasible aspects of specific tasks using quantum devices.

**Brett Kaplan, Professor, Comparative Literature,** *Vandervelde Downs*

This book project is a literary novel in which Vietnamese refugees fleeing to England in the 1970s cross paths with Kindertransport survivors and Nazi-sympathizing art thieves. The novel volutes through a braided multivocal structure that explores what happens when diverse strands of refugeeism and migration interfuse with looted art.

**Soo Ah Kwon, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies,** *Working the System: Youth Activism inside the United Nations*

This project shows how the activism of young people and their advocates representing youth-led and focused nongovernmental organizations and United Nations (UN) staff are simultaneously co-shaping and challenging international policies around sustainable development and peace and security. This study draws on a decade of ethnographic research (2011-2021) that involved embedded participant observation of two civil society groups and their engagement to influence the adoption of two landmark UN resolutions in 2015: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, created with the input of non-state actors and agreed upon by member states to guide their actions for the next fifteen years, and the first-ever UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security that recognized youth contributions to peacebuilding.

**David Molitor, Associate Professor, Finance,** *Improving Health and Resilience to Wildfire Risks among Vulnerable Groups*

Wildfires have become more frequent and severe in recent years, placing populations across the United States at increasing risk of a direct impact from fire or exposure to toxic smoke plumes that can drift for thousands of miles. Using big data on

health outcomes and wildfires, Professor Molitor will assess how wildfires impact human health and well-being and how policy, regulation, and innovation can improve health and resilience to their risks, especially among vulnerable groups.

**Ned O'Gorman, Professor, Communication,** *Liberty’s Empire: Liberal Lineages of the National Security State*

This project examines the intellectual and rhetorical origins of the U.S. National Security State in nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century liberalism. As such, it addresses how a liberal democratic society paradoxically came to create a massive national security apparatus shrouded in secrecy, operating with relative unaccountability, and centered in forms of executive authority that are inimical to democratic governance.

**Lindsay Russell, Associate Professor, English,** *Sex and Lex*

This project tours English’s lexicons of sex and sexuality, and analyzes how mainstream dictionaries of the past and present have, and have not, treated such terms, often pitting publishing interests against editorial commitments. Taken together, the profusion of sexy lexicons and the problematics of sex in staid ones reveal taboo terminology as crucial to the invention and popularity of the dictionary, but also threatening to its methodological foundations and commercial viability.

**Jodi Schneider, Associate Professor, Library and Information Sciences,** *An Information Quality Framework to Maintain and Synthesize Knowledge for Decision-Making and Public Policy*

Practical understanding of the best available science must integrate knowledge of varied types. This project will result in an information quality framework describing the different quality signals that must be considered across different types of   
contributions, such as personal stories, news reports, and peer-reviewed science publications, in order to maintain and synthesize knowledge for decision-making and public policy.

**David Wright, Professor, English,** *Mixeded, a Memoir*

For Professor Wright, the American story is about “mixedness”, about the ways in which people of various backgrounds and beliefs have come together, oftentimes despite themselves, to make up our racial stew. Through an exploration of his complicated family story, his memoir *Mixeded* will investigate placelessness and belonging, and the communities that the dispossessed create.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs.

The President of the University of Illinois System recommends approval.