



2018-2019

# NEXT STEPS

Caltech's 125th annual commencement ceremony on June 14 marks the end of another school year. The Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences congratulates our students in the class of 2019 and our postdoctoral scholars as they embark on new and exciting opportunities around the world. Please join us in wishing them well in their next steps!



## NICHOLAS ADAMS-COHEN

*Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University*

Adams-Cohen receives his PhD this month after completing his dissertation, *New Perspectives in Political Communication*, with Michael Alvarez as his advisor. As a graduate student in HSS, he studied American political behavior, public opinion, and elections, and he was awarded a Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for the 2018-2019 academic year. He looks forward to starting his new position as a postdoctoral fellow at the Stanford University Immigration Policy Lab in the fall.

## BORIS BABIC

*Assistant Professor of Decision Sciences, INSEAD*

After two years as the Weisman Postdoctoral Instructor in Philosophy of Science, Babic will join the faculty at INSEAD graduate business school in Singapore this summer where he will continue his research on epistemic risk. He organized the June 2019 Decision, Games, and Logic Workshop with Christopher Hitchcock and Frederick Eberhardt to consider the ethical dimensions of artificial intelligence and machine learning.



## HAMED HAMZE BAJGIRAN

Hamze Bajgiran graduates this month after completing his dissertation, *Essays on Decision Theory*, with Federico Echenique and Kota Saito as his advisors. He is considering jobs in private industry. He was a 2016-2017 HSS Chair's Council Graduate Fellow, the 2017-2019 Repetto-Figueroa Fellow, and recipient of the 2017 John O. Ledyard Prize for best third-year paper in HSS.

## LEAH KLEMENT

*Education Specialist, UC San Diego*

Klement was the Anne Rothenberg Postdoctoral Instructor in the Humanities in our Caltech-Huntington Humanities Collaborations (CHHC) research program. She organized workshops for the 2016-2018 CHHC research module "Violence and Order Past and Present" and continued her investigation into medieval literature and the societal struggles of the Middle Ages, including studying historical manuscripts available at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Earlier this year, she accepted a staff position as an education specialist in faculty development at UC San Diego.





## CHUJUN LIN

*Postdoctoral Scholar in Psychology, Caltech*

Lin graduates this month after defending her thesis, *Understanding How People Make Trait Attributions from Faces*, with Michael Alvarez as her advisor. She will join the Adolphs lab this summer as a postdoctoral scholar in psychology to continue her research on face perception and stereotypes. Specifically, she'd like to uncover how increased depth of processing might modify trait attributions from faces and how trait attributions are represented in the brain.

## TEDDY MEKONNEN

*Assistant Professor of Economics, Brown University*

Mekonnen spent the last two years as a Linde Postdoctoral Fellow in the Social and Information Sciences Laboratory (SISL), which is part of The Ronald and Maxine Linde Institute of Economic and Management Sciences. He came to Caltech to work with our economic theorists and continue his research related to the design of incentives and mechanisms that help strategic individuals reach a mutually desirable outcome. While here, Mekonnen also expanded his research to explore theory related to search and matching scenarios. This fall, he will join the faculty at Brown University as an assistant professor of economics.



## SVEN NOLTE

*Assistant Professor, University of Münster*

As a postdoctoral scholar in finance and neuroscience in the Camerer lab, Nolte conducted research on decision-making involving retirement using a variety of lab methods, field data, and psychology. He is now an assistant professor at the University of Münster in Germany.

## HAO ZHAO

*Postdoctoral Fellow, Chapman University*

Zhao graduates this month after completing his dissertation, *Economics of Groundwater Resource Management*, with Jean-Laurent Rosenthal as his advisor. During his time at Caltech, he was awarded a 2018-2019 HSS Chair's Council Fellowship and a Resnick Fellowship (2016-2018) to continue his research analyzing underground water management rules across various basins in California. He will start his new position as a postdoctoral fellow at the Economic Science Institute at Chapman University in the fall.



## CLASS OF 2019

Among the seniors expected to graduate this month, 8% (21 out of 260) have completed an option (major) or minor in HSS. For two seniors, their first and only option was Business, Economics, and Management (BEM). Of the seniors graduating with a dual option (double major), 17 have HSS as one of their options: 12 in BEM, two in English, and three in History. In addition, three seniors completed minors in HSS, all in the humanities, including English and Philosophy.

These students, too, are taking impressive next steps, including:

- software engineers joining Snapchat, Virtualitics, and InterSystems
- an options trader at Akuna Capital
- a finance leadership trainee at Leprino Foods
- continuing at Caltech as a Schmidt Scholar in the new Schmidt Academy for Software, developing scientific software for research groups on campus
- pursuing advanced degrees, including a master's degree in statistics at Yale University, a PhD in physics with a "PhD minor" in economics at Stanford University, a PhD in electrical engineering at Stanford University, and a PhD in electrical and computer engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology