

Fall 2015 Faculty Bio

Katherine Hayles / Ph.D.



Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Program in Literature, Duke University

Dr. Hayles received her Ph.D in English Literature from University of Rochester in 1977. She is a Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Program in Literature at Duke University, and Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is currently teaching and writing on the relations of literature, science and technology in the 20th and 21st centuries. Her print book, *How We Think: Digital Media and Contemporary Technogenesis*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in spring 2012. Her other books include *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature and Informatics*, which won the Rene Wellek Prize for the Best Book in Literary Theory for 1998-99, and *Writing Machines*, which won the Suzanne Langer Award for Outstanding Scholarship.

Elise A. DeVido / Ph.D.

Independent Scholar

Dr. DeVido received her Ph.D. in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard University. She served as Executive Director of the Clarke Program in East Asian Law and Culture at Cornell Law School. Dr. DeVido has rich experience teaching and advising both undergraduate and graduate students in Asian Studies. She has taught courses in Asian history, world history and gender studies.

Frank Long/ Ph.D.



Professor of Management at Duke Kunshan University

Director and Distinguished Professor, Strategic Decision Research Institute, Wuhan University.

Professor Long received his Ph.D. in Economic Sociology and Strategic Management from Syracuse University. He has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses in China and the U.S. in international business, international marketing, international management, entrepreneurship, industrial sociology, and social science research methodology. His research interests include efficiency in China's state-owned enterprises, price theory, and China's economic transition and reform.

Rukmini Balu/ Ph.D.



*Director of Strategy and Partnership Development, Duke Medicine Global
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Duke Global Health Institute*

Dr. Balu received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her MBA from the Harvard Business School. She is the Director of Strategy and Partnership Development at Duke Medicine Global and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Duke Global Health Institute. Her interests include healthcare strategy, healthcare reform and reimbursement, and the health and economic implications of noncommunicable diseases, especially in emerging economies.

Jeff Moe/ Ph.D.



Senior Director, Business Management

Adjunct Associate Professor, Fuqua School of Business, Duke University

Dr. Moe received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1981. He is currently the Senior Director of Business Management and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. His research interests include seeking markets and economic incentives in the non-government, private sectors of the health care economy in order to find sustainable solutions to global health challenges, specifically with regard to tropical and infectious diseases that are ignored because poor patients living in poor countries cannot pay for innovative new treatments.

Abu Abdullah/ Ph.D.



Research Professor of Global Health, Duke Global Health Institute, Duke University

Professor of Global Health, Duke Kunshan University

Abu Abdullah, Ph.D is Research Professor of Global Health at Duke Global Health Institute at Duke University and Professor of Global Health at Duke Kunshan University. Professor Abdullah's current teaching and research is focused in the prevention and control of chronic diseases in low and middle income countries through programs that address heart disease, stroke, hypertension, and diabetes and common risk factors for these conditions such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, overweight/obesity, and mental illnesses. He also conducts research on HIV/AIDS epidemiology and Global Health. Professor Abdullah has considerable experience (as Principal Investigator or Co-investigator) in several epidemiological, behavioral and health services research projects in Asia and has worked in different areas including chronic disease prevention, infectious disease, travel medicine and health services and policy research in developing countries. Professor Abdullah has written few book chapters and has about 90 peer-reviewed publications covering several emerging aspects of public health. Professor Abdullah periodically provides consultancy services on health improvement, global health research, and public health policy initiatives to international organizations and governments agencies.

Thomas Mehen / Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Physics, Duke University

Dr. Mehen's research focuses on Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) and the application of effective field theory to problems in hadronic physics. Dr. Mehen has also worked on effective field theory for nonrelativistic particles whose short range interactions are characterized by a large scattering length. Some of Dr. Mehen's work is interdisciplinary. For example, techniques developed for nuclear physics have been used to calculate three-body corrections to the energy density of a Bose-Einstein condensate whose atoms have large scattering lengths. Dr. Mehen has also worked on novel field theories which arise from unusual limits of string theory. Examples include noncommutative field theories and theories of tachyonic modes on non-BPS branes.

Alba Amaya-Burns / Ph.D.

*Associate Professor of the practice of Global Health, Duke University
Associate Professor of Global Health, Duke Kunshan University*

Dr. Amaya Burns received her Masters in Clinical Tropical Medicine (MSc CTM) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London University and her Doctor of Medicine, MD at the University de El Salvador, San Salvador, El Salvador. Her recent research focuses on multidisciplinary interventions to reduce the burden of infectious diseases in the poorest populations in Central America.



Wenhong Li / Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Climate

Dr. Li received her Ph.D. from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2003. Her research interests focus primarily on climate dynamics, land-atmosphere interaction, hydroclimatology, and climate modeling. Her current research is to understand the hydrological cycle changes in the current and future climate and their impact on the ecosystems, subtropical high variability and change, unforced global temperature variability, and climate and health issues.



Don Snow / Ph.D.

Professor and Director of the Writing and Communications Center, Duke Kunshan University

Dr. Snow earned his M.A. in English/TESOL at the Michigan State University and a Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Cultures at Indiana University. He taught English at Najing University and was the Director of English Language Center at Shantou University before his DKU appointment. Dr. Snow's primary research interests focus on independent language learning, intercultural communication, language teaching diglossia and the historical development of written Chinese vernaculars.



Sara LeGrand / Ph.D.

Assistant Research Professor of Global Health, Duke University

Dr. LeGrand is an Assistant Research Professor at the Duke Global Health Institute and the Center for Health Policy and Inequalities Research with a doctoral degree in Health Services Research. The focus of her work is on reducing global health disparities by addressing determinants of health such as individual behavior, social and structural factors, and health policy. Over the last 10 years, she has conducted health disparities research in the US, Cambodia, Malawi, Bolivia, Peru, and India. Dr. LeGrand is particularly interested in the design and evaluation of technology-based HIV prevention and care interventions for highly marginalized populations.

Li Xu / M.A.

Lecturer in Chinese Language, Duke Kunshan University

Li Xu earned her B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature and M.A. in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language from Beijing Normal University. From 2007 to 2011, Li served as a Chinese lecturer at Princeton University. She was the Beijing Language Director before moving to her position as Shanghai Language Director at the Alliance of Global Education in Fall 2011. Li Xu has experience in clearly defining and maintaining superior language instruction and working closely with the student.





Fall 2015 Course Descriptions

Humanities

WRITING ACROSS CULTURES

"Writing Across Cultures" is an advanced course that will give students experience and training in English-language writing through theme-based seminars on a topic selected by the instructor, such as body and illness, local communities, art and dance, folktales and children's literature, history of science, photography, etc. Course components include cross-cultural inquiry within writing, as well as an emphasis on making texts public.

SCIENCE FICTION

This course examines texts that question "human nature" by imagining computational futures in which humans can upload their consciousness into computers, human memory is completely entwined with computer memory, simulacra of entire worlds are created in computers, and the natural environment is all but obscured by virtual reality overlays. How does ethnicity manifest when the entities depicted no longer have organic bodies? How do cultural factions form when the environment is more virtual than real? What would it mean for a computational entity to have an "authentic" selfhood?

Global Health

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Introduction to how social factors influence health and well-being, with a particular focus on global patterns and also contemporary Chinese society. Topics include obesity, aging, socioeconomic disadvantage, access to health insurance, public health systems, the role of the media, and racial/ethnic and gender inequalities. The course will provide descriptive assessments of health inequalities and analytic examinations of the mechanisms through which social factors affect health.

FUNDAMENTALS OF GLOBAL HEALTH

"The Fundamentals of Global Health" focuses on global disease burden, health determinants and disparities, health policy and actors, and the challenges of global health interventions. The format is lecture, intensive small group discussion, case analyses, with some materials presented by teleconferencing.

GLOBAL HEALTH ETHICS: INTERDISCIPLINARY

In the course "Global Health Ethics: Interdisciplinary Perspectives," students will be asked to understand and apply ethics concepts (e.g. "aggregate good," "consequentialism," "fundamental moral unit") and a method (simplified version of Gert's "systematic moral analysis") to analyze and discuss ethical dimensions of public health problems/solutions using historical examples.

RESEARCH METHODS IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Introduction to research methods through examination of a variety of techniques in behavioral and social sciences and relevant to multidisciplinary GH research. Problem-based approach to identifying GH questions of interest, ways to operationalize and test, including strengths and weaknesses of different approaches. Focus on discussing current GH issues, exploring questions and solutions, reading and evaluating published research and interpreting results. Skills include identification of GH problems, awareness of contextual, behavioral, and ethical issues involved, conceptualization of research questions, and designing a research study.

Business & Economics

GLOBALIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND THE CHINESE ECONOMY

A historical perspective on issues of development and globalization in China, including 1) the study of circuits of consumption of everyday items, 2) the personal and environmental impacts of technology, 3) social dimensions of globalization and urbanization, and 4) economic dimensions of globalization and urbanization.

Economic Development in China

In this course students will trace and discuss the rapid development of China's economy over the past 30 years. Economic trends will be linked to other aspects of life in China and also to the relations between China and other countries. Consideration will be given to regional as well as national economic development. The readings will include scholarly articles, popular analyses, and case studies. The format will be lectures and group discussions.



Social Sciences

US/CHINA RELATIONS

This course addresses the complex relationship between China and the United States from the eighteenth-century to the present, including the two countries' foreign relations, trade, cultural exchanges, and images and (mis)representations of each other. Starting with the arrival of Europeans and Americans in China, and moving to the Opium Wars and the Unequal Treaties to WWII, and Hollywood depictions of China, the course turns to China since 1949 and its relationship to the United States, covering themes of the Cold War to Nixon and China and the re-engagement of the two countries, including the challenges confronting China and its rise as an industrial superpower, and the environmental challenges thereof.

Physical & Natural Sciences

GENERAL PHYSICS

Calculus-based, physics survey course for students planning study in medicine or the life sciences. Topics: kinematics, dynamics, systems of particles, conservation laws, statics, gravitation, fluids, oscillations, mechanical waves, sound, thermal physics, laws of thermodynamics. This course is a combination of the lecture and the recitation (lab).

COMPLEX SYSTEMS

Philosophy and epistemology of emergence, computation and evolution applied to describing, understanding and explaining complex multiagent processes in nature, society and culture. Critical exploration of computer simulations informed by practice in building and visualizing them in C++ for PCs. From minimal worlds, like the chaos game and cellular automata, we design richer representations of growth, assimilation, segregation and flocking, finally creating agents, ecologies, societies and cultures that evolve and serve as desktop labs for evaluating theories in the arts, humanities, natural and social sciences. Included is work with sensors, actuators and early computing devices. No programming experience required.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate variation during the entire scope of Earth history. Coupling between climate evolution and biological evolution. Methods for reconstructing climate history. Relative roles of natural climate variability and external forces and anthropogenic influences. Introduction to climate system modeling. No prerequisites but scientific and mathematical literacy assumed.

Languages

MANDARIN

DKU offers a full range of Mandarin courses, from entry level to advanced 4th year writing. Oral and written placement exams are administered to determine the proper assignment of students to courses.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (US ACADEMIC WRITING FOR EFL STUDENTS)

The aim is to develop communicative proficiency in Mandarin with equal attention to aural comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Chinese cultural and historical facts, as well as social-cultural etiquette will be integrated into the program.



2014 DKU MMS students