

# New CLAS Faculty TT and AFF Biographies

## **Annie Whitlock, Assistant Professor**

*History/SST (PCKET)*

B.S., Elementary Education, Central Michigan University  
M. A., Reading Specialist, Grand Valley State University  
Ph.D., Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education, Michigan State University

Annie Whitlock is former middle school social studies teacher and curriculum specialist who teaches elementary and secondary social studies teaching methods courses. Her research is centered on teaching elementary social studies through civic engagement, place-based inquiry, and curriculum integration. Her scholarship has been published in *Social Studies and the Young Learner*, *Journal of Social Studies Research*, and *The Social Studies*, among others. Annie is the editor of the peer-reviewed *Great Lakes Social Studies Journal*, a Michigan Council for the Social Studies publication, and is a past member of their Board of Directors and the National Council for the Social Studies Board. She is a proud wife, auntie, daughter, sister, and mom to humans Maggie and McKenzie and to her dog Barkley.

## **Joel Potrykus, Assistant Professor**

*Visual and Media Arts*

B.S., Film & Video Production, Grand Valley State University  
M.F.A, Writing for Film & Television, Emerson College

Joel is an independent filmmaker, specializing in screenwriting and directing. His work normally focuses on Midwest slackers backed into a corner. His debut feature film won Best New Director at the Locarno Film Festival, while his follow-up feature film won the FIPRESI Prize at the Ljubljana International Film Festival and was invited to be part of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Science Permanent Collection. His work has screened at SXSW, the Lincoln Center for the Arts, the Egyptian Theatre in Los Angeles, and the Cinémathèque Française in Paris. Outside of GVSU, he works with Oscilloscope Laboratories, an NYC distribution company founded by Adam Yauch of the Beastie Boys.

## **Edgar L. Page, Assistant Professor**

*Music, Theatre, and Dance*

B.A., Dance, Western Michigan University

Edgar L. Page comes from legacies celebrating the African Diaspora and Black Modern Dance traditions. Originally from Detroit, MI he earned his BA in Dance from Western Michigan University as a Wade H. McCree, Jr. Incentive Scholar and Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity Scholar. Upon graduation, He spent a season with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Second Company before joining the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, touring domestically and internationally as a principal dancer. With a graceful prowess, he shifted focus towards curating work that nourishes communities by establishing *Edgar L. Page: Feel the Movement* in 2018, an intersectional, multigenerational arts initiative that centralizes storytelling through Africanist traditions. Career highlights include the 2021 Denver Mayor's Award for Excellence in Arts and

Culture for Innovation, the 2020 Dance/USA DILT cohort, and a feature in the 2021 YouTube Originals program, *“Black Renaissance: the Art and Soul of Our Stories.”*

**Joy Oslund, Assistant Professor**

*Department of Mathematics*

B.S., Elementary Education, Oakland University  
M.A., Education, Northern Michigan University  
Ph.D., Curriculum, Teaching, and Education Policy with a focus on Mathematics Teacher Education, Michigan State University

Joy is interested in the ways in which the learning of mathematics, pedagogy, and conceptions about doing and teaching mathematics are entangled in the social, historical, political, and cultural contexts in which they occur. She seeks to understand the knowledge and experiences that lead to teachers' varying understandings and dispositions toward mathematics, children's learning, and teaching practice. Her goal in all mathematics education courses is to help teachers identify the multiple, diverse abilities students bring to the elementary mathematics classroom, especially those abilities that have not traditionally been privileged in mathematics classrooms and build a repertoire of ways to build on students' strengths. She enjoys making pottery, swimming, and camping.

**Lisa Hawley, Assistant Professor**

*Department of Mathematics*

B.S., Elementary Education, Miami University  
MA.Ed., Michigan State University  
Ph.D., Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education, Michigan State University

As an elementary teacher, Lisa's favorite subjects to teach were mathematics, science, and literacy. Now, Lisa is interested in supporting elementary teachers to use more inquiry-based and conceptually oriented mathematics teaching practices by helping them draw on their teaching strengths in other subject areas to teach mathematics. Her current research focuses on the ways that prospective elementary teachers perceive similarities in teaching literacy and teaching mathematics, and the features of contexts that encourage this connection-making. In her free time, she enjoys making things and tends to rotate through many craft activities. Her current obsessions include sewing, knitting, and miniature painting.

**Padrick Ritch, Affiliate Professor**

*Visual and Media Arts*

M.F.A., Film Production, Boston University  
B.F.A., Digital Cinema, Northern Michigan University

Padrick Ritch is an award-winning independent filmmaker and a professor of film production who has taught at Boston University, Harvard University, DCE, and Curry College. He obtained his MFA in Film Production from Boston University in 2012. His work spans narrative-fiction, documentary, and experimental films. As a member of the AGX Film Collective based in Boston, MA, his work has screened at dozens of festivals, including the Ann Arbor Film Festival, Newport Beach Film Festival, The New Jersey International Film Festival, and many more.

**Pengtong Qu, Assistant Professor**

*Department of English*

B.A., Spanish Language and Literature, Sichuan International Studies University, China  
M.S.Ed., Literacy, Culture, and Language Education, Indiana University  
Ph.D., Literacy, Culture, and Language Education, Indiana University

Before coming to GVSU, Pengtong has taught pre-service teachers at Indiana University and Butler University. Her academic work focuses on biliteracy and translanguaging with an intersection of multicultural education and teacher education at the elementary level. Pengtong likes swimming, hiking, and learning to cook all types of cuisines.

**Sarah Williams, Assistant Professor**

*Pedagogical Content Knowledge for Elementary Teaching*  
*English Department*

B.A., Education and History, Lake Forest College  
M.Ed., Literacy, Language, and Culture, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Ed.D., Educational Leadership, Central Michigan University

Sarah has been a teacher in Chicago Public Schools, Acting Director of the Reading Clinic at the University of Illinois at Chicago, a reading interventionist, and COO and President of SchoolRise, a national educational consulting company. She has taught literacy courses at Ferris State University and Western Michigan University. Her research interests center on social justice, equity, and inclusion in education, as well as culturally responsive perspectives and practices in literacy and education research. Sarah identifies as a Third Culture Kid (TCK) having grown up in Guatemala. She has also lived in Australia, the Czech Republic, and all over the U.S. She enjoys playing games and going on walks with her husband, three sons, and dog. Her hobbies include baking, knitting, sewing, reading, gardening, and working out.

**Steven Dorland, Assistant Professor**

*Anthropology Department*

B.A. Sp., Archaeology, University of Toronto  
M.Sc., Anthropology, University of Toronto  
Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Toronto

Steven's research focuses on social learning and craft production of Indigenous peoples in the Great Lakes, past and present. He focuses primarily on pottery production through the study of early legacy collections and engaging in collaborations with Indigenous artists. Currently, he is in a partnership with Mississaugas of Credit First Nation, Mississauga Nation, University of Toronto Mississauga, and Dalhousie University to develop a community-based research program. Our goal for this project is to bring together traditional knowledge, archaeology, and youth involvement to learn about traditional learning practices and provide capacity building for youths to develop community-led heritage initiatives.

**C. Tyler Godines Camarillo, Assistant Professor**

*Political Science Department*

B.A., Political Science, University of Texas at San Antonio

M.A., Political Science, University of Oklahoma

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Oklahoma

Tyler's research and teaching areas include the politics of race and ethnicity, social movements, public policy, and research methods. His recently-completed dissertation is a comparative analysis of the factors influencing the form taken by the Chicano movements in Los Angeles and San Antonio. Some of his other research projects include a study of the impact of race on threat evaluations of Black Lives Matter protests; an examination of how direct democracy impacts public opinion of confederate monument removal; and a study, currently in the works, on how Latina/o activists use social media to influence policy narratives.

Aside from teaching and research, Tyler enjoys all things Star Wars, video gaming, reading sci-fi and horror novels, growing and listening to his vinyl collection, and going on adventures with his wife Krystal, daughter Luminara, and son Xzavier.