



New Faculty Orientation

Welcome and Overview

Timothy M. Pinkston

Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs

213-740-2671

tpink@usc.edu

August 2019

New and Recent Faculty Hires



Assistant Professors

- Andrés Gómez, ISE**
- Chia Wei (Wade) Hsu, ECE**
- Maral Mousavi, BME**
- Quan Nguyen, AME**
- Paul Plucinsky, AME***
- Feifei Qian, ECE***
- Mukund Raghothaman, CS**
- Jennifer Treweek, BME*
- Hangbo Zhao, AME***

Associate Professor

- Mercedeh Khajavikhan, ECE-EP**

Professor

- Carlos Pantano-Rubino, AME*

* *Joined in Spring 2019*

** *Joins in Fall 2019*

*** *Joins in Spring 2020*

Lecturers

- Yalda Khashe, ISE*
- Akshay Potnuru, AME*
- Reza (Mohammad) Rajati, CS**

Senior Lecturer

- George Tolomiczenko, BME**

Associate Professors of Practice

- Wei-Min Shen, CS**
- Allan Weber, ECE**

Research Assistant Professors

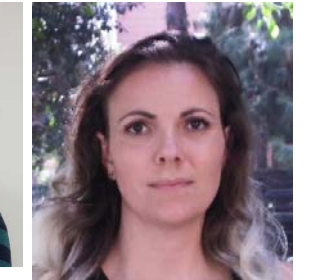
- Mayank Kejriwal, ISE*
- Fred Morstatter, CS**
- Mohammad Soleymani, CS*

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hires



Assistant Professors

- Andrés Gómez, ISE**
- Chia Wei (Wade) Hsu, ECE**
- Maral Mousavi, BME**
- Quan Nguyen, AME**
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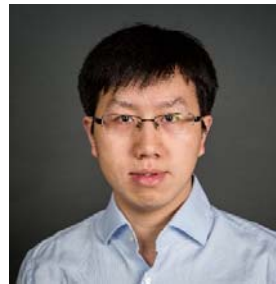


Associate Professor

- Mercedeh Khajavikhan, ECE-EP**

Professor

- Carlos Pantano-Rubino, AME*



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New and Recent RTPC Faculty Hires



Lecturers

- Yalda Khashe, ISE*
- Akshay Potnuru, AME*
- Mohammad Reza Rajati, CS**



Senior Lecturer

- George Tolomiczenko, BME**



Associate Professors of Practice

- Wei-Min Shen, CS**
- Allan Weber, ECE**

Research Assistant Professors

- Mayank Kejriwal, ISE*
- Fred Morstatter, CS**
- Mohammad Soleymani, CS*



USC at a Glance*



USC Academic Units

- USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences; 22 schools

USC Faculty (6,430 total)

- Approximately 4,451 full-time faculty: 1,494 T/TT faculty and 2,881 Research, Teaching, Practice and Clinical faculty; approximately 1,979 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 (47,500 total)

- Approximately 20,000 undergrads; 27,500 grad & professional students
- Degrees awarded June 2018: 5,218 Bachelor's; 10,164 advanced
- More than 375,000 living alumni

Annual Research Expenditures (FY'17-18) 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, ECE (Hsieh), ISE (Epstein)
- Academic Program Units (non-degree granting): EWP, ITP

Viterbi Faculty

- Nearly 310 full-time faculty: ~188 T/TT; ~116 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 8,600 total: ~2,700 undergrad; ~5,900 grad students
- Over 77,000 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

Viterbi Academic Programs*



Academic Programs

- 15 BS programs
- 17 active minors
 - 60 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/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 (Recruitment of Engineering Achievers) PhD Preview
<http://gapp.usc.edu/REACH>
- Conversion Visitation Days each Spring (coordinated by departments)

Agenda



8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Refreshments	
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Opening and Introductions	Timothy Pinkston Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs
8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	School Administration	Linda Rock Vice Dean for Administration
9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Student Affairs	Kelly Goulis Senior Associate Dean, Graduate and Professional Programs Matthew O’Pray Associate Dean for Admissions
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Diversity and Strategic Initiatives	Brandi Jones Vice Dean for Diversity and Strategic Initiatives
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Academic Programs	Erik Johnson Vice Dean for Academic Programs
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks	Yannis C. Yortsos Dean
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Global Initiatives	Raghu Raghavendra Vice Dean for Global Academic Initiatives
11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure	Michael Kassner 2018-2019 APT Chair
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Group Photo	
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Break/Lunch Service	

Agenda



12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	
	Faculty Affairs (12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.)	Timothy Pinkston Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs
	Mentoring Ph.D. Students (12:30 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 Kelly Wynn Program Specialist, Faculty Awards
	Viterbi Advancement (1:10 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.)	Mary Ann Schwartz Senior Associate Dean for Advancement
	Corporate and Foundation Relations (1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.)	Todd Logan Executive Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations Jennifer Lidar Associate Director, Foundation Relations
	Viterbi K-12 STEM Center (1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.)	Katie Mills Director, VAST Darin Gray Director, STEM Educational Outreach Programs
1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Break	

Agenda



<i>[2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Concurrent Mentoring Workshop for Teaching Faculty (OHE 132)]</i>		
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Ellis Meng Vice Dean for Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	USC's High Performance Computing (HPC)	Erin Shaw ACI Research and Education Facilitator
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 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
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Federal Funding Update Open Q&A	Steven O. Moldin Executive Director, Research Advancement Maja Mataric Vice Dean for Research

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios



Assistant Professors

Andrés Gómez**, Assistant Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering



Andrés Gómez received his B.S. in Mathematics and B.S. in Computer Science from the Universidad de los Andes (Colombia) in 2011 and 2012, respectively. He then obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from the University of California, Berkeley in 2014 and 2017, respectively. From 2017 to 2019, Dr. Gómez worked as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses on developing new theory and tools for challenging optimization problems arising in finance, machine learning and statistics.

Chia Wei (Wade) Hsu**, Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering-Electrophysics



Wade Hsu received his Ph.D. in Physics from Harvard University in 2015 and then held a postdoc position in Applied Physics at Yale University. He works on photonics in complex systems, such as novel ways to trap light at the nano/micro scale, light propagation in disordered media with applications for imaging, and fast solvers for computational electromagnetics.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios



Assistant Professors

Maral Mousavi**, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering



Maral Mousavi joined the Department of Biomedical Engineering at USC in 2019 as an assistant professor. Her research focuses on developing engineered tools for improving healthcare and patient outcomes. She is motivated to develop affordable point-of-care diagnostics to make healthcare accessible to all, and to develop new bioanalytical tools to help unravel the pathophysiology of diseases. Most recently, she was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University and Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering. She received her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota (2016). Her awards include the University of Minnesota Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship and Graham N. Gleysteen Fellowship for academic excellence, and two Graduate Student Research Awards from Eastern Analytical Symposium, and Society for Electroanalytical Chemistry. She was also the recipient of the runner-up 2018 Young Chemist Award by Metrohm Inc., in recognition of her invention of multiplexed thread-based point-of-care ion sensors.

Quan Nguyen**, Assistant Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering



Quan Nguyen is an Assistant Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Southern California. Prior to joining USC, he was a Postdoctoral Associate in the Biomimetic Robotics Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He received his Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in 2017 with the Best Dissertation Award. His research interests span different control and optimization approaches for highly dynamic robotics including nonlinear control, trajectory optimization, real-time optimization-based control, robust and adaptive control. His work on the bipedal robot ATRIAS walking on stepping stones was featured on the IEEE Spectrum, TechCrunch, TechXplore and Digital Trends. His work on the MIT Cheetah 3 robot leaping on a desk was featured widely in many major media channels, including CNN, BBC, NBC, ABC, etc. Nguyen won the Best Presentation of the Session at the 2016 American Control Conference (ACC) and the Best System Paper Finalist at the 2017 Robotics: Science & Systems conference (RSS).

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios



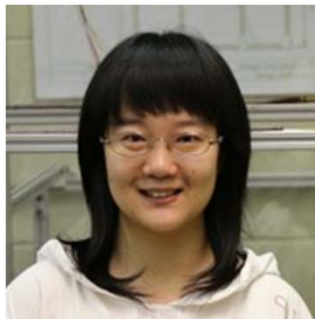
Assistant Professors

Paul Plucinsky^{***}, Assistant Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering



Paul Plucinsky joins the faculty in the USC Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering as an Assistant Professor in January of 2020. Prior to USC, Paul was a Postdoctoral Scholar in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics at the University of Minnesota. He received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Caltech in 2017. During his graduate studies, Paul was a NASA Space Technology Research Fellow and was awarded the Centennial Prize for Best Thesis in Mechanical and Civil Engineering. Prior to joining Caltech, Paul attended the University of Michigan, where he graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and M.S. in Structural engineering (both in 2011). His research interests lie at the interface of solid mechanics, materials science and mathematics. Broadly, Paul would like to develop theories that capture the interplay between geometry and complex (active and architected) material behavior, and use these theories to make predictions relevant to the design of new materials, structures and devices.

Feifei Qian^{***}, WiSE Gabilan Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering



Feifei Qian will join the USC Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering as an Assistant Professor in January 2020. She received her Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and M.S. in Physics from Georgia Institute of Technology, in 2015 and 2011, respectively. Prior to her appointment at USC, she worked in the GRASP lab at University of Pennsylvania as a postdoctoral fellow. Her expertise is in analyzing and modeling the complex interactions between robots and environments, and developing innovative control and sensing strategies to improve robot mobility on challenging terrains. In current research she is developing robots that can exploit obstacle disturbances to navigate cluttered environment, and robots that can use their leg as soil strength sensors to generate erodibility map in desert environments. Qian's work has been covered by BBC News and R&D Magazine, and was awarded the best student paper in top robotics conference (Robotics: Science & Systems 2012).

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios



Assistant Professors

Mukund Raghothaman**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science



Mukund Raghothaman works at the intersection of programming languages, software engineering, and automated reasoning. He draws on techniques from machine learning and formal verification, and builds systems that help programmers reason about the code they write, discover bugs and correctness proofs, and even synthesize programs with the desired functionality. He joins USC from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a postdoctoral researcher and from where he received a Ph.D. in 2017. His research has been recognized with a Distinguished Paper Award at the ACM Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation.

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



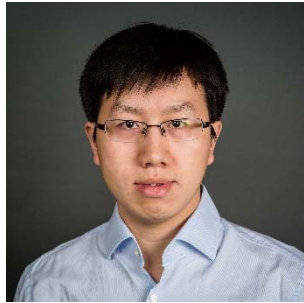
Jennifer Treweek holds a B.S. in Chemistry and Economics from Caltech, and she completed her Ph.D. in Chemistry at The Scripps Research Institute (2011), where she was advised by Dr. Kim Janda. Major thesis projects included the design of immunotherapies to combat drug abuse and the in vivo validation 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. Dr. Treweek joined the Department of Biomedical Engineering at USC as a WiSE Gabilan Assistant Professor in January 2019. Her laboratory is developing 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



Assistant Professors

Hangbo Zhao^{***}, Assistant Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering



Hangbo Zhao will join the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at USC as an assistant professor in Spring 2020. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at MIT in 2017 and 2014, respectively. He received his bachelor's degree in precision instruments at Tsinghua University in China in 2011. Since 2017 he has been a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Bio-Integrated Electronics at Northwestern University. Dr. Zhao's research interests are at the intersection of advanced manufacturing, functional materials, and bio-inspired engineering. His awards include the Materials Research Society Best Poster Award.

New and Recent T/TT Faculty Hire Bios



Associate Professor

Mercedeh Khajavikhan**, IBM Early Career Chair Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering-Electrophysics



Mercedeh Khajavikhan will join USC in Fall 2019 as IBM Early Career Chair and Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering-Electrophysics. Previously, she was 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



Professor

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



Carlos Pantano-Rubino joined USC as Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering in Spring 2019. Previously, he was professor 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'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. He currently serves in the editorial boards of Combustion Theory and Modeling, AIAA Journal, and the Journal of Fluid Mechanics.

New and Recent RTPC Faculty Hire Bios



Lecturers

Yalda Khashe*, Lecturer of Industrial and Systems Engineering



Dr. Yalda Khashe is a lecturer at the Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, where she also received her Ph.D. degree. She teaches courses in industrial and systems engineering, specializing in human factors, organizational structures, and project management. Her research is focused on human and organizational factors in high-risk complex technological systems. She also is a frequent lecturer at professional association conferences and is a contributing editor for a number of technical journals.

Akshay Potnuru*, Lecturer of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering



Akshay Potnuru earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas (2018), where he received a Jonsson School Graduate Scholarship and Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. His research was in the area of smart materials and structures. He joined USC as a Lecturer in January 2019.

New and Recent RTPC Faculty Hire Bios



Lecturers

Mohammad Reza Rajati**, Lecturer of Computer Science



Mohammad Reza Rajati earned his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from USC in 2015. He has taught courses in Electrical Engineering and the Informatics Program at USC. He joins USC in Fall 2019 as Lecturer of Computer Science.

New and Recent RTPC Faculty Hire Bios



Senior Lecturer

George Tolomiczenko**, Senior Lecturer of Biomedical Engineering



George Tolomiczenko is a clinician, researcher, teacher, and administrator. He created the Health, Technology and Engineering program at the University of Southern California (HTE@USC). He earned his B.S. from Caltech, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Boston University, M.P.H. from Harvard University, and M.B.A. from University of Toronto. He serves on the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Advisory Board and the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (INMD) Advisory Board. Since 2016, he has co-directed the Coulter Translational Research Partnership Program at USC. In 2018, he partnered with the Computer Science Department to create a MS degree in Healthcare Data Science. He teaches courses and seminars designed to form and train teams linking engineering and medicine to create innovative and licensed technology and start-up companies.

New and Recent RTPC Faculty Hire Bios



Associate Professors of Practice

Wei-Min Shen**, Associate Professor of Computer Science Practice



Dr. Wei-Min (Weimin) Shen received his Ph.D. under Nobel Laureate Professor Herbert A. Simon and co-advisor Professor Jaime Carbonell from Carnegie Mellon University in 1989. Dr. Shen has over 30 years of research experience and his current research interests include self-reconfigurable and metamorphic systems, autonomous robots, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Life Science. His honors include a Silver-Medal Award in 1996 AAI Robotics Competition, a World Championship Award in 1997 Middle-sized RoboCup Competition, a Meritorious Service Award at ISI in 1997, and a Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Recognition Award at USC in 2003. He authored *Autonomous Learning from Environment*, outlining how machines learn from their environment based on "surprises". He is the inventor of SuperBot, a co-inventor of CONRO, and the inventor of hormone-inspired distributed and decentralized control for self-reconfigurable systems (US Patent #006636781). His research has been supported by NSF, AFOSR, DARPA, ARO, and NASA. He is the conference program chair for the 7th International Conference on Autonomous Intelligent Systems, and has served on the program committee for AAI, AAMAS, KDD, ICRA, IROS, and other international technical conferences.

Allan Weber**, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Practice



Allan Weber has taught at USC since 1994. He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from USC in 1975, 1979, and 1987, respectively. He is the inaugural director of the Baum Family Maker Space at USC Viterbi.

New and Recent RTPC Faculty Hire Bios



Research Assistant Professors

Mayank Kejriwal*, Research Assistant Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering



Dr. Mayank Kejriwal is a research assistant professor at the Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and a research lead at the Information Sciences Institute (ISI) at USC. He joined ISI in June 2016 after receiving his Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Texas at Austin. His research interests lie in Artificial Intelligence, Semantic Web and Knowledge Graphs. His work has been applied to social impact problems such as fighting human trafficking. Dr. Kejriwal's Ph.D. dissertation was awarded an international best dissertation award by the Semantic Web Science Association, and in 2019 he was shortlisted for the Forbes 30 under 30 in the Science category. He is currently serving as Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI on three DARPA projects.

Fred Morstatter**, Research Assistant Professor of Computer Science



Dr. Fred Morstatter is a Computer Scientist at the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute and a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California. His research focuses on understanding biases that occur in online social data. He has been a key contributor to the Synergistic Anticipation of Geopolitical Events (SAGE) project under IARPA's Hybrid Forecasting Competition. This project combines human judgment with machine forecasts of geopolitical events in the form of a web platform that serves as a vehicle for research in social media mining. Specifically, he is interested in biases that can skew research results from big social data. He is also interested in characterizing the biases of cultural groups based upon the trace data they create on social media. He has published in JMLR, WWW, KDD, and ICWSM, among others. He served as a Program Committee Chair for ICWSM 2019.

New and Recent RTPC Faculty Hire Bios



Research Assistant Professors

Mohammad Soleymani*, Research Assistant Professor of Computer Science



Mohammad Soleymani is a research assistant professor with the USC Institute for Creative Technologies. He received his Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Geneva in November 2011. From 2012 to 2014, he was a Marie Curie fellow at Imperial College London. Prior to joining ICT, he was a research scientist at the Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva. His main line of research involves developing automatic emotion recognition and behavior understanding methods using physiological signals and facial expressions. He is a recipient of the Swiss National Science Foundation Ambizione grant and the EU Marie Curie fellowship. He has served on multiple conference organization committees and editorial roles, most notably as associate editor for the IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing and technical program chair for ACM ICMI 2018 and ACII 2017. He is one of the founding organizers of the MediaEval multimedia retrieval benchmarking campaign and the president elect for the Association for the Advancement of Affective Computing (AAAC).