Moderator: Christian Matheis, Director, Office of Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives and Visiting Professor

Dr. Christian Matheis serves as a visiting assistant professor of Government and International Affairs in the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. He specializes in scholarship and practice that bridge social and political philosophy and public policy, with concentrations in migration, refugees, feminism, race, indigeneity, and global justice. His recent research focuses on philosophical conceptions of solidarity in liberatory movements, problems of recognition and identity politics in liberal models of social justice, moral criteria for regulating how state administrative agencies treat refugees, critiques of immigration and border policies, critiques of whiteness studies, and the aesthetics of race. Matheis received a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in 2015 and a Masters and Bachelors degree from Oregon State University.

C.L. Bohannon is an Assistant Professor and joined the faculty at Virginia Tech in 2014. He previously taught at Florida A&M University in the graduate landscape architecture program. His research focuses on the relationship between community engagement and design education, primarily through design for social and environmental justice. Through his research, Dr. Bohannon works in the landscape context of community history and identity, social/environmental (in)justice, and community learning. His research has led to contributions to the theorization and application of community engagement in design education. Bohannon received a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in 2014 a Masters in 2004 and Bachelors degree from University of Arkansas.

Gabriel Serna, Assistant Professor, Higher Education

Dr. Gabriel R. Serna joined the Higher Education program in 2015. Dr. Serna has nearly 15 years of experience in higher education including as director of programming at New Mexico State University, assistant director of admissions at the University of Kentucky, associate instructor at Indiana University Bloomington, and most recently as assistant professor in the Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership program at the University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Serna’s research interests lie in the areas of higher education economics, finance, and policy. Dr. Serna holds a Ph.D. in Education Policy from Indiana University Bloomington (2012); a Master of Public Policy from the Martin School of Public Policy & Administration at the University of Kentucky (2008); and a BBA in Economics as well as a BA in German from New Mexico State University (2006).

Kecia Smith, Assistant Professor- Accounting and Information Systems

Dr. Smith’s research interests include audit regulation, audit quality, audit market structure, and auditor judgment and decision-making. Her dissertation examines the readability and tone of the newly required expanded audit report in the United Kingdom. Her works in progress include a study on the determinants and audit quality consequences of small audit firm mergers and an experiment on auditors’ ability to correct for client preferences when auditing estimates. Smith received a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in 2016 and a bachelor’s degree from North Carolina A&T State University.