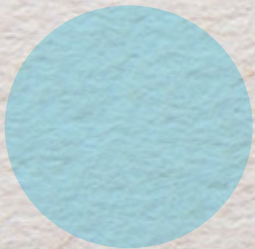
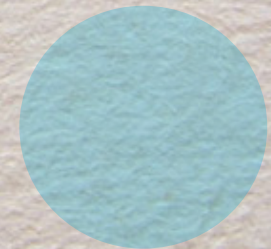


Annual Report

2020 2021

UCI Humanities
Center



EXPLORING OCEANS

The Humanities Center examines humanity's relationship to oceanic environments and our responsibility to their protection.

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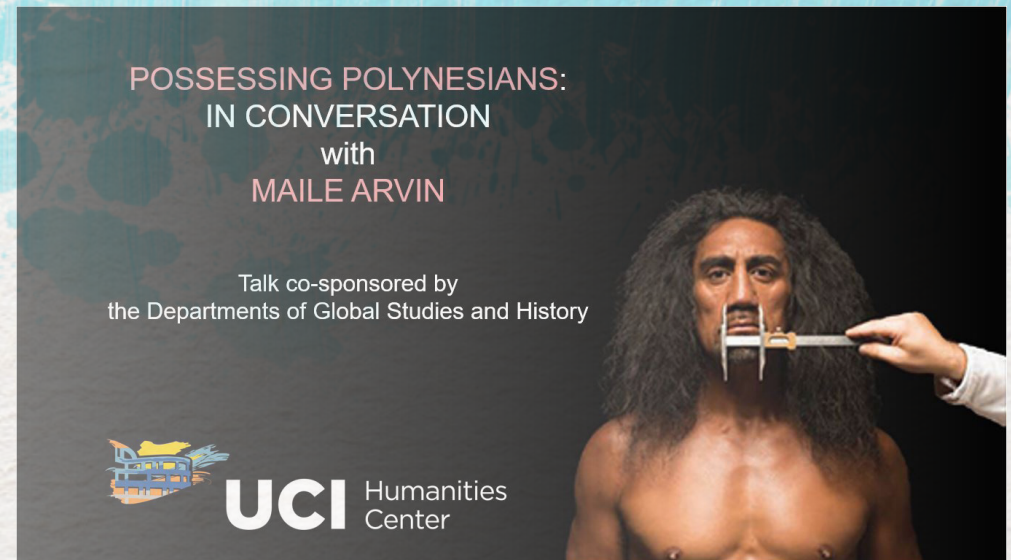
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UCI Humanities Center



Welcome to the Humanities Center

As we continue to suffer from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is particularly important to consider what we have collectively experienced during the 2020-2021 academic year. We spent the entire year virtually online together. Even so, I believe that the Humanities Center was able to fulfill our mission: sparking new knowledge, fostering intellectual communities, and inspiring conversations that matter.

Our signature events this past year focused on Oceans, these vast bodies of water that provoke the human imagination, arouse emotions of fear and nostalgia, and are sites of pleasures, contemplation, heroism, and death. Through the Oceans initiative, which featured a virtual book exhibit (<https://www.lib.uci.edu/oceansproject>) created by the UCI Libraries, the Humanities Center fostered partnerships across campus, with community leaders and artists, and with colleges and universities across the country and around the world. Together, we explored The 1619 Project, the Indigenous and Black Pacific, environmental justice, and more.

These projects have involved faculty, graduate students, and increasingly undergraduate students. I particularly want to note the center's efforts to support undergraduate research, creative work, and professionalization through the Stories from the Sea project and the reconfiguration of the Humanities Out There program into virtual internships.

In difficult times, it is even more important to offer new perspectives and hope. As we welcome a new year, please join me in reflecting on meaningful memories that we created together.

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu
Faculty Director of the UCI Humanities Center



Mission

SPARK KNOWLEDGE

Spark new knowledge: The Humanities Center provides our faculty and graduate students with financial resources, staffing support, and grant-writing consultation as they pursue human-centered responses to the grand challenges of our time.

FOSTER COMMUNITIES

Foster vibrant intellectual communities: The Humanities Center fosters the ethos of interdisciplinary collaboration by sponsoring learning communities, public events, conferences and research centers.

INSPIRE CONVERSATIONS

Inspire conversations that matter: The Humanities Center is driven by the combined creative power of our faculty and students, internationally renowned visiting fellows, and members of the public passionately learning about and debating ideas that matter.

Staff

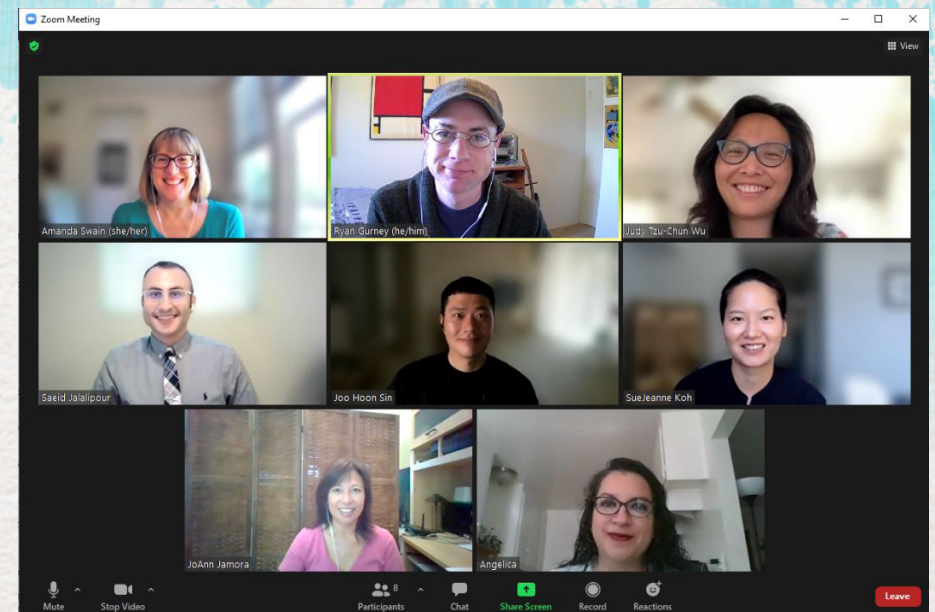
Judy Tzu-Chun Wu
Amanda Jeanne Swain
Saeid Jalalipour
Angélica Enríquez
JoAnn Jamora
Joo Hoon Sin
Ryan Gurney
SueJeanne Koh
Robin Murray
Peter Cibula

Faculty Director
 Executive Director
 Program Manager
 Financial & Operations Manager
 Program Coordinator
 Program Manager
 Program Manager
 Graduate Futures Program Director
 Graduate Student Researcher
 Graduate Student Researcher

Advisory Committee

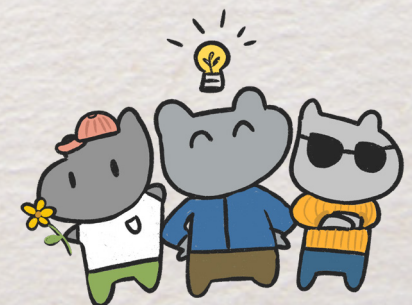
Ian Coller
Martin Harries
Sandra Harvey
Jeffrey Helmreich
Viviane Mahieux
Joan Malczewski
Fatimah Tobing Rony
Catherine Sameh
Gaby Schwab
John Smith
Hu Ying
Roberta Wue

History
 English
 African American Studies
 Philosophy
 Spanish & Portuguese
 History
 Film and Media Studies
 Gender & Sexuality Studies
 Comparative Literature
 European Languages and Studies
 East Asian Studies
 Art History



Like all of us at UCI, the 2020-21 academic year at the Humanities Center meant working and learning remotely.

UCI Anteater
 illustrations by Vian Thanh
 Nguyen



OCEANS

***"I move in the university of the waves."
- Pablo Neruda***

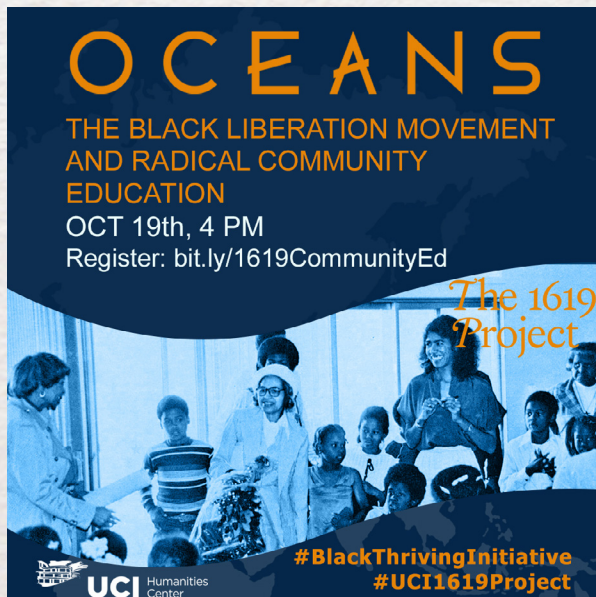


Children play on the California coast. Photo by Judy Wu

I was born on an island but don't know how to swim. That pretty much captures my awe and fear of water.

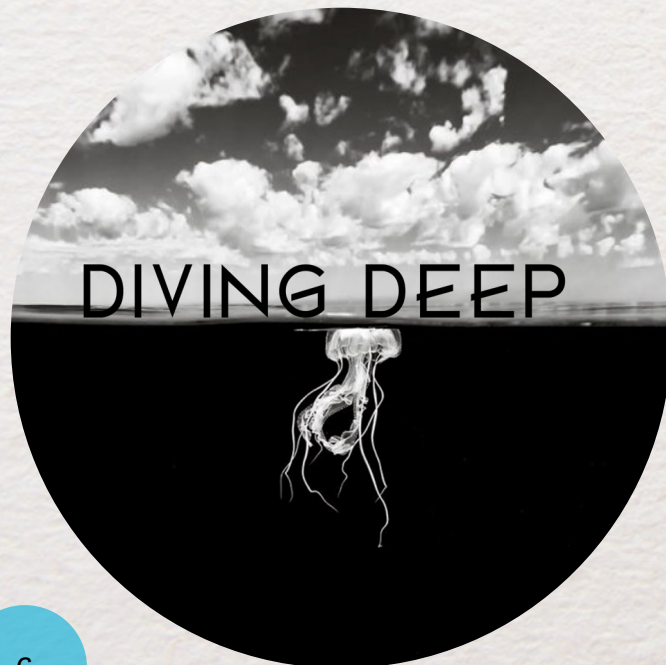
Selecting oceans as the theme for the Humanities Center for the 2020-2021 academic year was an opportunity to recenter our sense of location, origins, and identities. What if we centered water instead of land in conceptualizing the space around us? What if we more fully understood how Indigenous and racialized peoples communed with the sea? What if we considered our futures through the local and global changes to our water ecologies?

The 1619 Project was an ideal way to kick-off our explorations of the year. The premise of the project was to reconsider the origins of the U.S. by centering the trans-Atlantic slave trade and to rethink the entirety of our society (music, economics, politics, neighborhoods) through the lens of Blackness and anti-Blackness. I am grateful for all our on-campus and off-campus partners who collaborated to sponsor a series of events that included conversations with the brilliant, prize-winning journalist **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, who conceived of The 1619 Project.



We continued our explorations in the winter through an inter-campus collaboration on the Black and Indigenous Pacific. Through partnerships with the Latin American Studies Center at UCI and colleagues at UCLA, UC Merced, UC Riverside, and UC San Diego, we hosted a book discussion of **Maile Arvin's** *Possessing Polynesia* and sponsored a symposium that explored "conceptions of Blackness in Oceania," "Black communities in the Pacific Americas," and "Black Trans-Pacific Mobility."

Spring brought the culmination of a year-long collaboration. The **Diving Deep** initiative centered inter-disciplinary collaboration between STEAM and Humanities at UCI, university-community partnerships, and the centering of racial and Indigenous justice in conceptualizing environmentalism. These dialogues (please see our video series below which paired humanities and non-humanities scholars engaged in conversation, research collaborations, and environmental interventions) were evocative and inspire us to collaborate across and beyond campus.



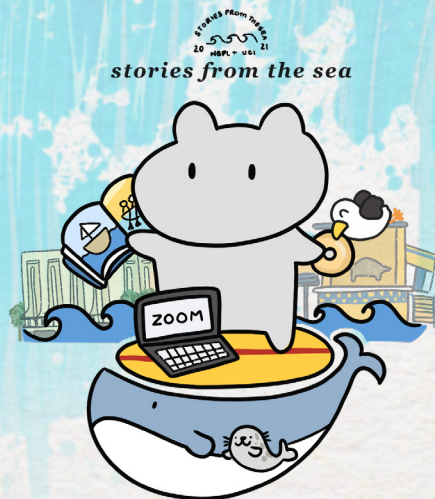
Diving Deep Ep. 1 - "Thinking Botanically: a Conversation about Literature and Science" with **Jon Pitt**, Assistant Professor, East Asian Studies, and **Alyse Larkin**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Earth System Science. See it [HERE](#).

Diving Deep Ep. 2 - "The Currents of Memory: A Conversation about Art and Oceans" with **Patrick Rafter**, Assistant Project Scientist, Earth Systems Science, and **Kathie Foley-Meyer**, Ph.D. Candidate, Visual Studies. See it [HERE](#).

Diving Deep Ep. 3 - "Environmental Problem Solvers: A Conversation about History and Ecology" with **Steve Allison**, Ridge 2 Reef Director and Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, and Earth Systems Science, and **Juan Manuel Rubio**, Ph.D. Candidate, History. See it [HERE](#).

As a GSR with the UCI Humanities Center for their focus on Oceans during the 2020-21 academic year, nearly every event opened my eyes to something new. Two events in particular, though, stood out to me as especially exemplary despite their rather different subject matter: the Pacific Worlds: Indigeneity, Blackness, and Resistance symposium and the multi-day Diving Deep: Dialogues on Environmental Justice symposium. While the first featured prominent scholars on the racial histories and importance of the Pacific, the latter involved professors, researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, and organizations local to UCI, all of whom discussed environmental research and issues pertinent to our campus. The fact that these two vastly different kinds of events were able to be united under the theme of Oceans is but one example of the kind of topical breadth and overall importance of humanities centers in offering programming of interest and value to our community.

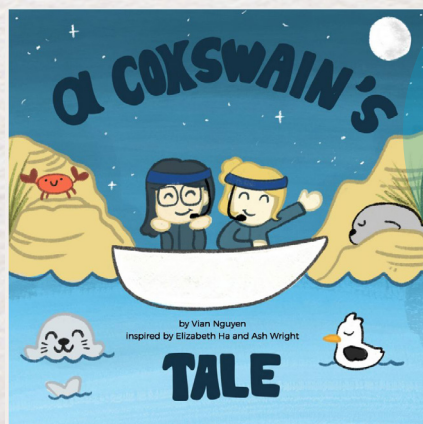
- Aaron Katzeman,
Ph.D. Candidate, Visual Studies



The **Stories from the Sea** project featured UCI undergraduate students who conducted research and created powerful and imaginative stories that capture a range of human interactions with and emotions inspired by the sea. The students were collectively mentored and trained by the Center for Storytelling, the History Department, the Humanities Center, particularly the Humanities Out There program, and Libraries at UCI, the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation, and other community-based archival and environmental organizations. See all of the projects [HERE](#).

A recurring theme for this year was not only oceans but also collaborations. Each of these major undertakings relied upon collective interest and energy. As just one more example of this phenomena, the UCI Humanities Center is now part of a “**Just Environments**” initiative with humanities centers across the country (and in other parts of the world as well). We have been hosting reading groups and a photovoice project (a methodology described as “ethical photography for social change”) throughout the year and plan to explore river ecologies and communities next.

Stories from the Sea: Select Student Projects

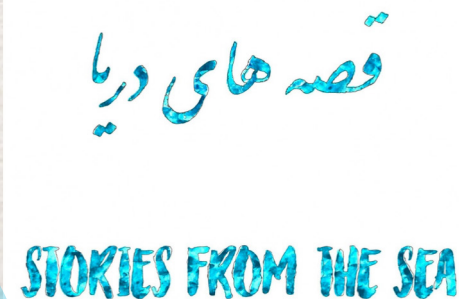


Vian Thanh Nguyen,
“A Coxswain’s Tail.”

In this children’s book, Vian combines her love of illustration with the inspiring stories of two women who help lead the UCI Crew team as coxswains

Hedieh Sorouri,
“Stories from the Sea.”

In this anthology, Hedieh frames the first-person narratives of Iranian immigrants and their relationship to the sea with a lyric essay in which she reflects on the role the ocean plays in their journeys of migration.



Hedieh Sorouri



Kaye Bilbao Regalado,
"Seals in the Sea."

Kaye's Project was inspired by interviews she conducted with the staff of Laguna Beach's Pacific Marine Mammal Center. Her work combines digital art with captions to highlight the significant environmental impact of human behavior on our local marine habitats.

"Through this project, I was really able to learn that stories and creative potential lie in the sea, but more importantly, in every aspect of life. Everyone has a story to tell, and even the most unassuming of places can lead to meaningful stories reaching the surface."

-Kaye Bilbao Regalado

Rehana Morita,
"Crystal Cove's Untold History
of Japanese American Farmers."

Rehana's project uses the photoessay form to share historical images from the archives of the Crystal Cove Conservancy to document the little-known history of Japanese American farmers in Newport Beach.



海浪上的女孩

那天，
我看见海空上的海鸥群，
盘旋。
她们鸟瞰的是，
被冲浪者踏着的海浪。

其中一只飞离族群，
落脚在岸边的棕榈。
不知从何处，
她寻到一根，
带着阳光，养分，坚韧的枝。

她衔枝飞向了海。
直到，
变成海蓝中的一点。
我意识到，
会有属于我们的海，
也属于棕色皮肤女孩们的海。

程艺璇

A Surfing Girl

That day,
I saw a flock of seagulls
Hovering above the ocean,
The view beneath was surfers padding on the waves.

One of them left,
Settled on a palm tree.
She found a branch from nowhere.
Carrying the sunshine, oxygen, and solidness,
She flew towards the sea.

Until
She became a dot in the cyan,
I realized
There will be a sea that belongs to us,
And the girls with brown skins.

Yixuan Cheng

Yixuan Cheng,
"A Surfing Girl."

Yixuan's film and poetry project was inspired by interviews she conducted with Giselle Carrillo, co-founder of a non-profit organization that teaches surfing and water skills to Latinx children in Los Angeles county. For her project, Yixuan wrote two poems and self translated them from English into Chinese, bringing together on one page the varied and diverse worlds she moves within.



Graduate Student Programs

Graduate Futures

Under the umbrella of graduate futures programs, the Humanities Center provides a range of programming for humanities graduate students to explore multiple career pathways as well as gain professional development skills. The shift this year to “graduate futures” in our programming signals a more intentional and expansive approach in helping students identify and work toward their professional priorities in a holistic manner. In encouraging conversations and preparing students for careers both in and outside of the academy, we believe that we are speaking to the generative possibilities that a doctoral degree in the humanities offers. Priorities this year focused on: building new partnerships across campus, nurturing community, providing students with professional development opportunities alongside their doctoral training, and events that highlighted skills critical for student success.

Building new partnerships across campus: This year, several humanities doctoral students worked in academic contexts outside of the School of Humanities, as highlighted in our feature on cross-disciplinary GSR placements. We have also continued to strengthen relationships with the Office of Graduate Study, Division of Career Pathways, and Grad Division so that they can take maximum advantage of the multiple professional development opportunities available to them during the courses of their programs.

Nurturing community: While the pandemic presented challenges to community building, students met in both more informal and structured contexts to build support. This past year saw the creation of the Graduate Liaison Network, a community of student representatives who focus on communicating student issues and interests. We also introduced the “Tiny Desk Lunch,” which provided students with opportunities to share skills and build relationships with students in other departments.

Professional development opportunities: Students participated in a variety of offerings, including two UC-wide workshops on book and article publishing, as well as a three-part series on aligning career goals with professional and personal priorities, called “Creating Your Compass.” We also had two cohorts of students virtually participate in the National Humanities Center’s “Podcasting the Humanities: Creating Digital Stories for the Public” in Summer and Winter 2020.



SueJeanne Koh,
Program Director,
Graduate Futures

Embedded GSRs

Roy Cherian is a PhD Student in Culture and Theory whose research interrogates the relation between anti-blackness and the secular through a critique of the biomedical.

Over the 2020-2021 academic year, we began the pilot of the embedded humanities GSR program. Through this process, we placed three medical humanities students in embedded research positions for the 2021-2022 academic year as well as established connections with various departments in the health sciences for future collaboration years (i.e. 2022-2023, 2023-2024). Overall, this project was generative both professionally and institutionally. Institutionally, the connections with faculty from schools across campus, either through placements, proposals or preliminary meetings have been established. Hopefully, this groundwork will facilitate more in-depth conversations and novel placements in the coming award years. Professionally, I was able to leverage my own prior training and experience in public health research and communication to help bridge the gap between the humanities and the health sciences. Insofar as my own project critically engages the development and practice of medicine, I have ostensibly begun to identify interlocutors who will be a part of my growing professional network. Overall, I found this GSR placement rewarding as it allowed me to engage in dynamic, interdisciplinary conversations that both informs my own research as well as cultivates and hones my capacity for cross-disciplinary communication and collaboration.



Megan Cole is a third-year English Ph.D. student at the University of California, Irvine. She studies nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature, ecocriticism, energy humanities, and environmental humanities.

This spring, Cole worked as a Graduate Student Researcher with UCI's Solutions that Scale, a cross-disciplinary initiative to discover and implement scalable, sustainable solutions to the ever-present problem of climate change. Alongside UCI faculty, Barbara Finlayson-Pitts (Chemistry) and Steven J. Davis (Earth Systems Science), Cole drafted a white paper about ways that humanists can work with STEM scholars to center social justice and equity within all future "solutions that scale." As an environmental humanist, Cole writes, "It was my privilege throughout this GSRship to have cross-disciplinary conversations with senior faculty in the sciences, to enrich my own knowledge of environmental literary and cultural studies with the 'hard sciences' behind it all, and to bring a fresh perspective to discussions about the future of climate change activism and scholarship."



Aaron Katzeman is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Visual Studies with a graduate emphasis in Global Studies. His research looks at the intersection of global contemporary art and political ecology, particularly the forms of visual culture that arise from anti-colonial and anti-capitalist land struggles. As a GSR, Katzeman worked at the Humanities Center for the center's programmatic theme, "Oceans." His work included building institutional community among various stakeholders who work on the environmental humanities at UCI, including reading groups and events hosted by the center. His organization of an environmental humanities reading group helped lead to the formation of an environmental humanities research cluster at UCI, which began in fall 2021. As well, Katzeman helped to organize the multi-institutional symposium *Pacific Worlds: Indigeneity, Blackness, and Resistance*, an event that was able to maximize virtual platforms to nurture new collaborations.

Through these networks of experiences, Katzeman observes not only the benefit that the experiences had for his own research, but also importantly, proved to him "the invaluable nature of humanities centers and institutes at both large R1 schools and smaller liberal arts universities for students" as well as showed how such collaborations facilitated by humanities centers "extend beyond [their] own intentions."



Rena Beatrice Goldstein is a sixth-year Philosophy Ph.D. student who was the Inequality in STEM Graduate Student Researcher working in the School of Physical Sciences and Humanities Center 2020-2021. In her work, Goldstein examined structural and institutional barriers at UCI and more broadly that have resulted in the underrepresentation of women, Hispanic/Latinx, American Indian, and Black/African American populations in the STEM fields.

Building on theories of change, Goldstein designed a mixed quantitative and qualitative study that will assess how students' racial or gender identity can impact treatment in the School of Physical Sciences. The aim is to evaluate interpersonal relationships between students and faculty to better understand how racial and gender identity may impact such relationships in the departments and to compile data on the current structural patterns within the School as well. The project is ongoing, and will include a written report detailing where barriers occur and recommendations for how to shift them.



Humanities Out There Public Fellows

In Summer 2020, seventeen humanities doctoral students participated in internship opportunities with various local cultural and higher education organizations. These placements ranged from newer partnerships (e.g., Orange County CEO Leadership Alliance) to more established ones (OC Parks). Funded by the Mellon Foundation, the Humanities Out There Public and Higher Education Fellows program provides doctoral students opportunities to explore career pathways outside of academia and gain professional experience. These opportunities acknowledge the continued challenges of the academic job market but also the reality that humanities Ph.D. students are increasingly interested in exploring a diverse range of professional contexts.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic and remote work, our fellows were able to work effectively on a variety of projects with their partner organizations. They cultivated their project management, data analysis, research, pedagogical, and communication skills and found how their training gained traction and practical application in these varied settings.



2020 Public and Higher Education Fellows

Ashley Achee (History), Orange County Parks

Marco Huerta Alardin (Spanish and Portuguese), UCI ANTreprenuer Center

Monish Borah (History), South Asian Network (SAN)

Kierstin Brehm (German), California Humanities

Karem Delgado (Spanish and Portuguese), Orange County Environmental Justice

Melinda Franke (Spanish and Portuguese Studies), PBS SoCal

Haleigh Marcello (History), UCI Libraries, Orange County Southeast Asian Archive

Taylor McCabe (English), Orange County Parks

Michelle Robertson (English), School of Humanities Office of Graduate Study – *The Gateway*

Anat Schwartz-Meron (East Asian Studies), Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association (VAALA)

Xuxu Song (German), World Affairs Council of Orange County

Jeanie Toscano (Spanish and Portuguese), UCI SAGE Scholars

Ella Turenne (Visual Studies), UCI Beall Center for Applied Innovation, Wayfinder Incubator

Scott Volz (Visual Studies), *Afterimage: The Journal*

Isabel Wu (History), Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)

Tiffany Zhu (Philosophy), CEO Leadership Alliance

Pedagogical Humanities

In response to the stress students and instructors were experiencing during the pandemic, the Pedagogical Humanities program highlighted mindfulness pedagogies that mitigate burnout, encourage compassion and deep listening, and improve cognitive processing, creativity, neuroplasticity, and holistic wellness. The most impactful of these was the **Mindfulness Meditation for Teachers program**. Participants found these sessions essential for balancing the demands of personal well-being and teaching during the pandemic.

These meditation practices were developed alongside theoretical conversations about the potential impact of mindfulness pedagogy on teaching, learning, and social activism--particularly its relation to anti-oppression teaching. In collaboration with the Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute, UCI Brain's End Racism Initiative, Center for Medical Humanities, and the Division of Teaching Excellence (DTEI), the Pedagogical Humanities brought **Beth Berila** to speak on "How Contemplative Pedagogy can Deepen Anti-Oppression Teaching and Learning" (see this recorded talk [HERE](#)). Berila's talk inspired teachers across campus to form collaborations on how to integrate mindfulness and anti-oppression approaches into their teaching practices.

The Pedagogical Humanities also inaugurated a program offering pedagogical grants to graduate students in the School of Humanities who are interested in developing expertise in a pedagogical subdiscipline. This year's Pedagogical Specialization grantees, Rena Goldsmith (Philosophy) and Toni Hays (English), are respectively focusing on contemplative listening approaches and anti-racist pedagogy, respectively, and will be presenting their research as part of the Pedagogical Humanities Certificate training in the Fall quarter.

These forays into Contemplative Mind and Anti-Oppression pedagogies have supplemented the practical pedagogy workshops that continue to support pedagogical development in the School of Humanities, including the Humanities Pedagogical Certificate program (directed by Kyle David, History; cosponsored by DTEI) and the Graduate Student Learning Community (led by Yao Pei, German). Given the constraints of the pandemic, Yao explains, the Graduate Student Learning Community served graduate students by connecting them to one another while giving them a space to discuss ideas about teaching and learning, or simply the challenges they face in graduate school. The sessions offered students support for their mental health and wellbeing (Yao Pei).



Larisa Castillo, Director,
Pedagogical Humanities

"I started to attend Meditation for Teachers during the Winter quarter. It helped me rebuild the habit of daily meditation which, in turn, has proved essential in helping me overcome academic life. Meditation has been vital in helping me keep calm and read or write during the most stressful times throughout the academic quarters. I celebrate that UCI has this valuable aid to promote the wellbeing of its community"

- Fer de la Cruz, PhD student, Spanish & Portuguese

Undergraduate Programs

Humanities Out There

For over 20 years, Humanities Out There has promoted service learning and public engagement at UCI by connecting undergraduate students with K-12 students, most recently through a partnership with the Bowers Museum after-school program. With pandemic-driven school and museum closures and restrictions on in-person meeting, H.O.T. recast itself as a remote internship program providing opportunities for UCI undergrads to make a significant impact taking the humanities “out there” while still being safer at home.

Remarkably, what started as a program with five distinct internships turned, over the 2020-2021 year, into fifteen internship possibilities that appealed to students with a wide-range of interests. Internship positions included marketing and communication internships with the School of Humanities, the Beall Center New Venture Internship, and the UCI ANTreprenuer Center. Other students were research assistants for the 1977 National Women’s Conference project led by Professor Judy Wu. UCI Libraries and Special Collections gave students opportunities to work on curation, develop digital book displays (see [“World in Ruins: Exploring Dystopian Literature”](#)), and directing reading group discussions for UCI’s “Great Big Read.” Undergraduate history major, Faith Lam, worked with the IMCA to create a “Making Together” video, which highlighted and adapted the work of artist Margaret Kilgallen (see Faith’s video on IMCA’s [Monthly Muse](#)). English major Rachel Wang curated a [digital exhibition](#) for the Humanities Core Arts Competition, an annual event that encourages Humanities students to creatively engage the ideas they are studying as a way of forging conversations with the broader community. Students created websites with blogs and videos that chronicled their internship experiences (see examples [HERE](#), [HERE](#), and [HERE](#)).

Faith Lam participated in two different internships, one in Fall and one in Spring quarter. She notes that:

“HOT Internships gave me the opportunity to be exposed to fields that otherwise I would never see myself in and was a program that demonstrated the expanded platform between Humanities and other disciplines. . . I was placed into internships that allowed me to interact



The Humanities Out There internship moved to a distance-learning model that placed UCI student-interns in remote learning opportunities with humanities professionals. For 2020-2021, interns worked with UCI Librarians on “Educational Outreach” and the “Great Big Read,” a variety of UCI Humanities projects that including documenting the 1977 National Women’s Conference and archiving the Lucid journal, with UCI Marketing experts to produce social media projects, the UCI business “Antreprenuer” and “New Venture” programs as well as yearlong documentary project detailing Asian American immigration called “Stories of the Sea” for literary journalism.

- Miguel Ramón, Humanities Out There Teaching Fellow

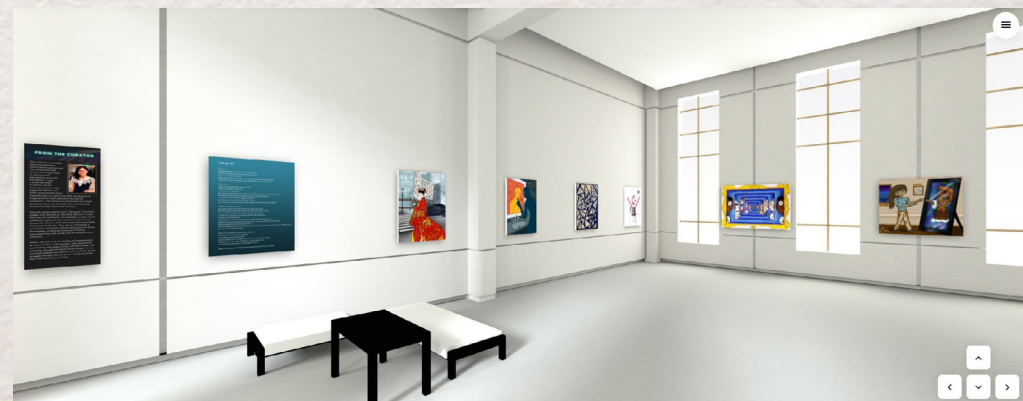
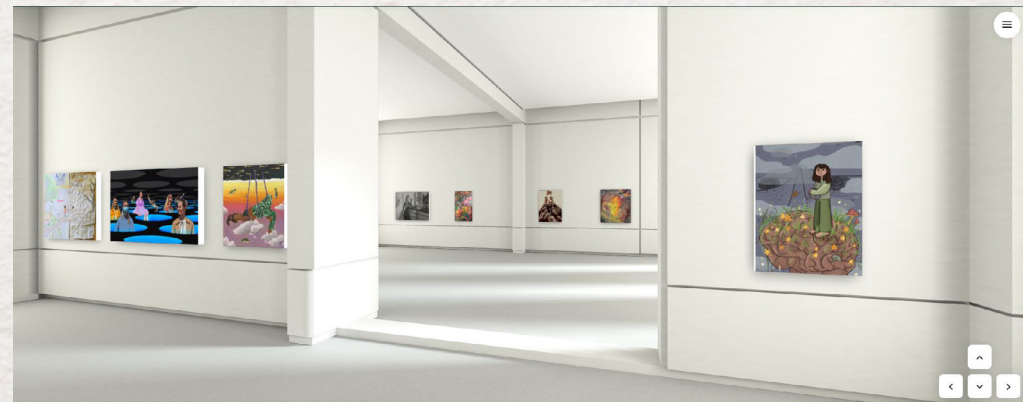
with the Humanities field in unexpected ways, like learning how business marketing and museum visitor experiences play a big part in how audiences and students interact with Humanities researchers. . . HOT is an experience unlike any other on campus because it immerses students in a field that utilizes what we learn in Humanities classes and pushes on those boundaries to both prepare us and share with us the many different paths the Humanities field can take.”

For Faith and other interns, HOT gave students a sense of connection, purpose and vitality during the alienating experience of remote learning. One student described her work as a set of “memories I will cherish for a lifetime! . . . I only wish I could have worked on this project for even longer!” Even during a pandemic, HOT students took the Humanities “out there” to the community and thereby recovered their own sense of purpose.



Above: Faith Lam presents her IMCA video project, “Making Together.”

Right: The Humanities Core Arts Competition virtual art exhibit, “Alternative Realities,” curated by Rachel Wang.



Humanities Out There: Student Spotlight

Emily Anderson (English), *Humanities Center Internship*

Emily joined the Humanities Center as an undergraduate intern and was tasked with researching and presenting information on the California pre-conference, which took place at USC. With the team, she presented her findings at Cal State Sacramento and UC San Diego to invite other California students to join the project. She presented the political tensions surrounding the conference and invited the students to consider how these issues impact us today. The students asked a lot of questions and expressed an eagerness to join our efforts in the project. It was wonderful to see that my research interested other students and inspired them to look into the material themselves. This project is massive and it encourages me that a lot of individual contributions will eventually become a comprehensive historical resource.



Kim Hang (English), *UCI Library Internship*

One of the duties that Kim performed as part of her internship with the UCI Library was to develop a series of virtual book displays. Since the library was closed for most of the 2020-2021 academic year, virtual book displays are a bridge connecting the campus to UCI students. Her first task was to identify a fun but compelling literary genre to feature as the central display. Given its ability to speak to a range of inclusive identities and global concerns, Kim, together with her internship partner Christina, selected the genre of dystopian fiction. Kim and Christina researched and curated a listing of celebrated books in this genre, from James Dashner's *The Maze Runner* to Cindy Pon's *Want*. Along with the genres of young adult, popular fiction, and feminist fiction, Kim and her partner developed an eclectic virtual display for the books in each genre.

Kim's work on the virtual displays contributed a vital component in the library's larger responsibility to keep us all connected during the COVID pandemic.



Ling-Ya Hong (Business Economics and Film & Media Studies), *Marketing & Communications Internship*

Ling-Ya's internship provided a cross-section of virtual speakers and trainings. As a marketing and communications intern, Ling-Ya developed her own projects and executed a social media strategy for the School of Humanities.

She created a "Senior Advice to Freshmen" YouTube video and a "Humanities Major Generator" Instagram filter to promote the majors in the School of Humanities. These projects give her a chance to be innovative and creative, and allowed her to gain actual work experience. She learned how to create a campaign and how to conduct interviews.



CALIFORNIA STATE MEETING



What I learned from this experience [...] was how to present academic research, how to use spreadsheets to organize material chronologically and thematically, how to collaborate on a research project with a team, and how to understand historical tensions through data and primary sources. I've really learned a lot.

- Emily Anderson



One specific skill I developed in working on this project was improving my time management. Not only was I doing this internship, but I also had responsibilities with my classes and mentorship as well. Doing this internship has taught me how to manage my time so that I had enough hours in the day to dedicate for this project.

- Kim Hang



My biggest lesson of this video [project] is learning how to conduct the interview, especially in coming up with questions. My mentor taught me the art of prompting questions, and it will be very helpful to apply in my future projects.

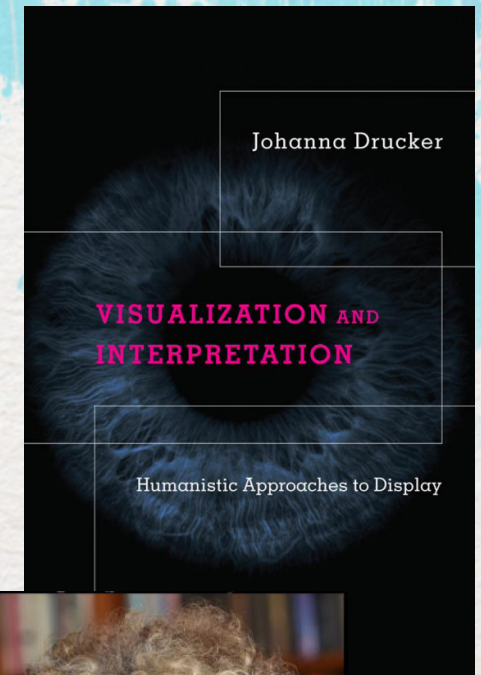
- Ling-Ya Hong

Digital Humanities Exchange

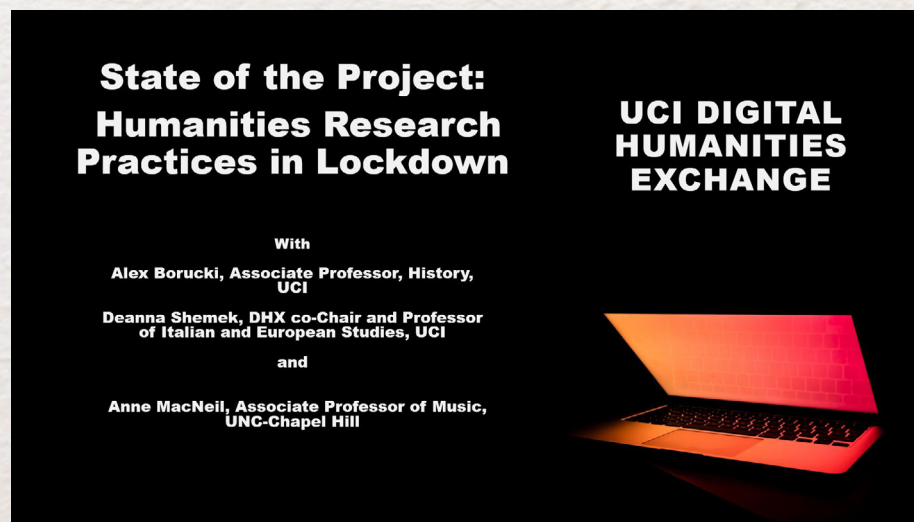
Does the look of information impact the way we receive and use that information? The Digital Humanities Exchange (DHX) explored this question this year when it invited **Johanna Drucker**, Breslauer Professor of Bibliographical Studies in the Department of Information Studies at UCLA. In her lecture, "[Visualizing Catastrophe: Ethics of Aesthetics](#)," Prof. Drucker questioned the bureaucratic point of view of scientific and demographic data. By mixing the disciplines of graphic design, critical theory, and information studies, Prof. Drucker proposed a more inclusive, humanistic approach to visualizing the data that impacts our lives.

Throughout the year, DHX partnered with the UCI Libraries to promote their Digital Humanities-related events. These included a workshop on **HathiTrust's** Data Analysis Tools, UC Love Data Week, and workshops on OpenRefine, Unix, and Version Control with GIT. These events serve different constituencies but are collectively supporting many different kinds of research by UCI faculty and graduate students in the humanities (and beyond).

DHX hosted a variety of events responsive to the COVID pandemic. DHX Co-Chair Dwayne Pack offered two interactive webinar workshops on personal academic website design. UCI faculty members **Alex Borucki** (History) and **Deanna Shemek** (European Languages and Studies) were joined by **Anne MacNeil** (UNC-Chapel Hill) in a "State-of-the-Project" presentation about building digital humanities projects within the confines of global lockdown. See more [HERE](#).



Johanna Drucker, Breslauer Professor of Bibliographical Studies in the Department of Information Studies at UCLA.



UC Humanities Network

Academic Research as Comics

Illustrator, author, and educator Will Eisner coined the term “sequential art” in 1985. In his book, *Comics & Sequential Art*, he explained that comics were, “an ‘art of communication’ more than simply an application of art.” For academics, there is no skill more important than that of communication. As thinkers and educators, our ability to cast our ideas out into the world helps us to refine and improve our thinking, and to impact the world around us.

With support from UCLA College Humanities, the UC Merced Center for the Humanities, and UC Riverside Center for Ideas and Society, we welcomed a panel of academics to discuss their experiences publishing academic research via the medium of graphic novels. Panelists included **Ari Kelman**, Chancellor’s Leadership Professor of History, UC Davis; **Charles Walker**, Professor of History, UC Davis; **Nalo Hopkinson**, Professor, Creative Writing, UC Riverside; **Danny Snelson**, Assistant Professor of English, UCLA; **Charles Cavaliere**, Executive Editor, Graphic History Series, Oxford University Press; **Carli Hansen**, Editor, ethnoGRAPHIC Series, University of Toronto Press.



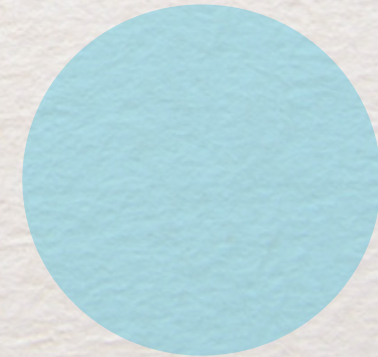
Academic Publishing Workshops

Demystifying the Book Publishing Process

The Zoom room was completely packed for this workshop on “Demystifying the Book Publishing Process,” co-sponsored by the University of California Press and the UC Collaborative of Humanities Centers and Institutes. The event attracted faculty, students, independent scholars across the UCs and beyond.

Demystifying the Journal Publishing Process

This virtual collaboration with UC Davis and UC San Diego featured UC-affiliated faculty who are or have been journal editors as well as UC-affiliated graduate students who offered insight into the academic journal publishing process. This discussion also had a strong turnout and spanned a broad range of disciplines and topics, from the current state of journal publishing, reconciling conflicting reviews, and writing groups.



Research Fellowships, Grants, and External Funding

UC Humanities Network

Graduate Fellows

The UCI Humanities Center – in collaboration with humanities centers at UCB, UCD, UCM, UCSB, UCSD and UCR – hosted a cohort of graduate student fellows in 2021. Students were invited to conceptualize the significance of their dissertation projects in a way meaningful to broad audiences. Grant award recipients spent the summer of 2021 participating in workshops hosted by UC Santa Barbara and the UC Humanities Consortium.

In April 2021, the Humanities Center recognized two outstanding graduate students. **Stephanie Narrow** (History), is researching 19th-century American and British colonial relationships with Chinese immigrants and Chinese-American citizens. Her work fills a critical gap in the historical record, lending profound context to present AAPI experiences. **Scott Streitfeld** (English), is researching historical changes to sexual norms in the United States. At the center of his analyses are statistical studies of how and where sexual norms were articulated in early 20th-century modernist prose, and how these period utterances continue to impact data gathering and statistical representation today.

The projects that Stephanie and Scott are engaging are both timely and carry broad significance to a variety of fields beyond their respective disciplines of history and English.



Chinese tea-house,
Hong Kong. Photograph
by John Thomson,
1868/1871.



Portrait of Henry James.
Photograph by Alvin
Langdon Coburn, 1906

Faculty UC Collaborative Research Grants

Like the UC Humanities Consortium Graduate Fellowships, the Faculty UC Collaborative Research Grants seek to support research with broad reach and wide applicability. In particular, the Faculty Collaborative grants highlight UCI faculty research being done in collaboration with faculty from other UCI campuses.

With their project, *Contesting the Silences: Minoritarian Modernism and the Armenian Women of Iran*, **Houri Berberian** (History, UCI) and **Talinn Grigor** (Art History, UC Davis) trace the shifting relationship between Iran's sociopolitical power structures and the minority Armenian female community. As a doubly marginalized population, Irano-Armenian women have a lot to tell us about the politics of inclusion-exclusion, center-periphery, and hegemonic-liminal identity formation in rapidly modernizing societies.

In their expansion of the *Intra-American Slave Trade Database* (IASTD), **Alex Boruki** (History, UCI) and **Greg O'Malley** (History, UC Santa Cruz) have documented more than 11,500 seaborn voyages that forcibly moved hundreds of thousands of enslaved people from one port in the Americas to another for resale. The IASTD is freely accessible to academic researchers, students, and the public. With the help of the Faculty UC Collaborative Research Grant, Boruki and O'Malley continue to expand the breadth of the database by bringing UCI History graduate student **Spencer Gomez** to the research team.

Laura Mitchell (History, UCI) and **Ian Campbell** (History, UC Davis) are pursuing a scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) project to explore the value and desirability of cross-departmental graduate seminars. Their exploration, *PhD Futures: Departmental Breadth, Diversity, & the Contours of Graduate Education in History*, is informed by the weaknesses in graduate programs laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mitchell and Campbell are studying ways in which academic departments can leverage technology and the benefits of the UC system to support students in all fields equitably, limiting faculty overload teaching, maintain departmental identity and autonomy. At its core, their project strives to deliver on UCI's charge to cultivate diversity and inclusive excellence.



Armenian woman in Antoine Sevruguin's photo studio, ca. 1890



For *Crossing Pride: Queer and Trans Refugee Transnational Storytelling & Digital Archiving*, **Jeanne Scheper** (Gender & Sexuality, UCI) and **Debanuj DasGupta** (Feminist Studies, UC Santa Barbara), with project team members **Anna Winget** (UCHRI) and **Ronah Ainembambazi** (founder, NGO Maama Girls Foundation, Uganda), are developing support strategies and resources for LGBTQI refugees and asylum seekers. Drawing on their collective experience as academics, educators, policy architects, and community organizers, the teams explores ways to use creative expression and community-building to connect and support queer and trans refugees.

With their project, *To Form a More Perfect Union: California and the 1977 National Women's Conference*, **Judy Tzu-Chun Wu** (Asian American Studies, UCI) and **Rebecca Jo Plant** (History, UC San Diego) are exploring California's contribution to this four-day event held in Houston TX in November of that year. The conference featured participation from women across the United States and American territories, igniting a shift in the role of gender in modern U.S. politics. Our Golden State had the largest and most diverse delegation at the NWC, bringing with it a host of critical issues for debate. The narrative that Wu and Plant traces a path that stretches from Maui to New York, and to the Yavapai–Apache Nation, including our own UCI campus along the way.

Graduate Student Fellowships Awarded for 2021-2022

Michael Berlin
Christopher Chacon
Chase Wiliston
Allison Dziuba
Carolin Huang
Javiera Letelier
Sara Newsome
Adam Reynolds
Xuxu Song
Brian Spivey
Alexandra Yan
Xinyue Yuan

Comp Lit
History
Comp Lit
English
Comp Lit
History
East Asian Studies
East Asian Studies
German
History
Comp Lit
Visual Studies

Mellon-CES
Fulbright Fellowship (India)
Fulbright Fellowship (Chile)
AAUW Fellowship
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship
Becas-Chile Fellowship
Fulbright Fellowship (Japan)
Fulbright Fellowship (Japan)
DAAD Fellowship
Fulbright Fellowship (Taiwan)
Fulbright Fellowship (Japan)
MET Fellowship (Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Studies)

School Centers and Research Clusters

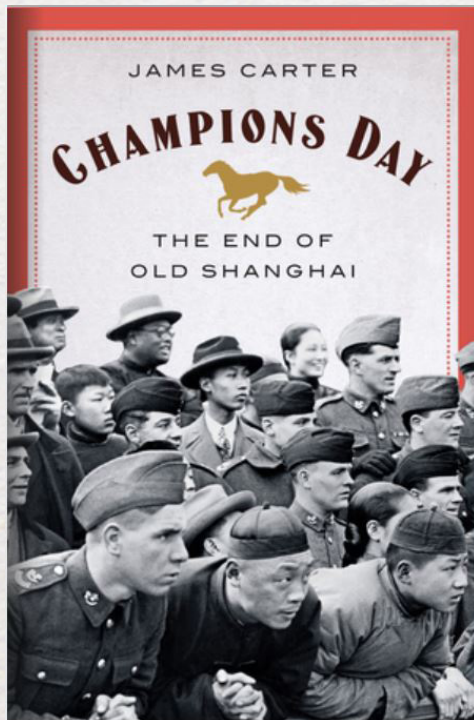
The background of the slide is a light beige, textured surface. It is decorated with several teal-colored circles of various sizes. In the upper left, there is a cluster of smaller circles. In the lower right, there is a large, prominent sphere with a teal-to-blue gradient and a dark blue shadow on its right side, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

Research Centers

Center for Asian Studies

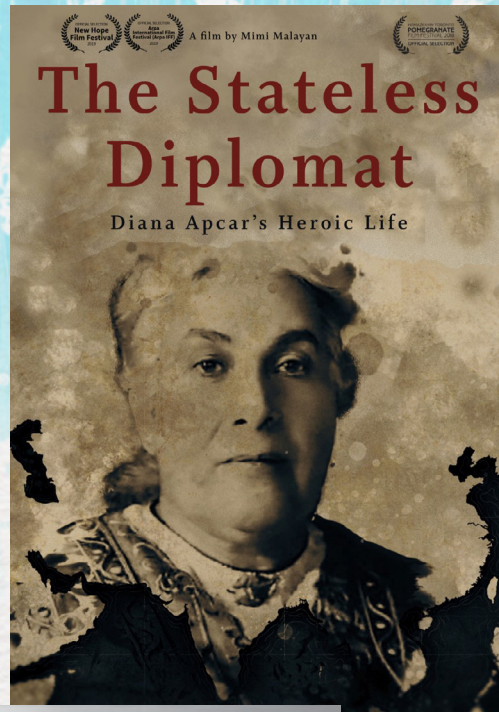


Boba, Persia, Green, and Pu'er – what do they all have in common? Last year, from March 8th to March 14th, the Center for Asian Studies hosted a virtual Asian Tea Week that allowed UCI students, faculty, and staff to experience these teas and more, despite a global pandemic. Thursday, March 11th served as the peak of Asian Tea Week: a Pu'er tea demonstration and conversation with author **Lisa See** and **Chef Jessica VanRoo**, followed by a reading by Lisa See from her book *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*. In addition to this campus visit, the center recorded virtual lectures on Persian, Chinese, and Japanese tea preparation and ceremonies. These lectures came from a diverse set of speakers: **Professor Touraj Daryaee** from the Center for Persian Studies; **Jessica Chen**, a lecturer in the department of East Asian Studies at UCI, who comes from a family of tea growers; and **Adam Jacobson**, a UCI drama student. These lectures were complimented by live events ranging from Boba Tea to the work of authors about tea culture. Asian Tea Week kicked off with "Boba Time" and a conversation between **Professor Yong Chen** and **Audrey Fong**, UCI alumna and co-founder of the popular Instagram account @BobaBitches.



In addition to Asian Tea Week, the Center sponsored book talks and symposia throughout the year. In the fall, the center hosted **James Carter** for a talk and "meet the author" on his book *Champion's Day: The End of Old Shanghai* and **Jie Lie** for a virtual book talk on *Utopian Ruins: A Memorial Museum of the Mao Era*. Throughout the year, the "Access Asia Talk Series" brought speakers like **Mark Hup** and **David Fedman** to discuss the legacies of Colonial Indonesia and Korea. Finally, in May, the Center sponsored the annual Kiang lecture with **Wen-hsin Yeh** from UC Berkeley, who gave a lecture "From the Forgotten to the Monumental: Communism in Republican China."





Center for Armenian Studies

Imagine a village where women, children, and elderly reside; men leave nine months of the year for Russia to work. This was the setting of “Village of Women,” a film screened by the Center for Armenian Studies in January. The center also hosted the filmmaker, **Tamara Stepanyan**, for a Q&A. Earlier in the academic year, the center turned its attention to the life and work of writer, humanitarian, and diplomat Diana Apcar by screening “The Stateless Diplomat: Diana Apcar’s Heroic Life,” and hosting its director **Mimi Malayan**.

Beyond film screenings, the center hosted a three-part virtual salon on Armenian communities in the Middle East Today. This series was a timely and thought-provoking intervention during a tense time in the homeland, region, and beyond. By focusing on the Armenian minorities, broader questions regarding diaspora, minority politics, migration, and more were examined. The first session focused on Lebanon; the second, in winter quarter, on Syria and Iran; and the third, in spring quarter, on Turkey. These panels brought experts from both Southern California and the world.

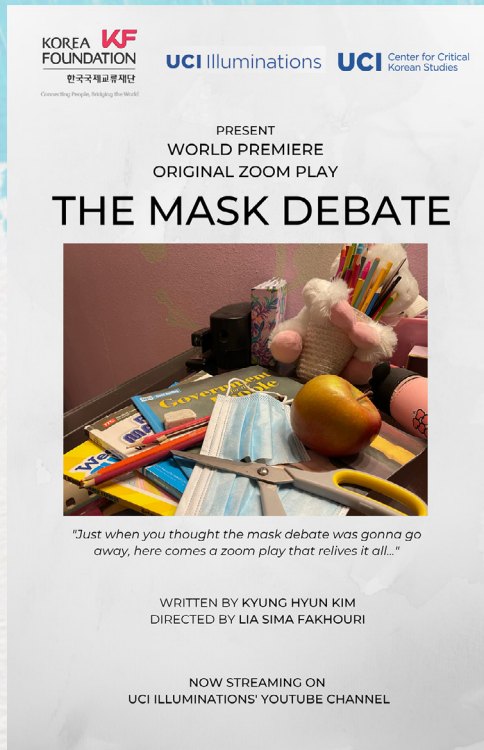
The center also hosted two webinars. The first, titled Karabagh in Crisis hosted **Anna Ohanyan**, the Richard B. Finnegan Distinguished Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Stonehill College and **Laurence Broers**, the Associate Fellow at Chatham House and Program Director of Conciliation Resource, and focused on the war in Artsakh/Karabagh in the South Caucasus. The second, “Armenia’s Velvet, Voice, and Vision in an Uncertain World,” discussed the challenges and opportunities of Armenia’s nascent democracy within a geopolitically reshuffled region – post-war.



Above: Filmmaker Tamara Stepanyan with her film, *The Stateless Diplomat: Diana Apcar's Heroic Life*



Center for Critical Korean Studies



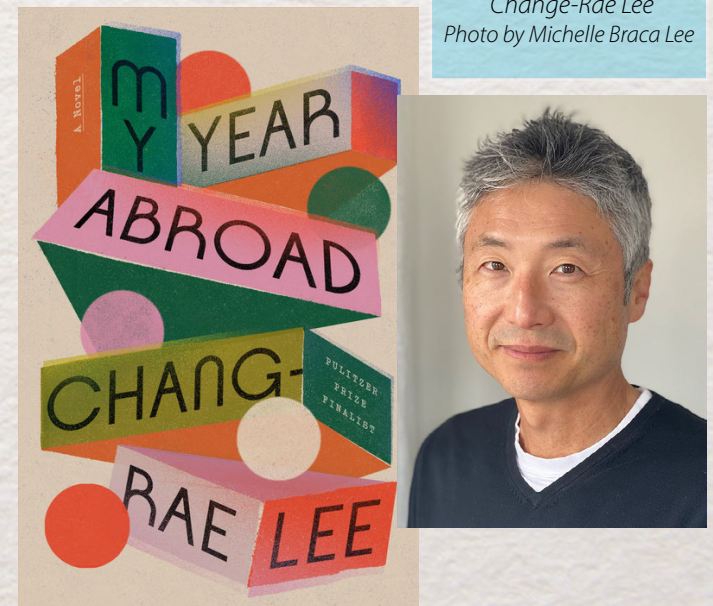
To mask, or not to mask? That is the question of "The Mask Debate," an original Zoom Play that premiered this year on February 2nd. The Center for Critical Korean Studies hosted the worldwide premiere of this play written by UCI East Asian Studies faculty **Kyung Hyun Kim** and directed by **Lia Sima Fakhouri**. [The performance](#) dramatizes the experience of two Korean-American characters who try to keep their children's school from running amok due to the behavior of vocal mask-deniers. "The Mask Debate" is based on one of the very first screenplays written specifically for the Zoom format. This is also one of the first Korean American plays (in English, with some Korean dialogue) that has been set in Orange County, CA, the home of almost one million Korean Americans.

In addition to promoting this groundbreaking dramatic production, CCKS sponsored a "Recent Books in Korean Studies Colloquium," which explored a variety of work – from 1950's Korean Cinema to Korean Popular Culture. The center also sponsored a "Rise of K-Culture" webinar series, looking at topics as varied as "The History of K-Pop through SM Entertainment" and the "Global Vision of Korean Cinema." The Center also hosted authors like **Chang-rae Lee** on his new novel "My Year Abroad."

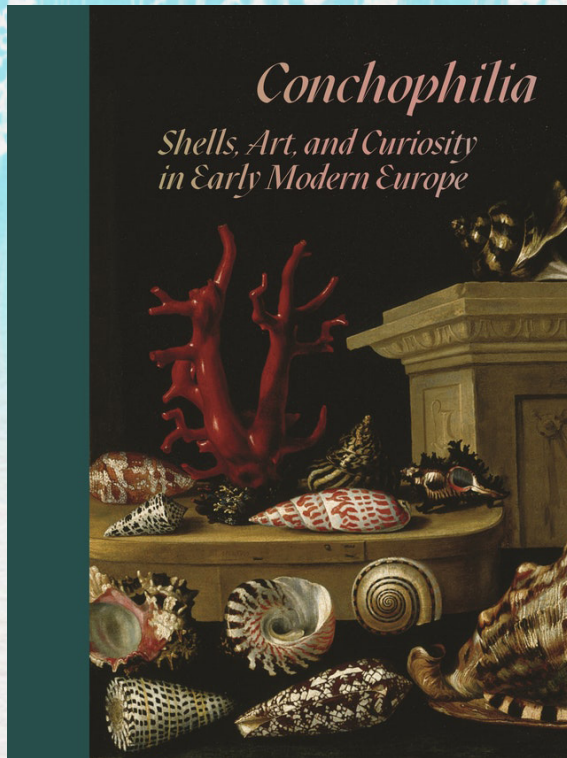
As part of its 21st Century Korean Screen Cultures Series, CCKS host a special screening of the film "Minari," followed by Q&A with Director Lee Isaac Chung and Producer Christina Oh.



Change-Rae Lee
Photo by Michelle Braca Lee



Center for Early Cultures



Conchophilia, Shells, Art, and Curiosity in Early Modern Europe, co-authored by Marisa Bass, Anne Goldgar, Hanneke Grootenboer, and Claudia Swan, was one of the many recent publications discussed during "Sea Sense: Blue Humanities and the Early Modern Imaginary."

How have oceans informed early cultures? This question inspired The Center for Early Cultures' three-day, interdisciplinary, virtual conference, "Sea Sense: Blue Humanities and the Early Modern Imaginary." It was planned in accordance with the Humanities Center's year-long theme, **Oceans**, and was co-organized with The New Swan Shakespeare Center.

Sea Sense focused on narrative and representational aspects of early modern conceptions of the seas/oceans and the environmental questions raised by these conceptions. Papers presented at the conference explored the allegorical and rhetorical role oceans played in early modern thought and the limits and possibilities that oceans presented for ecocritical studies in a deep historical context. The conference consisted of two parts: there were two days of presentations by highly regarded scholars of early modern literature, art history, and history, followed by one day of graduate student presentations in a mini-conference.

The conference brought together interdisciplinary scholars to think through the ways that "Oceans" inform early cultures, from Noah's Ark to *The Tempest*. Scholars such as **Marisa Bass** (Yale University), **Kevin Dawson** (UC Merced), **Anne Goldgar** (USC), **Hanneke Grootenboer** (Radboud University Nijmegen), **Steve Mentz** (St. John's University), **Bronwen Wilson** (UCLA), **Jeffrey Cohen** (Arizona State University), and **Julian Yates** (University of Delaware), to name a few, participated in roundtables, lectures, and short presentations over the conference's two days, while graduate students from UCI and UCLA presented on the final day.



THE UCI CENTER FOR EARLY CULTURES AND
THE NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER
PRESENT

SEA SENSE:
BLUE HUMANITIES
AND THE
EARLY MODERN IMAGINARY

APRIL 29, 30, AND MAY 1, 2021

UCI Early Cultures
New Swan Shakespeare
UCI Humanities Center

OCEANS

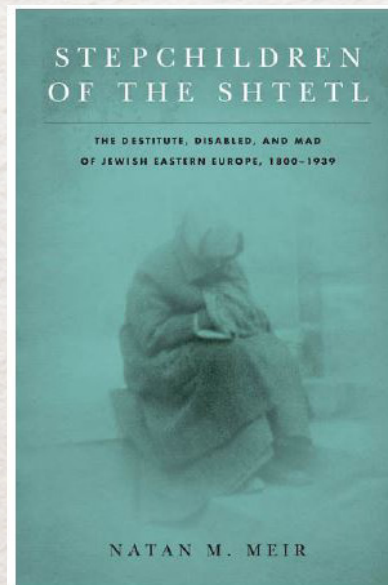
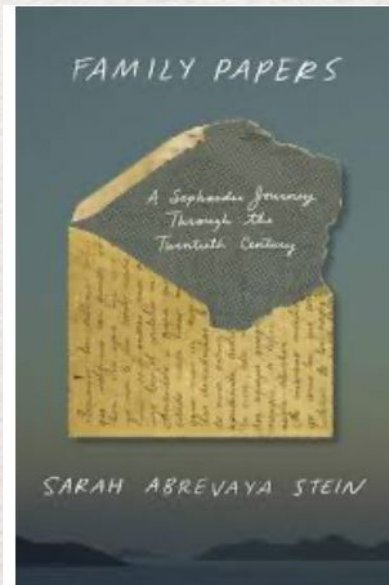
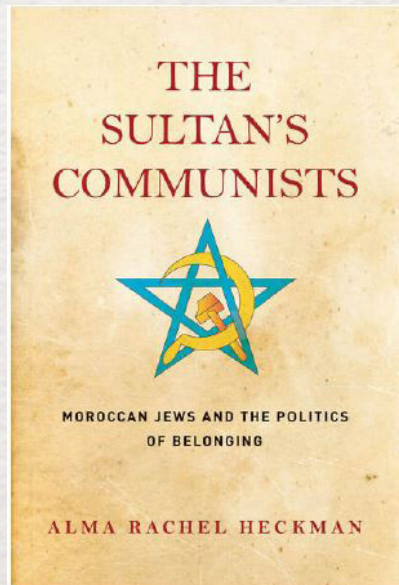
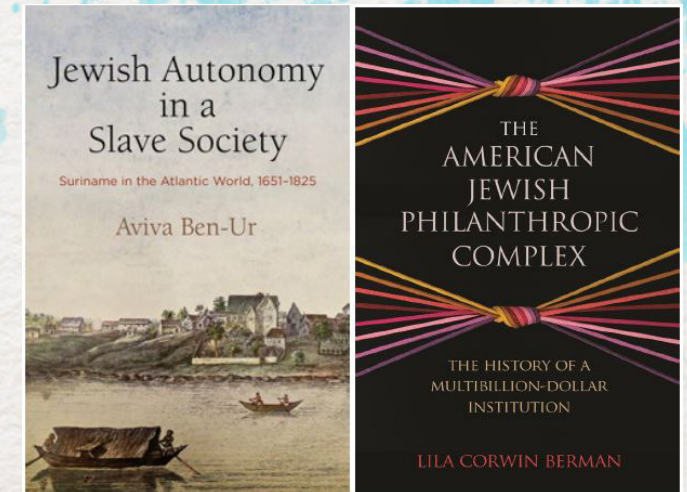
RSVP: <http://bit.ly/SeaSense>

The poster features a central illustration of a mermaid-like figure with a crown, holding a shell and a mirror, surrounded by sea creatures and a rainbow. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout on a dark red background.

Center for Jewish Studies

This year, the UCI Center for Jewish Studies explored cutting edge scholarship in Jewish Studies through its new book talk series. The Center hosted the authors of recent noteworthy and pathbreaking books that are reshaping the field of Jewish Studies. These new voices represent the cutting edge of Jewish scholarship, exploring new directions, asking new questions, and starting fresh conversations. Speakers for these events included **Natan Meir**, author of *The Cholera Wedding: East European Jews' Magical Ritual to End an Epidemic*, and **Alma Heckman**, author of *The Sultan's Communists: Moroccan Jews and the Politics of Belonging*.

The center hosted two speakers who won the 2020 and 2021 New Horizons in Jewish Studies Graduate Essay Prize - **Rachelle Grossman** and **Jan Burzlaff**. Grossman spoke on "The Most Mexican of Us All: Yiddish Poetics in Modern Mexico," with a response from UCI's **Jacobo Sefamí**. Burzlaff spoke on "Beyond Anne Frank: Jews and non-Jews in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands (1940-1945)."

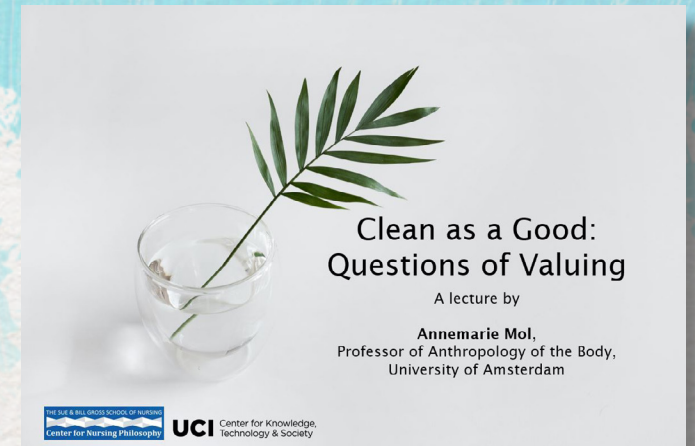


Center for Knowledge, Technology & Society

What does cleanliness have to do with ontology and metaphysics? It turns out a lot in the era of COVID-19. For the inaugural CKTS & Center for Nursing Philosophy Annual Lecture, the two centers welcomed **Annemarie Mol**, Professor of Anthropology of the Body at the University of Amsterdam. In a talk titled "Clean as a Good: Questions of Valuing," Professor Mol interrogated the relative cultural value of cleanliness, in all of its discursive forms, from biological, to environmental, and moral. Professor Mol demonstrated how the value of cleanliness has been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, illuminating the unexpected complexity of a concept we tend to think little about.

This year also occasioned a fascinating cross-cultural volley of ideas between two renowned philosophers spread between two separate events. In October 2020, **Ernest Sosa**, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University, presented a series of talks on social and applied epistemology. The discussion of epistemology continued in April 2021 when CKTS hosted **Chienkuo Mi**, Distinguished Professor and Chairperson of Philosophy at Soochow University, Taipei, and Nankai Chair Professor of Philosophy at Nankai University, Tianjin. Professor Mi delivered a talk titled, "Bi-Level Virtue Epistemology: Ernest Sosa and Confucianism." Students who joined all events were treated to a serendipitous masterclass in epistemological thought development.

The Center for Knowledge, Technology and Society maintained a robust slate of projects and activities this last year. CKTS has contributed academic knowledge with lectures, conferences, and public events covering a variety of timely topics. Under the direction of **Professor Duncan Pritchard**, CKTS has made a durable contribution to undergraduate pedagogy on the UCI campus with the Anteater Virtues Project. The inter-campus project endeavors to develop inquisitive thinkers who model the virtues of curiosity, integrity, intellectual humility and intellectual tenacity. The aims of this project were reinforced by **Harvey Siegel**, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Miami, in his Epistemology of Education lecture. A pilot study of the pedagogical effectiveness of the Anteater Virtue curriculum project has been published in the journal *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education* with an article titled, "Inculcating Curiosity: Pilot Results of an Online Module to Enhance Undergraduate Intellectual Virtue."



Prof. Duncan Pritchard
speaks with
Prof. Chienkuo Mi



Center for Medical Humanities



The Pandemic is the thirtieth card in the major arcana. It has been a long year like a long decade, one of atrophying time. We miss the way it feels to walk in a city, in the current of everyone going somewhere. We don't remember why certain things felt important in the beforetimes, do remember seeing a classmate in a casket on YouTube livestream. The Pandemic unmasks the lie of the word essential: who provides care, who deserves care, death visited disproportionately on the poor, the black and brown, the lower caste. Returning to normal is an impossibility brimming with longing and terror. In the center of the card is a discarded mask, an iPad by a hospital bed; say our goodbyes however we can. Toilet paper has become a totem of survival, sweatpants an emblem of refusal, sourdough a gift of renewal. All things will pass, like a kidney stone. When will we hold our brother's hand again? Will our kids remember this as the worst time of their lives or as something strange and tender? Will our dogs forgive us when we return to work? Drawing The Pandemic card in a reading means a portal is opening. Where it leads is unclear, but remember people have always slept in doorways, huddled under them during bombings. Who knows if The Pandemic will ever end. * a collective card

CREATED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UCI CENTER FOR MEDICAL HUMANITIES

This tarot card was collectively created in the culminating event of the UCI Center for Medical Humanities's 2020-21 "Open in Emergency" series curated by Mimi Khuc. Series facilitators Simi Kang, Yanyi, and Shana Haydock returned to lead break-out groups to generate language for this card, while Nguyen Khoi Nguyen joined to live illustrate. Mimi Khuc & Lawrence-Minh Bui Davis drew upon the break-out groups' discussions to co-edit this card for the Asian American Tarot project, documenting our collective unwellness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

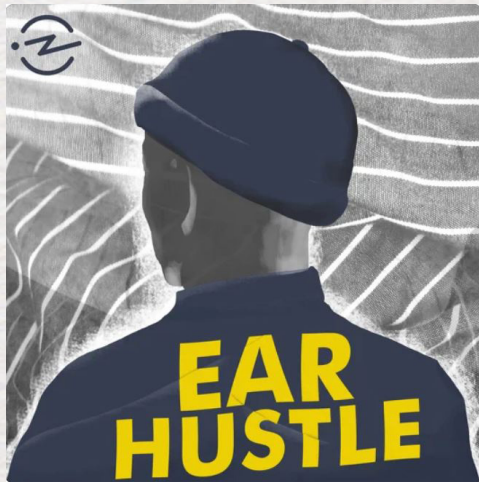
During the 2020-21 academic year, the Center for Medical Humanities focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student welfare and, securing a grant from the Office of Inclusive Excellence, launched the series "Open In Emergency: Differential Unwellness Within UCI Student Communities." This yearlong set of workshops utilized "Open In Emergency," a special issue of the *Asian American Literary Review* that explored arts and humanities approaches to mental health, with the issue's editor **Mimi Khúc** curating these events. Workshop facilitators had students ask fundamental questions such as "what is mental health?" or what it means to live in an emergency. All year, students showed up to these events ready and willing to share how they felt mentally unwell, made themselves open and vulnerable to others' stories of suffering, and attended to each others' care. During one of these events, students collectively composed two poems, and at the final workshop, students helped to create both images and text for a Pandemic tarot card, the newest addition to the Open In Emergency tarot deck, which will be distributed to all who have a copy of "Open in Emergency."

In addition to this series, the Center hosted other major public offerings, including its annual Distinguished Lecture, this year presented by UCI's very own **Johanna Shapiro**, as well as reading and conversation with palliative care physician **Sunita Puri**, author of a recent memoir titled *That Good Night: Life and Death in the Eleventh Hour*. The Center also hosted the university premiere of the documentary "Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust," a film directed by **Ann Kaneko** about the intersecting stories of Japanese Americans incarcerated at the concentration camp at Manzanar and of Indigenous communities in the Owens Valley dispossessed of their land and, more importantly, their water.

Center for Storytelling



It is often said that truth is more compelling than fiction. For the UCI Center for Storytelling this year, not only is truth more compelling, it provides meaningful opportunities for social and cultural self-reflection. The Center teamed up with Illuminations and the Humanities Center to host **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, creator of the New York Times's 1619 Project. For the first in a two-part master class series, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist held a conversation with students about the importance of telling difficult stories and the process of crafting engaging narratives. The conversation was moderated by UCI Literary Journalism Associate Professor **Erika Hayasaki** and veteran reporter and Literary Journalism lecturer **Amy DePaul**. This blockbuster discussion followed part one of this series, a powerful conversation with **Nigel Poor**, co-host of the award-winning podcast *Ear Hustle*. This podcast showcases stories of the American prison system, told by those living within it. Poor discussed the reach of podcasting as a storytelling medium and its ability to change lives. This conversation was moderated by Chancellor's Professor of English and Informatics **Jonathan Alexander**, Erika Hayasaki, and student podcasters **Sydney Charles** and **Tatum Larsen**, co-hosts of the podcast *Black Fam 2.5*.

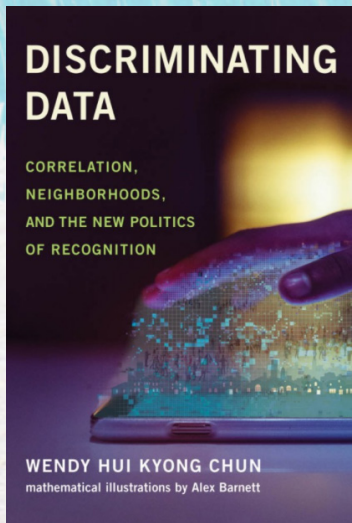


Above: The Center for Storytelling Collaborated with Illuminations and the Humanities Center to host two master classes with Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, creator of the New York Times's 1619 Project, and Nigel Poor of the podcast "Ear Hustle."

If we listen ever so closely, what stories do we hear the sea tell? In 2020-21, undergraduate students were invited to participate in a special year-long project called *Stories from the Sea*. Guided by Literary Journalism Professor and Center for Storytelling Associate Director **Patricia Pierson**, students reflected on their relationships with the sea, honed their storytelling skills in collaboration with guest speakers, and crafted narratives about the role oceans play in their own lives. This project mixed storytelling media and featured a diversity of voices weaving tales of family histories, endangered marine wildlife, cultural memory, and others. All of the projects, ranging from prose, visual art, to poetry, and film are curated on a special website. See the website [HERE](#).

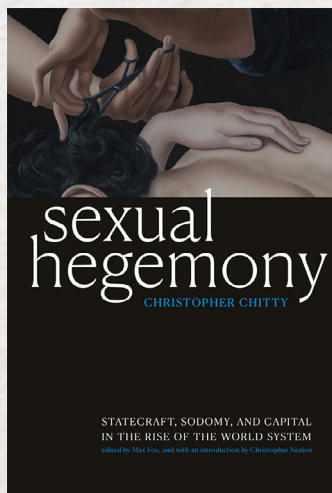


UCI Critical Theory



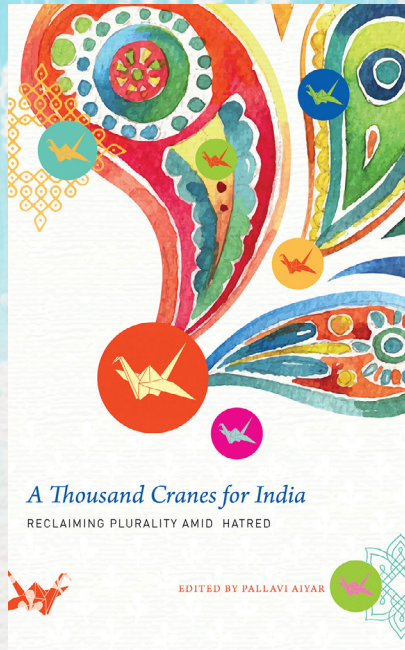
As technologies like A.I. and self-driving cars proliferate, will they deliver the ease and efficiency they promise? **Wendy Hui Kyong Chun**, Canada 150 Research Chair in New Media at Simon Fraser University, questioned the efficacy of machine learning technologies during the Michael and Stacy Koehn Lecture in Critical Theory. In her lecture "Authenticating Figures: Algorithms and the New Politics of Recognition," Prof. Chun presented research indicating that machine learning implicitly promotes racial discrimination and algorithms produce echochambers dangerous to marginalized communities. She positioned the humanities disciplines, and gender and media studies, in particular, as the grounds from which to formulate new approaches to the problem of big data.

Other events provided valuable opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. In coordination with the Center for Culture and Capital, Critical Theory hosted lectures by a variety of avante garde thinkers. Writer **Max Fox** and Johns Hopkins University Professor of English **Chris Nealon** presented their lecture titled, "On Christopher Chitty's Sexual Hegemony: Statecraft, Sodomy, and Capital in the Rise of the World System." Modesto Junior College Professor **Johanna Isaacson** delivered her lecture, "Cleaning House: Social Reproduction, Feminisms, and Horror." Literature scholar **Madeline Lane-McKinley** presented her lecture, "The Problem with Housework."



Wendy Hui Kyong Chun (top) discussed algorithms and the "New Politics of Recognition," and Max Fox (left) and Chris Nealon (right) spoke about Christopher Chitty's remarkable work excavating the history of sexualized class dynamics.

Forum for the Academy and the Public



Our main undertaking was a series of ambitious panels that focused on how ideas about the United States have been changing in different parts of the world during this dramatic—and often traumatic—period in the country’s history. Taking advantage of the chance to engage with noted thinkers and writers in far flung settings via Zoom and bring together both people we had worked with before and others with whom we had always wanted to work, we provided insights from speakers who joined us from everywhere from Moscow to Madrid and provided insights about settings they knew well ranging from Nigeria to Scotland. The rotating moderators of the events were UCI Forum regulars **Amy Wilentz** and **Jeffrey Wasserstrom** of UCI, **Boris Dralyuk** of the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and Bay Area cultural analysts and lawyer **Rebecca Liao**. They engaged in wide ranging and spirited dialogs with multiple journalists (e.g., freelancer **Pallavi Aiyar**, *New Yorker* staffer **Joshua Yaffa**, and **Megha Rajagopalan**, who soon after participating won a Pulitzer), two economists, a legal scholar, and a bestselling crime writer (**Ian Rankin**), as well as **Pankaj Mishra** and **Fatima Bhutto**, who have written well received novels and also important non-fiction books. People from around the world, as well as across the UCI campus and broader Irvine community, tuned in and participated.



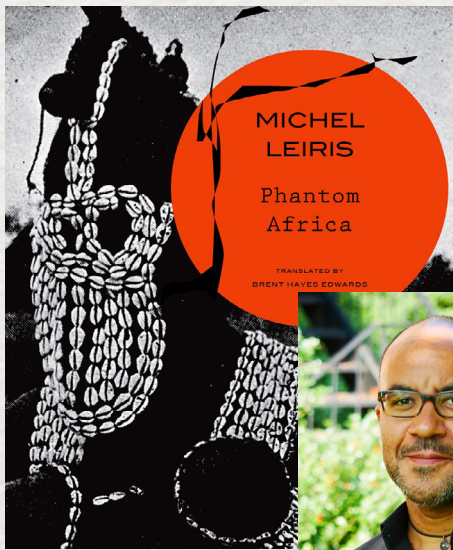
International Center for Writing and Translation



Did 2020 make you tired of Zoom? The International Center for Writing and Translation felt your pain and worked to develop plenty of content that was less reliant on the ubiquitous conferencing platform. Increasingly aware of the hardships undergone by graduate students during the pandemic, the ICWT decided to fund voice actors drawn from the UCI graduate community to produce a series of podcasts titled “Literature Out Loud.” Recent MFA graduates **Sara Rodriguez** and **JJ Margolis** recorded excerpts from a Sufi poem and a novel about Marco Polo by **Xue Xiwei**. Translations were donated by UCI faculty **Sholeh Wolpe** and **Hu Ying**. Based on the success of this podcast, ICWT is planning a second season that will feature another group of graduate student voice actors reading passages from Sophocles, Euripides, and Charles Baudelaire.

In addition, in the Fall of 2020, ICWT sent out a call to writers throughout the world to submit brief contributions for a writing competition on the theme of “[Intimacy During Lockdown](#).” Over the winter, they selected the winning contributions and solicited original work from four professional writers already affiliated with the Center. As the project developed, it became more of a local/global hybrid: although writers came from near and far (from Italy to Israel, from Martinique to Garden Grove), the center decided to seek out other collaborators in the immediate community. **Luis Avilès** from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese provided a set of beautiful b&w photos of University Hills under lockdown, including some shots of the Black Lives Matter march in the Spring. Recent MFA graduate **Christine Guiyangco** created an inspired design for the magazine—which is an artwork in its own right. And **Carlo Anacta** demonstrated how the touch of “intimacy” can be generated via coding, providing a template that is almost melodic in its visual phrasing. See it all [HERE](#).

Of course, the center also invited writers and translators to visit via Zoom, but we did so in conjunction with specific classes while inviting the entire UC community to join. During the Winter Quarter, two Black women playwrights visited with students of “Dramas of the Diaspora”: **France-Luce Benson** (Haitian-American) and **Zainabu Jallo** (from Nigeria/Brazil/Switzerland). In the Spring, **Brent Hayes Edwards** discussed his recent translation of Michel Leiris’s *Phantom Africa*; a reading group and graduate seminar were organized in advance on the themes of his work.



Brent Hayes Edwards, translator of Michel Leiris’s *Phantom Africa*.

Jordan Center for Persian Studies

THE IRANIAN-AMERICAN DIASPORA & THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

Wednesday, July 22, 2020, 4:00-5:00 pm (PST)

Event Speakers:
Dr. Cornel West, Dr. Ali Akbar Mahdi, Dr. Touraj Daryaee
Moderator: Dr. Annahita Mahdavi



UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies

Event Registration Link: (<https://bit.ly/IranianAmericanDiasporaBLM>)

If you are unable to join the Zoom webinar, you may also view this event LIVE on UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture's Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/samueljordancenter>)

This event is presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture

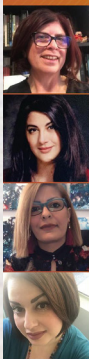
How is the Iranian Diaspora connected to Black Lives Matter? This year, the Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies hosted **Cornel West** on July 22nd, 2020 for a zoom webinar on "The Iranian-American Diaspora and The Black Lives Matter Movement." Happening just two months after protests over the murder of George Floyd began around the country, this conversation, between Dr. West, **Ali Akbar Mahdi**, and UCI's **Touraj Daryaee**, brought a leading voice on race in America in conversation with our own community here at UCI. The Center also hosted conversations on "The Politics of Being Iranian in America" and "Iranian Women in Academia."

In addition to bringing preeminent scholars and important conversations to campus, the Center made several important publications possible. *American College of Tehran: A Memorial Album, 1932*, prepared by **Morteza Gheissari**; *Beyond Faith and Infidelity: The Sufi Poetry and Teachings of Mahmud Shabistari*, by **Leonard Craig Lewisohn**; and the most recent edition of the *Digital Archive or Brief Notes & Iran Review (DABIR) Journal* – a special issue on "Hellenism and Iran" – were just a few of the published works that the Center was able to support.

Panel Discussion on Iranian Women in Academia

Friday, November 6, 2020, 1:00 - 2:30 pm PST

Moderator: **Nasrin Rahimieh** (Howard Bookerville Professor of Humanities at UC Irvine)
Panelists: **Annahita Mahdavi** (Associate Professor of Social Sciences at Long Beach City College)
Claudia Yaghoobi (Nooshan Institute Associate Professor in Persian Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Nooshan Shekarabi (Professor and Chair of Political Science at Santiago Canyon College)



Registration Link: (<http://bit.ly/IranianWomenInAcademia>)

If you are unable to join the Zoom webinar, you may also view this event LIVE on UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture's Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/samueljordancenter>)

This event is presented by UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture

The Persian Center created many opportunities this year to reflect and comment on significant issues facing Iran and the United States.

THE POLITICS OF BEING IRANIAN IN AMERICA

Being Iranian in America in 2020 comes with various complications. This roundtable discussion aims to tackle some essential questions that many Iranians are asking themselves

CONVENER: DR. MOHAMMAD RAFI

UCI Jordan Center for Persian Studies

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 • 3:00-5:00 PM • UC IRVINE • HG 1341



UCI Latin American Studies Center

Mining, Technology, and the Environment in the Americas

This conference brings together scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences working at the intersection of Mining, the History of Science and Technology, and Environmental Studies in the Americas from the early Modern period to today

What does Latin America have in common with the African diaspora? Among many things, the world's oceans are central to both their cultural histories. In 2020-21 the Latin American Studies Center explored Latin American and African diasporic narratives within the context of environmentalism, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, and the ontological frame of the Black Pacific. The conference "Mining, Technology, and the Environment in the Americas" illuminated the negative impacts that resource extraction has on fragile ecosystems and the Latin American cultures connected to them. During the event "1520 and the Slave Trade to the Americas," Professors **David Wheat** and **Sabrina Smith** explored the significance of the year 1520 to the larger Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. In collaboration with the Humanities Center's emphasis on the 1619 Project, Prof. Wheat and Prof. Smith highlighted the often overlooked role of Puerto Rico as the first landing site during the initial period of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. In association with the Humanities Center's Oceans theme and the Afro-Latin America research cluster, LASC participated in a symposium examining the multivalent nature of Black cultural identities in Oceania and throughout the Pacific.

SPANISH FILM CLUB VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL 2021

CHICO & RITA
February 3, 4-6 pm

Discussion and Q&A with
Professor Raúl Fernández,
Chicano and Latino Studies



PERRO BOMBA
March 3, 4-6 pm

Discussion and Q&A

This year provided remarkable opportunities to reframe the relationship between East Asia and Latin America, from both historical and disciplinary perspectives. **Carol Wise** discussed her new book *Dragonomics: How Latin America Is Maximizing (or Missing Out on) China's International Development Strategy*, noting the impact of Chinese growth on Latin America since the early 2000s. A panel of UCI faculty discussed the disciplinary implications of situating Latin America as part of the larger Pacific World.

The remote nature of our learning and working contexts provided greater opportunities for community outreach with film screenings and student projects. As part of the yearlong core course of the Graduate Emphasis of Latin American Studies, graduate students viewed and discussed the films of **Mael Vizcarra**. LASC also partnered with the Pragda Spanish Film Festival to virtually screen five films as part of its 2021 slate of festival submissions. Other opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students included explorations of artistic performances as political statements, and the cultural importance of audiovisual archiving.

New Swan Shakespeare Center



What does Shakespeare have to do with LGBTQ rights? The Center's 2020-2021 season highlighted these and other issues in "A Midsummer Night's Zoom." The event, Directed by New Swan Co-Director and Professor of Drama **Eli Simon**, reimaged Shakespeare's timeless comedy for our era. Characters bristle against social expectations about whom they love, how they behave, and must contend with the isolation inherent in communication via Zoom. Sound familiar? Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, New Swan Shakespeare has thrived as a center of performance, research, and education.

This year featured many other events that engaged timely topics. These included conversations with Shakespearean actors such as **Jeremie Harris** on Black life, interviews with scholars and practitioners who connect the playwright with contemporary issues, including Shakespeare and Trump; Shakespeare and the Hewbrew Bible; and Shakespeare and Social Justice.

2020-21 was both a challenging and an exciting year as we experimented with new formats and expanded our audience through remote events. New Swan is proud to build UC Irvine's presence in the community through original performances, innovative scholarship and provocative educational experiences.



"We chose 'Midsummer' because we wanted to offer the campus and community a magical Shakespearean masterpiece during these stressful times," says Co-Director Eli Simon.



In the 2021 Kirk Davis Jr. Public Shakespeare Lecture, Jeremie Harris discussed his role as Claudio in New York Public Theatre's 2019 production of "Much Ado About Nothing," which featured an all-Black cast and was set in Atlanta during Stacy Abrams' campaign.

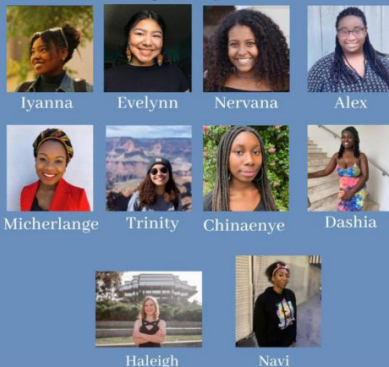
Research Clusters



Independent scholar Angela LeBlanc-Ernest and BPOCS Summer Fellows



SUMMER FELLOWS SHOWCASE



Black Panther Oakland Community School Research Cluster

Did you know that the Black Panthers, arguably the leading Black revolutionary organization of the late 1960s and early 1970s, created a community school that became its longest lasting survival program? UCI students, staff, and faculty are collaborating with independent scholar **Angela LeBlanc-Ernest**, one of the featured speakers during UCI's "The 1619 Project" Series, to create a documentary, digital humanities resource, and curriculum-related projects inspired by the Oakland Community School. See more [Here](#).

In Spring of 2021, with the support of the Department of Film & Media Studies and UCI Libraries the Black Panther Oakland Community School Research Cluster hosted a film screening series on the L.A. Rebellion filmmakers, known for engaging Black communities in their storytelling. Studying the L.A. Rebellion ethos & legacy, we expanded our timeline to include the work of filmmakers inspired by the movement in the generations that followed.

Analyzing L.A. Rebellion filmmakers' navigation of structural factors in their media practices across various forms highlighted the importance of telling stories rooted in underseen communities. The film screenings included a public conversation series with eight guest filmmakers and a UCI Libraries provided virtual screening of their works. Independent scholar Angela LeBlanc-Ernest was both a guest speaker in our class and a guide to students as she shared her Black Panther Oakland Community School archives to explore alongside their analysis, and engagement with the film works from the course. Students learned the value of community archives and oral history first-hand through the practice of documentary filmmaking with BPOCS archived materials.

The Black Panther Oakland Community School Research Cluster also launched a summer research program to involve UCI students, the cluster secured funding to support two graduate Humanities Out There summer fellows and eight undergraduate summer undergraduate research fellows. The 10-week research cluster summer program centered on archival transcriptions, digital cataloging and categorizing images in preparation for creating Oakland Community School digital humanities projects. The students gained knowledge and received skills training through weekly reading and academic workshops, weekly team training and grad student/undergraduate mentoring sessions, two summer guest speaker webinars, as well as individual and group presentations

Critical Inquiries in Multilingualism

Where does Korean end and English begin? In 2020-21, the Critical Inquiries in Multilingualism cluster created a Korean Heritage Language Research Group, KoHL/콜, that hosted a series of roundtables on topics ranging from “Korean(ized) English(es) and the World Englishes Paradigm” to “The Lingualscape in the Transnational Korean Screen Culture.” The speakers for these roundtables came from a diverse set of global universities.

While CIM is devoted more broadly to questions of multilingualism, KoHL/콜 is aimed at gathering scholars from the field of linguistics and other language-oriented disciplines who are pursuing research on Korean language/linguistics, Korean as a heritage language, and the language practices of peoples and communities of Korean heritage in particular. See more [HERE](#).



KoHL/콜 RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE MEETING

WHAT'S IN A NAME? KOREAN(IZED) ENGLISH(ES) AND THE WORLD ENGLISHES PARADIGM

Sofia Rüdiger, University of Bayreuth, Germany

WED, 14 April 14:00 PDT (UTC -07:00 / THU, 15 Apr 06:00 Korea ST)

ZOOM LINK: <https://uci.zoom.us/j/92637096505?pwd=WWJmTzZ3U3Mxeitqd0ZwSTE5Rng2UT09>



Dr. Sofia Rüdiger is Assistant Professor in the Department of English Linguistics at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. Dr. Rüdiger's areas of research specialization include world Englishes, pragmatics, computer-mediated communication (CMC), discourse analysis, and language and food. Her publications include a monograph on *Morpho-Syntactic Patterns in Spoken Korean English*, and articles in journals such as *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Internet Pragmatics*, *English Today*, *World Englishes*, and *Applied Linguistics Review*.

For event details, please contact KoHL/콜 Project Lead Andrew Cheng (acheng14@uci.edu).
<https://sites.uci.edu/cimrc/kohl/>

KoHL/콜 RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE MEETING

ENGLISH AS LANGUAGE CAPITAL AND AMERICAN DREAMS IN SOUTH KOREA

Jinhyun Cho, Macquarie University

WED, 28 April 14:00 PDT (UTC -07:00 / THU, 29 Apr 06:00 Korea ST)

ZOOM LINK: <https://uci.zoom.us/j/92637096505?pwd=WWJmTzZ3U3Mxeitqd0ZwSTE5Rng2UT09>



Dr. Jinhyun Cho is a senior lecturer in the Translation and Interpreting Program of the Department of Linguistics at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Her research interests are primarily in the field of sociolinguistics and focus on intersections between gender, language ideologies, language policies, neoliberalism, and intercultural communication. She is the author of a book entitled *English language ideologies in Korea: Interpreting the past and present*. Her second monograph, *Intercultural communication in interpreting*, will be published in July 2021 by Routledge.

For event details, please contact KoHL/콜 Project Lead Andrew Cheng (acheng14@uci.edu).
<https://sites.uci.edu/cimrc/kohl/>

콜 or /kʰol/ is a Konglish colloquialism for “call,” meaning “Let’s do it, deal!” It derives from the expression “call” in poker, where you match a bet or a raise that has been placed. KoHL/콜 hosts research meetings in a roundtable format, designed for emerging and established scholars to share research-in-progress and receive feedback in a welcoming, though critical and intellectually productive, environment.

Environmental Humanities

What do the humanities have to do with the environment and environmentalism? To put it bluntly, everything. The planet's ever-intensifying climate crisis has put greater pressure on natural resources, and exposed vulnerabilities in global health and social systems. Each of these areas significantly impacts human activity and our prospects for a collective future. Communities of color endure the greatest strain. The Environmental Humanities Research Cluster uses this undeniable reality as a launch point to explore the integral connection between environmental science and environmental justice. By hosting reading groups, generating collaboration opportunities and cultivating interdisciplinary dialog, the EH research cluster engages research impacting the environmental sciences and humanities.

In 2020-21, the EH research cluster hosted four reading group discussions. Under the guidance of EH's co-directors, Associate Professor **James Nisbet** and Visual Studies graduate student **Aaron Katzeman**, these discussions centered around texts focussed on environmental justice. Texts included those by UCI faculty including **Jon Pitt** (East Asian Studies), **James Nisbet** (Art History), **Margherita Long** (East Asian Studies), **Judy Wu** (Asian American Studies), **Adriana Michéle Campos Johnson** (Comparative Literature), and **Gabriele Schwab** (Comparative Literature).

Queer Academy

Art and science have more in common than you might think. What would the visual arts be without chemistry? What would climate research be without storytelling? This year the Queer Academy held an Integrated Science Syllabus Series, gathering together students, artists, and scholars to discuss and showcase work in the development of an integrated science curriculum. They also hosted "Welcome: An Introduction to Noah Purifory's Outdoor Desert Museum." Like the Integrated Science Syllabus Series, this event cultivated an interdisciplinary discussion between the arts and the sciences, where graduate students from the School of Humanities and the School of Information and Computer Sciences gathered together to discuss the work of artist and public policy architect Noah Purfoy. By focusing on interdisciplinarity, they hope to help build a more connected and effective community of thinkers and problem solvers.

Student support is critical to the mission of the Queer Academy. They supported graduate and undergraduate students with paid opportunities to explore research and careers in computer science, entertainment, and the humanities.



Scott Froschauer at the ARC with his installation
"How far to NOW?" from the series
"The Word on The Street"

Social Unity Research Cluster

As we have learned this last year, shared calamity can strengthen the bonds of community or disintegrate them. The timely creation of the Social Unity Research Cluster (SURC) in 2020-21 responds to these empirical phenomena by investigating the social and psychological forces that make for social unity or oppose it. Distinguished Professor **Margaret Gilbert** (Philosophy) inaugurated the cluster's explorations in May 2021 by holding a graduate seminar on the topic of social unity. The seminar featured research presentations by Professor **Peter Ditto** (Psychological Science), who spoke on political polarization, and Assistant Professor **Kate Ritchie** (Philosophy), who spoke on social groups and social unity.

Although still in its nascent stages, SURC has big plans ahead to engage various campus departments in this important work. Future collaborators include faculty and students from the departments of political science, history, sociology, and psychology. See more [HERE](#).



Crowd gathers during one of Barcelona's first pandemic test concerts without social distancing.
Photo credit: Emilio Morenatti, AP.

Get Involved

Support the UCI Humanities Center

The UCI Humanities Center is uniquely positioned to foster new knowledge and lead conversations about the most pressing issues of our time.



UCI Humanities Center

- With over 180 faculty and 300 doctoral students, our scholars are leading the way in understanding the human challenges we face today.
- Orange County is a unique location for scholarship that discovers global connections in our closest neighborhoods and opens the world for our students and communities.
- We proudly embrace the promise of the University of California: outstanding research in the interest of democracy and the public good.
- The Humanities Center fosters new thinking across disciplines to activate the full range of our world-class scholarship.





UCI Humanities
Center



Website:
<https://www.humanities.uci.edu/humanitiescenter/>



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