



UC SANTA CRUZ

Institute for  
**Social Transformation**

# IMPACT REPORT

Reflecting on five years of transformation: 2018–2023



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# Welcome Letter

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

It is both humbling, and invigorating to reflect upon the journey we have traveled over the past five years at the Institute for Social Transformation. When we launched the institute, we were motivated by the challenges of the multi-dimensional crises that define our time. The erosion of democratic ideals, the widening chasms of racial and economic inequality, and the stark urgency of accelerating climate change require us to not only analyze and critique the status quo, but to forge pathways of systemic and enduring change—the fundamental mission of the institute.

What we didn't anticipate when we started is that we'd also soon be plunged into a global pandemic, or that the climate crisis would strike quite so close to home—disease, fires and floods have impacted the lives and livelihoods of our campus and community in profound and difficult ways these past five years.

But what has been so invigorating during this time is seeing the ways that staff, faculty, students, partners and collaborators of the institute have rallied together to help build out our work. The power of collective knowledge and collaborative action has become all the more clear. The work we have undertaken resonates with the inspiring examples of communities across the globe, unified by the pursuit of change.

In our pursuit of rigorous research, we hope to help illuminate the pathways toward environmental rejuvenation, democratic revitalization, and societies rooted in equity and justice. Our partnerships, extending far beyond the academic realm, enliven our efforts with the diverse perspectives and collective wisdom necessary for meaningful impact.

The challenges in the world remain, but we now have five years of a collectively built foundation to strengthen our work going forward. Thank you to all of you who have contributed in both large and small ways to the institute's mission and work. I'm excited as we weave together the path forward.

With gratitude,



Chris Benner, Faculty Director  
Institute for Social Transformation



# Inquiry with Impact

## MISSION

Rooted in the Social Sciences Division at UC Santa Cruz, the institute supports innovative scholarship that changes the world. The institute is a critical intellectual and social hub, connecting scholars across UC Santa Cruz and partners beyond the university, developing research-based solutions to urgent problems in the world.

## WHAT IS SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION?

The Institute for Social Transformation develops research-based solutions to urgent social, environmental and political problems. We partner with others who are also committed to:

- equity, access and opportunity for all people
- environmental regeneration
- democratic revitalization

We try to understand and transform the underlying systemic causes of problems in these areas, rather than address only the most obvious symptoms. Problems are rooted in both formal and informal institutions, social relationships, social norms and values, and are deeply entrenched. These structural forms of power support some people and inhibit others.

Systemic social transformation can happen slowly or suddenly and can happen through a variety of processes—political upheavals and social movements, technological innovations and economic restructuring, responses to environmental degradation and natural disasters, changing values and cultural expressions, specific policies and governmental programs, to name a few. Contributing to more equitable, regenerative and democratic societies thus requires interdisciplinary approaches that value multiple forms of knowledge.

All social transformation is a collective process. The Institute for Social Transformation brings the research-based expertise and resources of UC Santa Cruz to collaborations for social transformation. If you share our values and would like to explore working together, please contact us at [transform@ucsc.edu](mailto:transform@ucsc.edu).





# Our First Five Years

## NETWORKS FOR CHANGE

Research institutes are often thought of with an umbrella analogy, pulling together allied research and scholars under one roof. The Institute for Social Transformation, in contrast, is best understood with the analogy of a network. Our goal is to be a valued hub, supporting, strengthening and learning from multiple networks of scholars and changemakers. Our honeycomb logo and design theme is specifically intended to reflect this approach to achieving our mission and vision.

This network approach starts from our governance structure. The Executive Board of the institute was specifically designed to include one representative from each of the departments within the Social Sciences Division, and one representative from each of the other four divisions across campus. Members of the board have played an invaluable role, especially in the early days of the institute, in designing our funding programs, shaping our areas of work, and connecting the institute with important work in academic departments.

Based on our board's advice, one of the first initiatives we developed is our Catalyze Program, launched in 2019 with the goal of supporting innovative strands of research, inquiry and/or application that contribute to efforts to foster more equitable and sustainable social futures. The 63 Faculty grants totalling \$426,927 that we have given out in the first five years of this program have also been important for us in learning about faculty pursuing new frontiers of research—many of whom have gone on from our small grants to have major impacts. Sylvanna Falcón, for example, received a Sprout Grant in 2019 to help launch the Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas. This lab has gone on to receive multiple grants and has become a vibrant center for innovative student-led open-source investigations supporting human rights defenders around the globe. In another example, our Harvest Grant to Rebecca London in 2019 helped support the launch of her book *Rethinking Recess*, documenting the importance of recess in children's development and mental health. London's research later became central to the creation and enactment of California Senate Bill 291 in 2023, guaranteeing recess for all California students.

Our network approach is also evident in our ongoing work with faculty to help further their own scholarship. We tend to get involved in research projects with multiple investigators, especially if they are in different departments or divisions, and when the work involves external collaborations and hosting meetings or a conference. Our ability to provide administrative support and strategic guidance, in research development, implementation and dissemination stages of the work, allows faculty to focus on the content of their research, rather than logistical and administrative tasks.

A perfect example of this is our work with Brent Haddad on the Salton Sea Long Term Planning Project, which comprised three UCSC faculty members, seven graduate students and a range of engineering, economic, legal and environmental consultants, under the administration of the institute. The work included creating an independent review panel with experts across the country, organizing multiple site visits to the Salton Sea, arranging internal team convenings and workshops, planning open public forums, and publishing four formal reports. The institute's assistance helped Haddad and the other experts in the project focus on their work helping to solve what has been described as the worst environmental and public health crisis in California's history.

New Gen Learning is a similar example, and one of the earliest partnerships in the institute's development. Led by psychology professors Su-hu Wang and Barbara Rogoff, and by education professor Cynthia Lewis, faculty and students in New Gen Learning come from all five academic divisions at UC Santa Cruz. These scholars collaborate to develop interdisciplinary research that identifies the cultural strengths of learning by students from historically underserved populations, and identifies ways to leverage those strengths in formal and informal settings for learning.

Similarly, the institute, in collaboration with Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) Santa Cruz and the Banato Institute Santa Cruz, led our campus' application to become part of the Public Interest Technology-University Network (PIT-UN), which was founded in 2019 to help build the field of public interest technology and nurture a new generation of civic-minded technologists. Now comprising 59 U.S. and four international universities, our membership in this network opens opportunities for faculty to apply for targeted funding, students to gain from new educational offerings and employment opportunities, and our campus to network with like minded institutions and researchers in the annual PIT-UN summit. There are many more examples of collaborative research projects highlighted throughout this report.

# Our First Five Years

## VIBRANT INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY

The institute also strives to be a vibrant hub for discussion, dialogue and development of innovative ideas to address critical issues of our time. One key way we do this is through the events we organize, where we're continually striving to understand systemic causes of problems in ways that can contribute to transformative solutions. One of the earlier examples of this was our partnership with University Relations in the "University Forum Election 2020 Series." While much of the debate during the 2020 election cycle was focused on its significance as a referendum on the Trump presidency, we focused on bringing together scholars and practitioners to discuss some of the deeper issues at stake in the context of longer term creation of structures of democratic accountability, racial justice, equal citizenship and economic equality. The events in this series included a focus on links between electoral strategies and social movement organizing, demographic shifts and youth engagement, efforts to confront gerrymandering, promote institutional reform and reduce the role of money in political campaigns, and the potential of three propositions on the statewide ballot to reform our criminal justice system. The unexpectedly high attendance at this series, occurring still within the first year of the pandemic, demonstrated people's desire for deeper discussions on transformation and hope.

We also were particularly gratified by the turnout for the "All-In Conference" in October 2022. Bringing together more than 400 university scholars, students, community organizers, foundation representatives, artists and activities, the event enabled a wealth of energizing discussions focused on the possibilities of universities and community partners co-creating systemic change for justice. Partnering with the Urban Research Network, and co-sponsored by a broad range of foundations, community organizations and partners on and off campus, the event helped strengthen communities of people committed to moving beyond loose definitions of public good often embedded in university community engagement initiatives, to focus on efforts that can really transform systems of inequality or injustice. Or as Professor Steve McKay so clearly put it, ensuring we're not "settling for 'public good' but working for the 'public better'."

## INCUBATING CHANGE

Some of our work at the institute also involves incubating new initiatives. By providing an institutional home as new efforts are getting off the ground, we enable scholars to focus on the intellectual and educational content of their work. For example, we started as early as 2018 to help provide visibility to the Global & Community Health (GCH) initiative in its early stages, particularly highlighting the incredible breadth and depth of research being done in everything from toxicology and epigenetics, to community gardens, migration & health, and Indigenous and traditional healing. This helped leaders of the GCH initiative to focus on building involvement across campus, to launch a pathbreaking interdisciplinary program with shared commitments to health justice, that includes a vibrant undergraduate degree program with both a B.A. and B.S. track.

Similarly, we have collaborated closely with Campus + Community (C+C), a hub for coordinating and facilitating ethical and mutually beneficial community engaged scholarship at UC Santa Cruz, since before its formal establishment in 2022. C+C has been instrumental in highlighting community-engaged scholarship across all five academic divisions of the university, putting together invaluable resources on community-engaged scholarship for students, faculty and community members, and helping spearhead efforts to better recognize and reward community-engaged scholarship in faculty promotion and tenure processes.

Other examples of initiatives we have helped incubate or grow include the Center for Labor and Community (CLC)—a vibrant initiative launched in 2023 with the institute's support focused on research to support working families in the Central Coast and California—and the Right Livelihood Center (RLC) Santa Cruz, which is housed in the institute and has recently become the Global Secretariat of a dynamic international network of universities devoted to working closely with Right Livelihood Laureates, which includes 194 courageous changemakers from 76 countries who have received the distinction.





## BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHANGE LEADERS

Supporting innovative scholarship that changes the world also requires paying attention to the next generation of change leaders. Thus we have developed a number of programs geared towards supporting students to become more effective future leaders. We launched the Building Belonging Program in 2019, connecting students from under-represented backgrounds to faculty members in Social Sciences, who mentor them in research or service-learning programs. Through 2023 we have provided 342 student scholarships, related to 123 distinct faculty research projects, providing over \$500,000 to support this work. Students have worked on everything from farmland investment in the Mississippi Delta, to global governance of solar geoengineering, to ethnic studies pedagogy in local Santa Cruz County schools.

More recently, in 2022 we launched the Transforming Futures program, designed to open up opportunities and remove financial barriers for first-generation, underrepresented and low-income students to participate in career-advancing summer internships. Students have worked with a variety of nonprofit and public sector organizations, on everything from legal assistance to immigrants, programs to support small businesses owned by people of color, to providing connection and support to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth.

## FACING THE FUTURE

When we began to envision this impact report, we intended it to be, in part, an opportunity to reflect on what we've learned from our work of the past five years. The strongest lesson we take away from the past five years is captured in the Ubuntu philosophy *Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu*, which can be translated as "a person is a person through other people." The Institute for Social Transformation would not be possible without all the scholars, students and staff at UC Santa Cruz and their partners outside the university who care so deeply about justice, environmental regeneration and democratic revitalization. Together, over the past five years, the breadth and depth of collaborations reflected in the pages of this report have enabled a remarkable amount of impact in a wide diversity of areas. We think this helps validate the network structures and relationships we've been trying to build through the institute, and sets a strong foundation for the next five years and beyond.

As we move forward from here, we plan to continue with much of the range of activities we've engaged in so far. But we will also be looking for opportunities to develop strategic new programs in partnership with new collaborators. So if you have ideas and suggestions, or have a project you'd like help with, please contact us at [transform@ucsc.edu](mailto:transform@ucsc.edu).



# People: Leadership



## Katharyne Mitchell

### DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Katharyne Mitchell founded the Institute for Social Transformation in 2018 as part of a broader vision for social sciences at UC Santa Cruz. In addition to serving as dean, Katharyne is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology, with a research focus on the role of faith-based organizations in providing humanitarian aid and refuge for migrants.



## Chris Benner

### FACULTY DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Chris Benner is the founding Faculty Director of the Institute for Social Transformation. He also serves as director of the Everett Program for Technology and Social Change, the Dorothy E. Everett Chair in Global Information and Social Entrepreneurship, and Professor of Environmental Studies and Sociology. His research examines the relationships between technological change, regional development, and the structure of economic opportunity, focusing on regional labor markets and the transformation of work and employment.

## CENTER FACULTY DIRECTORS



## Rebecca London

### CAMPUS + COMMUNITY FACULTY DIRECTOR

Rebecca London is the founding Faculty Director of Campus + Community. Rebecca is an Associate Professor of Sociology and a community-engaged researcher focused on understanding the challenges faced by disadvantaged children and youth and the ways that communities and community organizations support young people to be healthy and successful.



## Steve McKay

### CENTER FOR LABOR AND COMMUNITY FACULTY DIRECTOR

Steve McKay is the founding Faculty Director of the Center for Labor and Community. Steve is a Professor of Sociology with a research focus on labor, gender, migration, racial formation, and globalization.

# People: Staff



**Glenn Mitoma**  
Managing Director  
2022 - 2023



**Mykell Discipulo**  
Managing Director  
2018 - 2021



**Evin Knight**  
Director of Operations



**Susan Grasso**  
Research Coordinator  
2018 - 2023



**Darío León**  
Research and Community  
Coordinator



**Gabriella Alvarez**  
Research Specialist



**David Shaw**  
Coordinator,  
Right Livelihood Center



**Azucena Beltran**  
Project Manager,  
Community Economic  
Mobilization Initiative (CEMI)



**Erika Katske**  
Training Coordinator,  
Community Economic  
Mobilization Initiative (CEMI)



**Melissa Charles**  
Training Coordinator,  
Community Economic  
Mobilization Initiative (CEMI)



**Allison Arteaga Soergel**  
Associate Director  
of Communications and Marketing,  
Division of Social Sciences



**Laney Mae Velazquez**  
Marketing Specialist,  
Division of Social Sciences

## STUDENT EMPLOYEES



**Katherine Quinteros**  
Graduate Student  
Researcher  
2022 - 2023



**Haben Alazar**  
Chancellor's  
Undergraduate Intern  
2023 - 2024



**Grace Nilsen**  
Chancellor's  
Undergraduate Intern  
2023 - 2024



**Maggie Ann Desphy**  
Chancellor's  
Undergraduate Intern  
2022 - 2023



**Karina Diaz Alvarez**  
Chancellor's  
Undergraduate Intern  
2022 - 2023



**Melanie Mak**  
Chancellor's  
Undergraduate Intern  
2021 - 2022



**Charles Aburime**  
2023 - 2024



**Kora Fortun**  
2021-2022



**Hannah McCafferty**  
2021 - 2022



**Hannah Choe**  
2020 - 2021



**Cureha Mitchell**  
2020 - 2021



**Golnoush Pak**  
2020 - 2021



**Marie Deshetler**  
2019 - 2020



**Efren Uriel Lopez**  
2019 - 2020

# Executive Board Members



**Eva Bertram**  
Associate Professor of Politics  
2019 - 2023



**George Bunch**  
Professor of Education  
2018 - 2021



**James Doucet-Battle**  
Associate Professor of  
Sociology  
2020 - 2023



**Madeleine Fairbairn**  
Associate Professor of  
Environmental Studies  
2023 - 2025



**Robert W. Fairlie**  
Professor of Economics  
2018 - 2023



**Sylvanna M. Falcón**  
Associate Professor of  
Latin American & Latino Studies  
2020 - 2023



**Lars Fehren-Schmitz**  
Professor of Anthropology  
2018 - 2024



**Jennifer A. González**  
Professor of History of  
Art and Visual Culture  
2020 - 2023



**Sikina Jinnah**  
Professor of  
Environmental Studies  
2018 - 2022



**Sri Kurniawan**  
Professor of  
Computational Media  
2019 - 2022



**Fernando Leiva**  
Associate Professor of  
Latin American & Latino Studies  
2018 - 2020



**Adriana Manago**  
Associate Professor of  
Psychology  
2019 - 2023



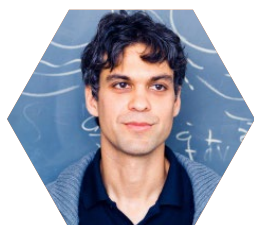
**Marc Matera**  
Professor of History  
2021 - 2024



**Eduardo Mosqueda**  
Associate Professor of  
Education  
2021 - 2024



**Stacy Philpott**  
Professor of  
Environmental Studies  
2018 - 2019



**Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz**  
Professor of  
Astronomy & Astrophysics  
2019 - 2022



**Veronica Terriquez**  
Associate Professor of  
Sociology  
2018 - 2021



**Su-Hua Wang**  
Professor of Psychology  
2018 - 2019

# OUR FIVE YEAR IMPACT

## Catalyze & Emerging Scholar Grants

63 FACULTY GRANTS **TOTALING** \$426,927

12 SEED GRANTS  
\$28,800

37 SPROUT GRANTS  
\$362,538

6 HARVEST GRANTS  
\$8,849

8 MANUSCRIPT ACCELERATOR GRANTS  
\$26,740

## Building Belonging Program Grants

342 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS & 123 FACULTY RESEARCH PROJECTS **TOTALING** \$515,500

## Transforming Futures Awarded Scholarships

19 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS **TOTALING** \$115,500

65 TOTAL EVENTS

WITH MORE THAN

12,974

PARTICIPANTS

## INSTITUTE CORE FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

~\$250k PER YEAR IN CORE FUNDING

LEVERAGED

+\$19 Million ADDITIONAL FUNDING

# Programs at the Institute for Social Transformation

Our programs represent a range of strategies for supporting scholarship that changes the world. Core programs include Catalyze Awards, which provide social sciences faculty with funding to develop, implement and apply transformative research; Emerging Scholar Grants, which help junior faculty amplify their impact; and our student success programs, Building Belonging and Transforming Futures, which deepen student experience in the research and practice of social transformation.

The institute also fosters the institutional infrastructure for innovative, interdisciplinary scholarship by providing key strategic and administrative support to initiatives such as Campus + Community, the Center for Labor and Community, the Right Livelihood Center Santa Cruz, and the Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas. We work directly with faculty on research development and administration, particularly on complex projects with multiple investigators and/or community partners. Finally, IST operates as a partner and amplifier of a range of affiliated Social Sciences centers and programs.

## CORE PROGRAMS

Catalyze Awards  
Emerging Scholar Grants

## STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAMS

Building Belonging  
Transforming Futures

## INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

Campus + Community  
Center for Labor and Community  
Right Livelihood Center Santa Cruz  
Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas  
Global and Community Health

## PROGRAMS: Catalyze Awards

## FACULTY RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Institute for Social Transformation provides research grants to social sciences faculty through the Catalyze Awards program in the following categories:

**Seed Grants (\$500-\$2,500)**

Fostering exploration of new ideas and innovative research by supporting the creation of structures, spaces, and activities designed to promote interdisciplinary communication, engagement, and collaboration.

**Sprout Grants (\$2,500-\$15,000)**

Intended to advance promising research projects by supporting pilot or initial data collection, Sprout Grants move a promising project or research plan forward, including identifying and applying for additional external funding.

**Harvest Grants (\$500-\$1,500)**

Help to support efforts to publicize completed research and promote outreach to decision-makers and stakeholders.

**Emerging Scholar Support**

The Institute for Social Transformation provides emerging social sciences scholars support to accelerate manuscript publication and facilitate the building of a productive research program. The institute hosts manuscript accelerator workshops that provide an opportunity for an emerging scholar to receive critical feedback on a monograph in progress and to build out their professional networks with senior scholars in their fields.

## GRANTS AWARDED

To date,  
we have awarded

**63** faculty grants

totaling

**\$426,927**

in funding for  
faculty research.

SEE PAGE 35 FOR FULL LIST  
OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

For More Information visit  
[transform.ucsc.edu/current-fellows](https://transform.ucsc.edu/current-fellows)

# PROGRAMS: Building Belonging

The Building Belonging program advances faculty research while also fostering student success, increasing engagement, and building a greater sense of belonging for under-represented undergraduate students through faculty mentored service-learning and research projects. Launched in 2020 with generous donor support, the program awards up to 100 Building Belonging undergraduate scholarships each academic year. Student fellows receive \$1,500 per quarter, and are expected to contribute approximately 100 hours per quarter, to the faculty research project. Making these opportunities paid rather than volunteer positions opens them up to students with limited financial means.

Since the program launched, we have awarded over 340 student scholarships—totalling more than \$500,000 going directly to students—and supported over 120 faculty research projects.



Building Belonging Student Showcase on May 17, 2023, at Merrill Cultural Center. The Institute for Social Transformation hosted an end-of-year celebration and students presented their research projects. (Photo by Nick Gonzales/UC Santa Cruz)

## STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



“I have been able to become a part of the research community at UCSC, which has made me gain a sense of belonging and a sense of pride in the work that I am doing. I truly feel like a scientist.”

**Azarely Bedolla**  
Environmental Studies/ Environmental Sciences  
*Building Capacity for Mitigating the Climate Crisis*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**342** STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

**123** FACULTY RESEARCH PROJECTS

TOTALING

**\$515,500**

GOING DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS

SEE PAGE 36 FOR FULL LIST OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

[transform.ucsc.edu/funding/building-belonging](https://transform.ucsc.edu/funding/building-belonging)



“The program has significantly impacted my success as a student, and it has opened up other opportunities for me, including career trajectories in the environmental justice field. It has helped me solidify my confidence in the work that I am doing as an environmental activist.”

**Alcides Fuentes**  
Environmental Studies  
*Building Research Capacity in Global Environmental Justice*



# SPOTLIGHT: Building Belonging Students

## Q&A with Serena Campbell: A network for the future

Originally published in the UCSC Newscenter by Bayan Parrenas Shimizu

When Serena Campbell (Merrill '23, sociology, critical race and ethnic studies) arrived at UCSC, it transformed her environmental worldview. Now, Campbell is working towards transforming UCSC's own environmental research and pedagogy through her work with the Building Belonging Program.

Campbell began her time at UCSC as a double-major in environmental studies and sociology. However, a class within the History of Art and Visual Culture Department injected Campbell's approach to environmentalism with intersectional concepts.

### Cultivating a Critical Environmentalism Network

The Building Belonging Program inspired Campbell to switch to a double major in sociology and critical race and ethnic studies, where she learned more about critical approaches to environmentalism. Campbell interviewed 58 faculty and staff across campus on their research, and compiled her findings into a research project, with the goals of making a network between researchers. On the advice of Professor Hillary Angelo, Campbell transformed her research into a senior thesis entitled "The university needs to listen: Moving from Mainstream to Critical Environmentalism at UC Santa Cruz."

After a semester of research, Campbell found a dire need for collaboration across departments and fields of study: UCSC has multiple professors and researchers focusing on the same subject of critical environmentalisms, but often working in academic isolation. Campbell, in her research, even discovered professors working on duplicate projects without being aware of each other's efforts.

With this discovery, Campbell saw a clear problem and came ready with a corresponding solution from her research: a comprehensive critical environmentalism network.

The network is a place where students, staff, faculty, and community members can access this information. They can find out what's happening on campus, and what people are working on. The network can provide connection for the otherwise dispersed critical environmental research at UCSC, and Campbell hopes it brings researchers together across environmental disciplines.

"The network encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, because right now a lot of funding goes towards the hard sciences as opposed to social sciences or arts, which aren't considered as important within environmental issues," Campbell said. "But their views are important: they inspire and lead towards activism, which is the way to create change for these environmental issues."

Campbell's network is accessible now on the Sustainability Office website, which is open to all. The project contains a comprehensive listing of both faculty involved in critical environmentalism, as well as Critical Environmentalist campus initiatives, organizations, and centers and relevant courses to Critical Environmentalisms. From this network, Campbell hopes to expand into an eventual physical space.

"Hopefully, this network leads towards a cluster or center for critical environmentalism on campus. There would be socializing events, which people indicated as a need."

Campbell knows the importance of such connections firsthand—it's what led her to the Building Belonging Program, after all.

Through resources like the critical environmentalism network, Campbell hopes that students will expand their studies beyond the classroom, and look towards research opportunities and new courses to expand their mindset.



## STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



"This program has helped me feel more connected to the research process, especially as an undergraduate student interested in graduate school. I have found an amazing community of diverse academics who work to decolonize their labs, challenge their privileges, and uplift unheard voices. If it weren't for this lab, I don't think that I would feel connected to psychology in the ways that I do now and think that I COULD be a researcher."

### Gabriella Garcia

Psychology  
*Gen Z, Social Media, and Visibility: Navigating the Intersections of Gender and Sexuality*



"Not only did I make lasting connections with the people that I worked with, I also felt belonging in the fact that my work doing research had monetary value. It's important to feel that connection for young researchers because passion only drives a cause so far."

### Dmitrius Rodriguez

Economics, Philosophy, and Environmental Studies  
*Climate Risk and FDI Barriers to Adopting Healthful Diets Across Cultural and Socio-Economic Groups*

# PROGRAMS: Transforming Futures

The Transforming Futures summer internship program opens opportunities and removes financial barriers for first-generation, under-represented, and low-income students at UC Santa Cruz so they can participate in career-advancing non-credit summer internships. Internships provide an important experiential learning opportunity for students to gain professional experience, build professional networks, and create future career pathways, and are an important component of student success.

While most large, for-profit businesses provide compensation for internships, many meaningful and important internship opportunities, particularly with non-profit and government agencies, are unpaid. Students interested in public service and social justice careers often have difficulty finding internship opportunities that pay enough to support them, particularly when they live in high-cost areas. These financial limitations, along with other barriers, often prevent low-income, first-generation, and racially minoritized students from accessing opportunities that will build their professional experiences and résumés.



2023 Transforming Futures Cohort

In order to expand opportunities for these students, Transforming Futures provides summer internship scholarships up to \$7,500, based on financial need and the level of students' expected summer living expenses. Students identify and arrange internships with employers anywhere in the world, primarily those who are not able to provide fully paid internships, such as nonprofit organizations, government entities, small businesses, or start-ups. In addition to the stipend, participating students receive mentorship and advising, as well as opportunities to develop deeper relationships with their peers. The program is administered by IST with the support of UCSC Career Success and Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).



2022 Transforming Futures Cohort

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**19** STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

TOTALING

**\$115,500**

## 2023 STUDENT COHORT

**Sophia Aguilera**  
*Politics*  
San Bernardino District Attorney's Office

**Fernando Gallardo**  
*Education, Democracy, and Justice*  
Determined to Succeed

**Cayla "May" Gapusan**  
*Global and Community Health, Psychology*  
Beacon Physical Therapy

**Brianie Gonzalez**  
*Education, Democracy, and Justice*  
Your Future Is Our Business

**Maria "Ari" Lopez Guzman**  
*Anthropology*  
Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos

**Dorsa Heydar**  
*Politics*  
Bay Area Legal Aid, Contra Costa

**Mango Iraheta**  
*Sociology*  
United We Dream Network

**Aldrish Jimenez**  
*Business Management Economics*  
BuyBlack.Org

**Karina Navarro**  
*Psychology*  
Monarch Services

**Leslie Salgado**  
*Psychology*  
Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services

**Lizeth Peña Sanchez**  
*Education, Democracy, and Justice / Latin American and Latino Studies / Sociology*  
Schools and Labor Against Privatization Bay Area

**Kahena Wilhite** *Anthropology*  
Fort Ord Natural Reserve

# SPOTLIGHT: Transforming Futures Students

## Q&A with Amanda Safi: Transforming Futures Intern

Originally published in the UCSC News Center by Haneen Zain

Third-year politics student Amanda Safi (John R. Lewis '24, politics) spent her summer interning for the House of Representatives at the Office of Congressman Jimmy Panetta. Safi was the only Transforming Futures recipient in 2022 to pursue an internship in California government. It included answering constituent phone calls, writing daily news summaries, and filing casework involving federal agencies like the IRS, Social Security Administration, and Department of Education.

Safi had also expressed interest in policy work and had the opportunity to work with the policy team in Washington DC. She took notes on caucus briefings, drafted a policy proposal, and wrote up policy co-sponsoring recommendations—some policies of which Congressman Panetta ended up co-sponsoring.

Safi's summer with the office of Congressman Panetta was not the first time she's come across policy proposals, or advocated for what she believed in. In October 2021, Safi's work on a coalition pushing for menstrual equity in California saw Gov. Gavin Newsom sign AB 367 into law. The unfunded mandate requires all public schools grades 6–12, along with community and state universities, to stock restrooms with free menstrual products in 2022. The law had excluded UC systems, but that didn't stop Safi from providing basic necessities to UCSC students.

In February 2022, Safi equipped every UC Santa Cruz women's and all gender bathrooms with free menstrual product dispensers, and disposal bins in each stall. "People don't need to buy toilet paper and soap when they go into a public restroom," said Safi in a past interview. "Just the idea of needing a quarter to pay for a necessary biological event is kind of ridiculous."

"I think that this is such a great program for students that the university should continue after this pilot," Safi said. "I would not have been able to have this amazing summer internship experience without the scholarship."

All funds for Transforming Futures were made available through the generosity of donors MR Macgill and Ho Nam.



Amanda Safi, Politics

## 2022 STUDENT COHORT

### Yoselyne Cerros

Latin American & Latino Studies/Politics  
Watsonville Law Center

### Mireya Curiel

Latin American & Latino Studies  
Senderos

### Paulina Gonzalez

Legal Studies/Sociology Double Major  
Santa Cruz Community Ventures

### Joshua Patstone

Sociology  
Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos

### Amanda Safi

Politics  
Office of Congressman Jimmy Panetta

### Alfredo Gama Salmeron

Legal Studies  
Tenant Sanctuarya

### Shalom Yam

Economics/Math combined major  
The Street Smarts

## STUDENT TESTIMONIAL



"I feel very fortunate to live in a community where donors make it possible for us to immerse ourselves in this short but intense internship without worrying about financial expenses. I know that, otherwise, I would have never gotten the opportunity to participate in an internship of this form, which was a very impactful and great experience."

### Leslie Salgado

Psychology  
2023 Transforming Futures Cohort

## SPOTLIGHT: Campus + Community



# Campus + Community

## Faculty Director

Rebecca London

## Staff

Darío León

Gabriella Alvarez

Glenn Mitoma (former)

## Graduate Students

Ja Bulsombat

David Gordon

Claire Lawry

Adriana Maroto Vargas

Daniel Rodriguez Ramirez

Sylvane Vaccarino-Ruiz

## Faculty Fellows

Regina Langhout

Steve McKay

Jessica Taft

Saskias Casanova

## Undergraduate Students

Yuvisola Munoz

Established in 2022 and housed in IST, Campus + Community (C+C) is a hub for coordinating and facilitating partnerships between UC Santa Cruz and community groups. C+C supports action-oriented scholarship that advances social justice and engages the priorities, assets, and aspirations of local communities. This approach values the knowledge held in the histories, lived experiences, and expertise of people we engage through research and scholarship.

Campus + Community links campus units, better connects campus and community, provides capacity-building for campus and community partners, tracking partnership outcomes, and communicating the results.

Campus + Community also aims to shift UCSC institutional policies and practices to better support community engagement and community-engaged scholarship so that more partnerships can develop. Through working groups, presentations, workshops, and consultations, C+C is engaged in supporting revisions to tenure and promotion guidelines for engaged scholars and in supporting new approaches to ethical review of community-engaged research. This process culminated in the release of a new set of UCSC guidelines in August 2023.

## C+C IN ACTION

C+C has partnered with two United Way programs, the Youth Action Network and Jóvenes Sanos, to engage over **50 local youth** with UCSC faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students to design a **countywide survey** and conduct a series of youth focus groups on mental health in Santa Cruz County.

“The formation of Campus + Community is the culmination of years of organizing and advocacy from community-engaged scholars across campus. We are in an exciting moment in academia when higher education has recognized and is valuing the important knowledge that community organizations and members bring to scholarly work. The IST has contributed immeasurably to the formation of Campus + Community through sharing of staff, logistical support, and collaboration to help us reach our mutual goals.”

– Rebecca London,  
Faculty Director

# SPOTLIGHT: Center for Labor and Community

Originally established in 2007 as the Center for Labor Studies, the Center for Labor and Community (CLC) was relaunched in 2023 with the support of the Institute for Social Transformation. CLC is dedicated to the study of working people, the labor movement, and the challenges of the rapidly-changing economy as it impacts the communities of California and beyond. The center connects students, faculty, policy-makers and labor and community stakeholders, and collaboratively pursues research, policy analysis, and educational and public programs that support workers and their families, particularly those in low-income communities, immigrant communities, and communities of color on the California Central Coast.

With support through the University of California Worker Rights Policy Initiative (WRPI), the center aims to expand research, policy analysis and public programming on key issues such as affordable housing, young worker organizing, equitable economic development, and building strong unions. CLC also supports unions and community organizations by developing curricula, training staff and rank-and-file members, and providing technical assistance.

The Center for Labor and Community hosted a two-day workshop on the growing labor movement in higher education on May 22-23, 2023. The event brought together over 100 worker-organizers to share insights, lessons, strategic perspectives, organizing models, questions, and challenges from our various struggles. Select papers from the event have been published by Notes from Below, a research collective based in the United Kingdom.

CLC is actively developing the next generation of labor and community organizers, researchers, and leaders among undergraduate and graduate students through local programs such as Labor Summer. Labor Summer is a full-time, paid, intensive eight-week internship program designed to train the next generation of labor and community leaders. Students spent their summer learning about social and economic justice and exploring the intersections of race, class, gender, and immigration in the labor movement.

## Center for Labor and Community

**Faculty Director**  
Steve McKay

**Interim Faculty Director**  
Miriam Greenberg

**Program Director**  
Jana Silverman

**Research and Community Coordinator**  
Darío León

**Graduate Student Researcher**  
Sarah Mason

**Labor Summer 2023 Coordinator**  
Rosa Navarro



### LABOR SUMMER 2023

**12** STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

TOTALING

**\$65,000**

### CENTER FOR LABOR AND COMMUNITY IN ACTION

In Summer 2023 the UCSC Center for Labor and Community and the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council sponsored **12 UCSC students** to intern at labor organizations including: **UNITE HERE, UFCW, CCA, CCFT AFT and the Teamsters.**

# SPOTLIGHT: Right Livelihood Center Santa Cruz

Founded in 2013, the Right Livelihood Center (RLC) at UC Santa Cruz is a partnership between UC Santa Cruz and the Right Livelihood Foundation. Housed at the Institute for Social Transformation, the Right Livelihood Center links faculty and students with prizewinning advocates for human rights, economic justice, and environmental regeneration. RLC supports student engagement, advocacy, and leadership, as well as faculty research and teaching aligned with laureates' proven solutions to the world's most pressing global problems.

Since 1980, the Right Livelihood Foundation has presented the Right Livelihood Award, recognizing the actions of brave visionaries & building impactful connections around the world. The Right Livelihood Award is given annually to four people or organizations who provide practical solutions to the root causes of global problems in human rights and the environment.

194 laureates from 76 countries have received the distinction to date, including Greta Thunberg, Wangari Maathai, Vandana Shiva, Bill McKibben, Amy Goodman, David Suzuki, and Bryan Stevenson.

In 2023, the Right Livelihood Foundation designated UC Santa Cruz the Global Secretariat of the Right Livelihood College network. Since 2009, the network has supported student exchanges, research collaborations, and arranged hundreds of Laureate lectures on our campuses. As Global Secretariat, the UC Santa Cruz RLC is working to strengthen the network into a more effective catalyst for addressing urgent global changes.

This year, the center celebrates its 10th Anniversary (2013-2023) and inauguration of its new role as Global Secretariat of the Right Livelihood College global network that includes partner campuses in India, Thailand, Nigeria, Chile, Argentina, Germany, Switzerland, and Sweden.

## Right Livelihood CENTER SANTA CRUZ

### Leadership

Dave Shaw

### Graduate Students

Elena Losada  
Indy Reid-Shaw

### Undergraduate Students

Solenn Augustin  
August Bleiweiss  
Megan Deevy  
Fatima Hernandez Alatorre  
John Matter  
Sharan Sethi

### Alumni

Carmela Ceniceroy  
Emily Rose Friedman  
Sara Durghalli  
Jordan-Hunter Jimenez  
Ethan Mulberg  
Isaac Recinos



## RIGHT LIVELIHOOD IN ACTION

During the last 5 years

- 4 annual Right Livelihood Laureate Lectures
- 22 global online events
- 2 major conferences in Santa Cruz and Bangkok
- 365 students in 2 classes
- 20 student leaders

# SPOTLIGHT: Global and Community Health

Global and Community Health (GCH) is a new program at UC Santa Cruz aimed at improving health and reducing health inequalities both locally and globally. This interdisciplinary program bridges the sciences, social sciences, engineering, humanities and arts with shared commitments to health justice and the development of community partnerships.

In Fall 2022, two new GCH majors were launched at UCSC. The B.A. and B.S. degrees in Global and Community Health are ideal for students interested in partnering with community members and translating research into action at local, national or global levels through such diverse pathways as medicine, health programs, advocacy, policy and health systems strengthening. The new GCH majors advance a vision of health that works to reduce inequities in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. The program also encompasses research on the political, economic and social determinants of health, seeking to make global health a reality for all.

The Institute for Social Transformation has been an important partner and incubator for GCH, primarily helping to connect affiliated faculty and helping to build research collaboratives that connect scholars across UCSC and beyond the university who are dedicated to social justice and health.

**“IST played a vital role in incubating GCH and providing us with the institutional visibility we needed to launch the BA and BS with lots of involvement from across campus. We really couldn’t have done this without IST’s support.”**

— Professor Matt Sparke, Vice Director for Global and Community Health

## Global and Community Health

### Leadership

Katharyne Mitchell  
Paul L. Koch

### Executive Director

Grant Hartzog

### Executive Vice Director

Matt Sparke

### Managing Director

Heather Gardner

### Undergraduate Advisors

Jeyson Aldana  
Leanna M Gervais  
Kylie Rose Gilpin  
Christine Teresa Megariotis  
Mariah Peralta

BY THE END OF ITS  
FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR,  
GCH INCLUDED A TOTAL OF  
PROPOSED OR DECLARED GCH B.A. OR B.S. STUDENTS

167

## GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IN ACTION

Promising and critical research by GCH affiliated faculty members currently being conducted in:

- Climate change / climate justice
- Digital health
- Migrant health
- Disabilities studies
- Pandemic preparedness



# SPOTLIGHT: Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas

Founded in 1992, the Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas (Huerta Center) at UC Santa Cruz advances a broad program of collaborative and interdisciplinary research on Latin America and Chicanx/Latinx Studies, including in the areas of migration, the arts, indigeneity, and California's Latino and immigrant communities.

In 2022, the center was renamed in honor of social justice and feminist icon Dolores Huerta, whose legacy has influenced the center's work and values for decades. The Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas is proud of its long history of working to drive positive social change and continues to innovate and build relationships in service of this goal.

In 2019, with Seed Funding from an IST Catalyze Awards, the Huerta Center established the Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas, which trains students in digital literacy skills to assist with human rights investigations. The lab offers digital verification support to NGOs, news outlets, and other advocacy partners that are initiating open source investigations.

The Institute for Social Transformation has been an important partner for the Huerta Center, providing crucial staffing and administrative support to help the Huerta Center host world-class scholars, sponsor research and community initiatives, and provides mentoring and professional development opportunities for under-represented and first-generation students.



**Faculty Director**  
Jessica Taft

**Faculty Director (2018-2023)**  
Sylvanna M. Falcón

**Program & Operations Manager**  
Kim Vachon

**Events & Program Manager (2020-2023)**  
Darío León



## DOLORES HUERTA RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS IN ACTION

The Huerta Center worked with a cohort of **two dozen students** to complete investigations on the **2022 US midterm election**, the **political crisis in Perú**, the **targeting of indigenous land defenders in Brazil**, and the **impact of the controversial Title 42 policy on migrants in Mexico**.

## 2022-2023 IMPACT

**367** PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**17** RESEARCH GRANTS  
TO SUPPORT STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND RESEARCH CLUSTERS

**20** EVENTS & PROGRAMS  
30TH ANNIVERSARY, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS, LEGISLATIVE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, AND MORE

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

**\$465,806**



# Supporting Collaborative Research

Pursuing world-changing scholarship requires not only bold ideas and committed partners, but the strategic advice, intellectual community, and administrative support necessary to move from ideas to impact. The institute serves as a vital resource for faculty seeking support for transformative projects, providing advice and guidance on proposal development, connection to potential collaborators on and off campus, and staff support for research and administrative needs. With our support, faculty are positioned to pursue more ambitious projects, collaborators develop more rewarding partnerships, and funders can have confidence that their resources are efficiently utilized.



The Institute for Social Transformation, in partnership with the Equity Research Institute (ERI) at the University of Southern California, has been working on a theory, narrative, and policy platform of "Solidarity Economics." Solidarity Economics is a new economic frame that is grounded in our instincts for connection and community while promoting a more robust, sustainable, and equitable economy. It recognizes that people are not just individuals, but also members of broader social groups and communities; that people are motivated not just by self-interest, but also by caring for others and a desire for belonging; and that we can and should build our economy not on an embrace of individuality and competition, but rather on a sense of the commons and our shared destiny. Our current economy is already deeply dependent on mutuality, but inequality and fragmentation undermine this mutuality—and thus our economic well-being.

## Solidarity Economics projects include:

### ***Salinas Inclusive Economic Development Initiative***

**PI: Chris Benner | Years: 2022 - Present**

IST is partnering with a collaboration of nine community organizations, in an effort to shift the region's economic landscape to reduce inequality and improve financial stability and quality of life for local families. Supported by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation, the institute is conducting community-engaged research and community capacity-building work in the Salinas area, located about 40 miles southeast of UC Santa Cruz.

### ***Community Economic Mobilization Initiative Technical Assistance Resource Center***

**PI: Chris Benner | Years: 2022 - Present**

The Institute for Social Transformation is partnering with the Equity Research Institute at USC and PolicyLink to provide strategic advice and technical assistance to the Center at Sierra Health Foundation's Community Economic Mobilization Initiative (CEMI). CEMI is a \$17.7 million and growing fund focused on diversifying the nonprofits involved in receiving and directing federal and state climate-resilient economic development initiatives. IST and its partners are assisting non-profits in building their knowledge and capacity so that they are poised to participate in funding opportunities.

The CEMI Resources website (CEMIResources.org) is the hub for providing access to diverse resources, while the team also develops and delivers trainings and technical assistance for underserved and BIPOC-led community organizations to effectively engage in community economic development. Utilizing the Solidarity Economics framework developed by Chris Benner and Manuel Pastor of ERI, as well as the resources and expertise of the national research and action institute PolicyLink, this project offers a training curriculum that includes resources on race equity in the current economy, understanding economic development decision-making, commercial district revitalization, organizing social and economic movements and more.

### ***Lithium Battery Electric Supply Chain Workforce Analysis***

**PI: Chris Benner | Years: 2022 - Present**

In collaboration with New Energy Nexus, the Institute for Social Transformation is conducting a detailed workforce analysis of employment opportunities and workforce development issues in the Lithium-Battery and Electric Vehicle supply chain. Rooted in the recovery of immense lithium reserves in the Salton Sea geothermal resource, the goal of this work is to contribute to building an inclusive innovation ecosystem for a fully integrated advanced battery and electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing supply chain in Inland Southern California with public purpose and value at its core.

# Supporting Collaborative Research

## **SEACoast – Center for Southeast Asian Coastal Interactions**

PI: Anna Tsing and Megan Thomas | Years: 2021 – Present

The SEACoast Center draws a cluster of scholars to develop a more-than-human historical approach, in which collaborations across history, anthropology, biology, and ecology are central to the study of Southeast Asia's biologically and culturally rich land-and-waterscapes. IST provides administrative support to the Center as it offers a program in which students and scholars have the chance to do the patient and creative work of field-building for understanding the role of coastal interactions within social and environmental formations. The SEACoast Center works to build a "slow science" in which scholars and students across disciplinary divides will have the opportunity to bring area studies insights to urgent ecological dilemmas. Our activities include monthly seminars to build a basis for transdisciplinary intellectual development through common readings and field exercises, through which empirical curiosity might be built across disciplinary divides. Collaborative research clusters, as well as individual research, inform our emerging research program. The SEACoast Center welcomes scholars, students, and the public to join an emerging variety of events, including lectures, working seminars, performances, and film screenings. We offer an annual research fund competition for graduate students and junior faculty working in Southeast Asian studies at UC Santa Cruz, across disciplines.

## **Public Interest Technology University Network**

PI: Chris Benner and Michael Matkin | Years: 2020 – Present

Funder: New America Foundation, Ford Foundation, Hewlett Foundation

Launched in 2018, the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN) represents a collaboration across sectors to define and build the public interest technology sector. UC Santa Cruz joined the network in 2020, with activities coordinated by IST and CITRIS and the Banatao Institute. The program has helped integrate the diverse range of initiatives on campus related to public interest technology into a more cohesive network through a series of quarterly campus workshops focused on 1) curriculum planning and development, 2) alumni relationships and student career development, 3) project funding and support, and 4) coordination of experiential learning opportunities.

**Since 2020, the following UCSC researchers have been awarded PIT-UN grants:**

### 2020

**Sylvanna Falcón** *Latin American & Latino Studies*  
Human Rights Investigations Lab

**Juhee Kang** *Sociology*  
Heads, Hands and Hearts: An Online Resource Guide for  
Experiential Learning in Technology and Social Change

### 2021

**David Lee** *Computational Media*  
Tech4Good Lab

### 2022

**Sylvanna Falcón** *Latin American & Latino Studies*  
Human Rights Investigations Lab

# Supporting Collaborative Research

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## **AgTech**

With the support of PIT-UN, IST and CITRIS helped coordinate efforts to position UC Santa Cruz to contribute to research and development in the growing field of agricultural technology, leveraging our long history in agro-ecology and sustainable food systems, and pioneering developments in a range of new technologies. These new technologies have the potential to dramatically reshape the agro-food system and will likely change the way we produce, process, distribute and consume food: from internet-of-things (IOT)-linked soil and water sensors, to drone and satellite imaging systems, to artificial intelligence and automatic production and harvesting systems, to agroecological and sustainable farming techniques, to block-chain technologies in supply chains. While these developments hold tremendous potential benefits, the nature of new technologies being developed will be fundamentally shaped by who is involved in the early stages. Benefits of technology could be experienced unequally and cause potential harm to producers, workers, and consumers alike if they are not anticipated and carefully addressed. Maximizing societal benefits and minimizing harm from new agro-food technologies will require thoughtful inter-disciplinary expertise. The AgTech initiative aims to develop a strong interdisciplinary collaborative of engineers, scientists, social scientists and humanities scholars to expand and strengthen our work at UC Santa Cruz.

## **New Gen Learning**

**PI: Su-hua Wang | Years: 2019 – 2022 | Funders: Spencer Foundation, UC Santa Cruz Campus Fund**

Faculty and students in New Gen Learning (formerly Advancing Learning Sciences for a New Generation) collaborate to develop interdisciplinary research that identifies the cultural strengths of learning by children and students from historically underserved populations and ways to leverage those strengths in formal and informal settings for learning. Ideas about learning for children and students from historically underserved backgrounds have often been based on assumptions, values, and research with middle-class European American groups. Research and practice often overlook or even undermine the strengths that children and students from underserved backgrounds bring to learning, and instead use a deficit perspective. Learning opportunities for these populations are often insufficient or inappropriate due to a complex set of individual, social, cultural, and structural approaches to learning and instruction. The faculty and students in New Gen Learning come from all five divisions of disciplines at UC Santa Cruz, including Social Sciences, Physical and Biological Sciences, Engineering, Humanities, and the Arts.

## **Salton Sea Long Term Planning Project**

**PI: Brent Haddad | Years: 2021 – 2022 | Funder: State of California**

California's Salton Sea is rapidly losing water as inflows have reduced over the past 30 years. Its footprint is shrinking and salinity increasing, causing negative impacts to the local economy, public health, and the environment. In May 2021, the State of California Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) awarded a contract to UC Santa Cruz to evaluate water importation concepts to refill the Sea. An independent review panel was established, as well as a research support team that would eventually comprise of three UCSC faculty members, one master's student and six doctoral students, as well as engineering, economic, legal, and environmental consultants, under the administration of the Institute for Social Transformation. The Panel's charge was to evaluate public submissions describing ways to import water to the Salton Sea basin to restore the sea. The panel operated from October 2021 through September 2022. It produced four formal reports, narrowing the importation concepts from 18 to three based on fatal flaws, and then carefully analyzed the three, comparing them to two additional approaches identified by the panel. The panel ultimately concluded none of the importation concepts is feasible or recommended. Rather, a desalination plant should be built as soon as possible at the sea to reduce its salinity, with additional water provided from the local Imperial Irrigation District to replace the salty brine effluent water that is produced by the desalination process. Reports are available at <https://transform.ucsc.edu/work/salton-sea-project/>

## **Community Power and Transformation:**

### **Best Practices in Defining Impacts and Partnering with Academics to Change Community Conditions**

**PI: Chris Benner | Year: 2022 | Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

Working with partners at the USC Equity Research Institute, Chris Benner and IST researchers and staff worked to build upon Lead Local, a RW Johnson Foundation project to explore in more depth the field of community power, its unique impacts on outcomes toward healthy communities, and its relationship to academia. The sub-contract to UCSC focused on addressing a key objectives contributing to this overall goal, namely to document best practices in collaborations between community power-building organizations and academics.

# Supporting Collaborative Research

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## **Youth Civic Engagement Projects**

PI: Veronica Terriquez | Years: 2019 – 2021 | Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Sociology professor Veronica Terriquez led multiple related projects on youth civic engagement in California, including the Central Valley Freedom Summer Participatory Action Research Project, and other research initiatives that resulted in multiple publications, including: Los Angeles Youth Vote; Emerging Youth Power in the Inland Empire; Creating Inclusive Spaces for Queer and Trans Youth of Color; and Youth Organizing Groups Empower Diverse Youth in the Central Valley.

## **Bioprecarity: Latinx Migrants, Captivity, and Resistance**

PI: Catherine Ramírez | Years: 2022 – 2024 | Funder: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Led by Catherine S. Ramírez (UC Santa Cruz), Jonathan X. Inda (University of Illinois, Chicago), and Rebecca Schreiber (University of New Mexico), the Crossing Latinidades Humanities Initiative research group, Bioprecarity: Latinx Migrants, Captivity, and Resistance, approaches bioprecarity as a defining condition of undocumented Latinx life in the United States in the twenty-first century. In addition to mentoring doctoral students at other institutions in the Crossing Latinidades alliance (a consortium of Research 1 Hispanic-Serving Institutions), the three co-Principal Investigators are convening a group of scholars working at the intersection of Latinx, migration, and carceral studies. Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative is based at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Crossing Latinidades is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

## **Corre La Voz**

Co-PIs: Cynthia Lewis and Leslie López | Years: 2021 – 2023 | Funder: UC Links

Corre La Voz (CLV) trains and supports UCSC undergraduate mentors in providing bilingual academic mentoring to Latinx students at Bay View Elementary (2021-2022 and 2023-2024) and at Branciforte Middle School (2022-2023). With a special focus on developing literacy through youth-centered inquiry and digital media creation, CLV mentors support youth identities and interests as they communicate for authentic purposes and audiences. The program offers underserved youth a learning experience that engages them through digital media to participate as creative and critical thinkers.

## **Human Rights Investigations Lab**

PI: Slyvanna Falcon | Years: 2021 – 2022 | Funder: UC Office of the President, Multicampus Research Program Initiative

Housed in the Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas, the lab's social justice mission is to track and monitor ongoing humanitarian, environmental and socio-political crises throughout the Americas by using open source investigative methods to achieve accountability for communities adversely affected by human rights violations and to promote justice.

## **Collaborative Research on Social Networks and Health among Indigenous People in California**

PI: Alicia Riley | Years: 2023 – Present | Funder: UC Office of the President, Multicampus Research Program Initiative

The multicampus research collaborative includes researchers at UCSF and UC Merced, as well as UC Santa Cruz. The research is focused on first understanding the online and offline social networks of Californians from tribes Indigenous to the U.S. territory and Indigenous migrants from Latin America, and then use this knowledge to both better understand the effectiveness of different health interventions and to design and test new health messaging.

## **Innovation Catalyst Grants**

Innovation & Business Engagement Hub | Years: 2023 | Funder: Office of Research

The Innovation Catalyst Grant is a proof-of-concept program managed by the Innovation & Business Engagement Hub, focused on providing targeted gap funding, training, mentorship, and support to UC Santa Cruz researchers in order to help de-risk and/or validate the implementation and adoption potential of early-stage technology innovations. The overall objective of the program is to better position innovations to move out of the University, and catalyze the process leading to transformative change and societal impact.

# Publications

## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

We promote and house many faculty publications on our website. So far, 29 publications have been added to our website for easy access to all.

## RESOURCE GUIDES

Through our resource guides, we have provided information, research, and resources on timely and important issues. The newest one, spearheaded by one of our Chancellor's Undergraduate Internship Program (CUIP) interns, is about voting with a focus on providing reading resources and ways to get involved. Additional resource guides have included:

- Anti-racism and Criminal Justice Reform Resources
- Immigrant Rights and Comprehensive Immigration Reform Resources

## BETTER WORLD BOOKS

Since 2019, we have hosted an annual party to celebrate books published by social sciences faculty. Over 45 books have been celebrated at these events.

## THE CUTTING EDGE PODCAST

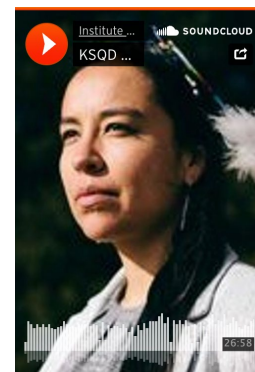
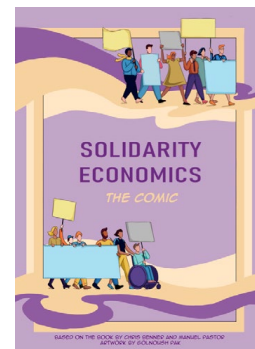
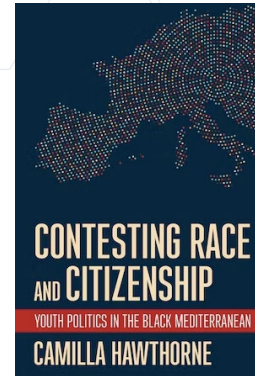
Chris Benner hosts a monthly podcast on KSQD Radio called *The Cutting Edge*. He has interviewed over 48 scholars and community leaders. These are all available on our website audio library and on our Soundcloud channel.

## VIDEO LIBRARY

Many of our events with renowned speakers have been recorded and are available on our website and YouTube channel.

## JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY AND CULTURE

The UCSC Journal of International Society and Culture provides a platform for UCSC students to research and write about important international issues across multiple academic disciplines. The journal seeks to inform discourse on international issues, while simultaneously providing students with the opportunity to author quality articles and reports while working in a system that will prepare them for future academic writing. IST has supported three journal volumes 2019-2022.



# UC SANTA CRUZ | Institute for Social Transformation

## Five Years of Events

The Institute for Social Transformation supports events that bring scholars, students, and community together in spaces that provide for opportunities to engage in mutual learning and build relationships. Our large-scale conferences, symposia, and community engagement supports broad participation, diverse cross-fertilization, and deep capacity-building. Special programs like Conversations on Climate Justice and Necessary Trouble, provide ongoing spaces to pursue critical questions in dialogue with some of the most compelling voices of social change today. And through a range of lectures, workshops, panels, often in collaboration with partners on and off campus, IST is creating a vibrant intellectual and social community around the theory and practice of social transformation.

FROM 2018 ~ 2023

**65** EVENTS  
TOTAL

WITH MORE THAN

**12,974**  
PARTICIPANTS

## Event Highlights

### **All-In: Co-Creating Knowledge for Justice Conference** | October 26-28, 2022

Organized in collaboration with the URBAN Research Network, this conference brought more than 400 collaborators together for dynamic presentations, performances and discussions on the future of critical community-engaged scholarship.

### **Conversations on Climate Justice Series** | Annual, 2021, 2022, 2023

This annual series brings prominent climate justice leaders to campus for critical conversations with scholars, students and community members, on the key challenges and innovative approaches to climate justice.

### **Necessary Trouble: Thinking with the Legacy of John R. Lewis** | 2022

This 5-part series, organized with a range of partners in honor of the dedication of John R. Lewis College, centered on topics exemplified by the life of Representative John R. Lewis, and the lessons for social justice today.

### **Reparations for Black Americans: The Road to Racial Equality in California and Beyond** April 15, 2021

This dynamic panel, which included Congresswoman Barbara Lee and a registered Zoom audience of over 1,200 people, was a dynamic discussion about the racial wealth gap and the growing reparations movement.

### **University Forum Election 2020 Series** | September - October, 2020

This four-part series reflected on key issues at stake in the 2020 elections, in the context of longer term struggles for democratic accountability, racial justice, equal citizenship, and economic equality.

### **Better World Books** | Annual 2019, 2020, 2021

This annual event celebrates published authors and editors from the UCSC Division of Social Sciences, writing about critical social, economic, environmental and cultural issues at home and around the globe.

# All-In Conference: Co-creating Knowledge for Justice Conference

**Scholars, students, and community working together for social transformation at UCSC's All-In Conference**

More than 400 university scholars, students, community organizers, foundation representatives, artists, and activists came together in 2022 for a one-of-a-kind event to build collaborative partnerships for community-engaged research and meaningful social change at the UC Santa Cruz conference: All-In: Co-creating Knowledge for Justice. The event was co-presented by UCSC's Institute for Social Transformation and Urban Research Network and co-sponsored by a broad range of foundations, community organizations, and partners on and off campus.

The All-In Conference, which was held from **October 26-28, 2022**, at multiple locations around Santa Cruz, included 5 plenary sessions, 87 presentations across 42 breakout sessions, a poster session, numerous spoken word performances, including by Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS), Monterey County Poet Laureate Daniel Summerhill, and Fong Tran, and a screening of the award-winning film "Fruits of Labor." There was also a reception at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH) with cultural performances by Senderos Centeotl Danza y Baile folkloric dance group.

"This was not your traditional academic conference," said Chris Benner, professor of environmental studies and sociology and faculty director for the institute. "Right now, we face a crisis of racial and economic inequality, climate change, democracy, and undermining faith in political solutions; this requires all of us to collaborate. Sharing strategies to expand and deepen the co-production of knowledge will help us tackle these pressing social issues."

All-In centered on the idea of critical community-engaged scholarship, an action-oriented, equitable collaboration towards achieving structural change and social justice. The goal is to build stronger relationships between universities and the communities they serve by addressing issues of power and equity and deeply engaging undergraduate students.

More info including photos and video recordings of the keynote presentations are available at: <https://transform.ucsc.edu/past-event-all-in-conference>



# Significant Events

## Conversations on Climate Justice Series

This series, supported in part by the Kamieniecki Lecture Fund Endowment, creates space for critical conversations between advocates, scholars, experts, and community members on the key challenges and innovative approaches to climate justice.

***Architects of Abundance: Indigenous Regenerative Food Systems and the Excavation of Hidden History with Dr. Lyla June Johnston, Chairman Valentin Lopez and Brook M Thompson***  
March 13, 2023 | Co-sponsors: American Indian Resource Center and People of Color Sustainability Collective

***#WeChooseNow: Climate Justice from the Southern Frontlines Colette Pichon Battle in conversation with Flora Lu and Chris Liang***  
April 2, 2022 | Co-sponsors: John R. Lewis College, People of Color Sustainability Collective, and the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

***Changing Climate: The Role of Environmental Justice Rhiana Gunn-Wright in conversation with Sikina Jinnah***  
February 10, 2021 | Co-sponsor: People of Color Sustainability Collective

## Annual Events

***Building Belonging Student Showcase***  
May 17, 2023 | May 25, 2022 | May 26, 2021

The Institute for Social Transformation hosts an annual celebration and student showcase event to honor the work that is accomplished in the Building Belonging program.

***Better World Book Party***  
December 8, 2021

Hillary Angelo, Chris Benner, Heather Bullock, Melissa Caldwell, Roberto de Rook, James Doucet-Battle, Sylvanna Falcón, Camilla Hawthorne, Fernando Levia, Mark Massoud, Steven McKay, Bob Meister, Catherine Ramirez, Tsim Schneider, Daniel Wirls, and Patricia Zavella.

**December 9, 2020**

Lily Pearl Balloffet, Jeffrey Erbig, Madeleine Fairbairn, Hiroshi Fukurai, David Gordon, Karen Holl, Sikina Jinnah, Anne Kapuscinski, Eleonora Pasotti, Catherine S. Ramirez, Megan Thomas.

**December 7, 2019**

George Bunch, Melissa Caldwell, Julie Guthman, Ronnie Lipschutz, Rebecca London, Adriana Manago, Adam Millard-Ball, Katharyne Mitchell, Judith Moschkovich, Patricia Pinho, Lisa Rofel, and Jessica Taft.

## Necessary Trouble: Thinking with the Legacy of John R. Lewis 2022 Series

In honor of the dedication of John R. Lewis College at UC Santa Cruz, the Division of Social Sciences, Colleges Nine and Ten, the Institute for Social Transformation, and the Center for Racial Justice organized five events centered on topics exemplified by the life of Representative John R. Lewis.

***Students as Agents of Transformative Change***  
Xavier Livermon, Elias Solorio, Ileana Waddy, Ivan Vega, Mak Aruta Konefał, and Chris Cuadrado | April 13, 2022

***Pathways to Thriving Communities***  
Linnea Beckett, Alicia Riley, Nancy N. Chen, James Doucet-Battle, and Cristina Gamboa | April 6, 2022

***Social Movements for a Just Society***  
Shirley Nash Weber, Katharyn Mitchell, Elizabeth Beaumont, Hiroshi Fukurai, and Rekia Gina Jibrin | March 30, 2022

***Solidarities for Justice***  
John Brown Childs, Daniel "Nane" Alejandrez, Sylvanna M. Falcón, Christine Hong, Chisato Huges, and Steve McKay | March 2, 2022

***Black Liberation and Pedagogies***  
Savannah Shange, David H. Anthony, III, Cat Brooks and Andrea del Carmen Vázquez | February 16, 2022

## University Forum Election 2020 Series

***California: Our Criminal Justice System and Possibilities***  
Anjali Verma and Craig Haney | October 19, 2020

***California: Changing Demographics, Youth, and Voters***  
Veronica Terriquez and Randy Villegas | October 5, 2020

***Elections, the Constitution, and Institutional Reform***  
Daniel Wirls and Kathay Feng | September 23, 2020

***Hope, Fear, and Desire for Democracy***  
Dean Mathiowetz, Deborah Gould, and Cristina Beltrán  
September 15, 2020



# Co-Sponsored Events

## ***People-powered Responses to the Climate Crisis***

Nnimmo Bassey (Nigeria) | Right Livelihood Center | April 17, 2023

## ***Sharing Futures, Speaking Truths***

Research Center for the Americas 30th Anniversary Celebration  
October 20, 2022

## ***Calling Out Whiteness in University Structures of Leadership***

Transforming Structures of Whiteness in University Leadership Day 2  
Rebecca Covarrubias and Katherine Quinteros  
Center for Racial Justice | April 1, 2022

## ***Book Launch: Precarity and Belonging: Labor, Migration, and Non-Citizenship***

Research Center for the Americas | November 9, 2021

## ***Building Back Better: Tools and Methods for a More Inclusive Recovery***

UC Riverside Center for Social Innovation | October 21, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Futures***

Sora Han, adrienne maree brown, and Savannah Shange  
Institute of the Arts and Sciences | May 11, 2021

## ***Building People-Power – Lessons from Global Movements***

Jamila Raqib (USA) Right Livelihood Center | May 5, 2022

## ***Thinking and Rethinking our Actions***

Nnimmo Bassey | Right Livelihood Center | May 4, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Documenting Justice***

Film screening and Q&A curated by Dee Hibbert-Jones  
and Nomi Talisman | Institute of the Arts and Sciences | May 4, 2021

## ***Counterpoints: A San Francisco Bay Area Atlas of Displacement and Resistance***

Erin McElroy | University Forum | May 4, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: (Re)Enacting Revolution***

Dread Scott and Erin Gray | Institute for the Arts and Sciences  
April 20, 2021

## ***A Virtual Conversation with James Doucet-Battle and Edward Hawthorne: Sweetness in the Blood: Race Risk and Type 2 Diabetes***

James Doucet-Battle and Edward Hawthorne  
Science & Justice Research Center | April 7, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Abolition Beyond the State***

Sadie Barnett, J. Kēhaulani Kauanui, Zoé Samudzi, and Eric Stanley  
Institute for the Arts and Sciences | April 6, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Abolitionist Feminisms***

Beth Richie, Erica Meiners, and Sonya Clark  
Institute for the Arts and Sciences | February 23, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Material and Memory***

Sanford Biggers and Leigh Raiford  
Institute for the Arts and Sciences | February 9, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Surveillance and Cinematics***

American Artist, Simone Browne, and Ruha Benjamin  
Institute for the Arts and Sciences | February 2, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Prisons and Poetics***

Reginald Dwayne Betts | Institute for the Arts and Sciences  
January 26, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Prisons, Histories, and Erasures***

Kelly Lytle Hernández, Joanne Barker, and Maria Gaspar  
Institute for the Arts and Sciences  
January 19, 2021

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Abolition Then and Now***

Isaac Julien and Robin D.G. Kelley  
Institute for the Arts and Sciences | December 1, 2020

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Isaac Julien's Lessons of the Hour***

Online Film Screening | Institute for the Arts and Sciences  
November 30, 2020

## ***Social Transformation – Visions & Mobilizations***

Bill McKibben and Vandana Shiva  
Right Livelihood Center | November 17, 2020

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Visuality and Carceral Formations***

Nicole Fleetwood, Nicholas Mirzoeff, and Herman Gray  
Institute for the Arts and Sciences | November 17, 2020

## ***Visualizing Abolition: Images, Memory and Justice***

Bryan Stevenon | Institute for the Arts and Sciences  
October 27, 2020

## ***Visualizing Abolition: A Conversation***

Angela Y. Davis and Gina Dent | Institute for the Arts and Sciences  
October 20, 2020

## ***Poison Free, Fossil Free Food & Farming***

Vandana Shiva (India)  
Right Livelihood Center | January 25, 2020

## ***The Democratic Foundations of Decarbonization: Mapping Accountability at the Interface of Urban and Global Climate Governance***

David Gordon, UC Santa Cruz | Urban Environment and Justice Collective  
November 22, 2019

## ***Humanity's Last Stand: The Challenge of Artificial Intelligence***

Nicanor Perlas (Philippines)  
Right Livelihood Center | June 6, 2019

# Workshops, Lectures, and Panels

## **Higher Education's Labor Upsurge**

May 22-23, 2023

Co-sponsors: Center for Labor and Community and UC Santa Cruz Faculty Association

## **Solidarity and Spirituality: Soul, Scale, Strategy in a Time of Crisis**

February 27, 2023

Valarie Kaur, Victor Narro, Chris Benner and Manuel Pastor

Co-sponsors: The Revolutionary Love Project, UCLA Labor Center, USC Equity Research Institute

## **Salinas Inclusive Economic Development Initiative Data and Research Convening**

February 10, 2023

## **War in Ukraine: Background, Context, Prospects, Implications**

February, 2022

Jonathan Beecher, Rikki Brown, Melissa L. Caldwell, Peter Kenez, Tanya Merchant, Lincoln Mitchell, Ben Read, April L. Reber, Daria Saprykina, and Roger Schoenman

## **Designing a Faculty Website on WordPress and Making It Work for You**

November 19, 2021

Jason Chafin, Allison Arteaga Soergel, and Andrea Limas

## **Solidarity Economics: OUR Movement, OUR Economy**

November 4, 2021

Chris Benner, Manuel Pastor, Taifa Smith Butler, Jennifer Epps-Addison, Joseph Tomás McKellar, and Felicia Wong

## **The Senate: From White Supremacy to Governmental Gridlock**

October 25, 2021

Daniel Wirls | University Forum

## **Seizing the Pandemic Portal: Transforming Universities for Community Engaged Scholarship**

May 7, 2021

Kal Alston, Anibel Ferus Comelo, Claudia Maria Lopez, RJ Taggug, Jr., Celina Su, Fong Tran, and Timothy K. Eatman | All-In All-Together Spring Webinar

## **Reparations for Black Americans: The Road to Racial Equality in California and Beyond**

April 15, 2021

William A. Darity, Jr., A. Kristen Mullen, Anne Price, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and Chris Benner

Co-sponsors: Center for Racial Justice and Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

## **Immigration Policies in the United States: Understanding Violence Nation-Wide and in Santa Cruz**

December 7, 2020

Regina Langhout and Juan Manuel Pedroza | University Forum

## **Community Based Research: Navigating the Turbulent Times and Places of Political and Biological Pandemics**

October 23, 2020

Ana Carolina Antunes, Omar Bakari, Jelani Atheman, Saia Langi, Michelle Fine, Kathy Boudin, Judith Clark, Michelle Daniel (Jones), Melissa Mahabir, Kate Mogulescu, Monica Szlekovics, María Elena Torre, Sharon White-Harrigan, Cheryl Wilkins, Steve McKay, MariaElena De La Garza, Paulina Moreno, Timothy K. Eatman, Eboni F. Bugg, and Mohamed A. Farge | All-In All-Together Fall Webinar

## **How to use Twitter for Social Impact**

September 22, 2020

Kayla Isenberg and Andrea Limas

Co-sponsor: UCSC Communications & Marketing

## **The Early-Stage Impacts of COVID-19 on Small Business Owners in the United States**

August 5, 2020

Robert Fairlie and Laura Giuliano | University Forum

## **The Lessons of COVID for Global and Community Health**

July 20, 2020

Matt Sparke | University Forum

## **Solidarity Economics**

June 22, 2020

Chris Benner and Katharyne Mitchell | University Forum

## **Food From the Radical Center**

February 24, 2020

Gary Nabhan | Co-sponsors: Center for Agroecology, Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History, Sustainability Office

## **Sanctuary Spaces: Reworlding the West in the Age of White Nationalism**

February 11, 2020

Ananya Roy | Co-sponsors: Sociology Department, Politics Department, History of Consciousness Department

## **Racial Reconciliation and the Future of Race in America**

January 22, 2020

Alondra Nelson, Herman Gray, and Jenny Reardon

Co-sponsor: Science and Justice Research Center

## **13th Annual All-California Labor Economics Conference**

September 12-13, 2019

## **Community Engaged Research Institute**

June 24-27, 2019

## **NSF Workshops**

May 10, 2019

Holly Hapke

## **Using Social Science to Challenge Capital Punishment: A Washington State Success Story**

February 19, 2019

Katherine Beckett and Craig Haney

# Catalyze Awards Full List

The Institute for Social Transformation provides research grants to social sciences faculty through the Catalyze Awards program through **Seed Grants** 🌱 (\$500-2,500), **Sprout Grants** 🌿 (\$2,500-\$15,000), **Harvest Grants** 🌾 (\$500-\$1,500), and **Emerging Scholar Support** ✍️

## 2023 Award Recipients

**Grace (Hyesung) Hwang** *Psychology* 🌱  
The Root Of Political Polarization: Tracing The Development Of U.s. Children's Political Partisanship

**Natalia Ocampo-Peñuela** *Environmental Studies* 🌱  
Exploring The Benefits Of Birdwatching Tourism To Rural Livelihoods In Colombia

**Ariel Zucker** *Economics* 🌿  
Evaluating Emergency Transport For Mothers And Children: Evidence From Tanzania

**Ajay Shenoy** *Economics* 🌿  
Overcoming The Data Disadvantage Through Data Pooling: Preparatory And Pilot Work To Design A Mobile App Intervention In Zambia

**Roberto de Roock** *Education* 🌿  
Forging Community Research-Practice Pathways For Digital Justice In Education

**Jeremy Yamashiro** *Economics* 🌿  
Collective Temporal Thought And Imagination For The Collective Future

**Sikina Jinnah** *Environmental Studies* 🌿  
Solar Geoengineering Justice: Engaging Marginalized Communities In Public Deliberation For Policy Making

**Hillary Angelo** *Economics* 🌿  
Power And Light: Public Lands And The Energy Transition

**René Espinoza Kissell** *Education* 🌿  
Emerging Coalitional Politics Around Educational Debt: Tracing The Relationship Between Grassroots Power And State Policy In California

**Carlos Dobkin** *Economics* 🌿  
The Effect Of Health On Financial Well-Being

**Andrew Mathews** *Anthropology* 🌿  
Using Environmental History To Imagine Alternative Landscape Futures In Central Italy

**Rekia Jibrin** *Education* ✍️  
Punishment And Care: Restorative Justice, Forgetting, And The Eclipse Of Racial Politics

**Mijin Cha** *Environmental Studies* ✍️  
A Just Transition For All: Workers And Communities Fighting For A Low-Carbon Future

**J Bettie** *Sociology* ✍️  
Erotic Politics

## 2022 Award Recipients

**Tsim Schneider** *Anthropology* 🌱  
Amah Mutsun Collaborative Documentary Project

**Maywa Montenegro** *Environmental Studies* 🌱  
Mapping the Contours of Technology Sovereignty with Agroecology and Food Sovereignty Movements

**Rekia Jibrin** *Education* 🌿  
Sprouting Community-University Research Partnerships with Santa Cruz County's Office of Education's (SCCOE) Ethnic Studies Initiative

**Patricia Pinho** *Latin American/Latino Studies* 🌿  
Monitoring Information Disorder in the 2022 Brazilian Presidential Elections

**Josephine Pham** *Education* 🌿  
Multimodal Approaches to Antiracist Teacher Educator Pedagogy

**Alicia Riley** *Sociology* 🌿  
Unequal Loss: Social Impacts of COVID-19 Mortality in Latinx & Spanish-speaking Communities

**Jenny Reardon** *Sociology* 🌿  
Leadership in the Equitable and Ethical Design of Science and Engineering

**Fernando Leiva** *Latin American/Latino Studies* 🌿  
"Early" Embedding Strategies of Extractivist Corporations and the Role of Place-based Memory-making in Community Resistance: Cultivating New forms of Knowledge Production between US and Chile

**Saskias Casanova** *Psychology* 🌿  
Developing a Transfer Receptive Culture to Attain Transfer Racial Equity at a Hispanic Serving Research Institution

**George Bunch** *Education* 🌿  
Improving Access to Equitable US History Instruction for English Learners

**Lora Bartlett** *Education* 🌿  
Teachers' Work in a Pandemic Related and Recovery Context: Working Conditions, Learning Demands, and Career Commitment

**Yasmeen Daifallah** *Politics* ✍️  
Thinking Past and the West: Theorizing The Political Subject in Contemporary Arab Thought

## 2021 Award Recipients

**Grace Weishi Gu** *Economics* 🌱  
Global Banking Capital Allocation Project

**Fernando Leiva** *Latin American/Latino Studies* 🌱  
Understanding Disaster Extractivism And The Covid 19 Pandemic

**Jeremy Yamashiro** *Psychology* 🌿  
Social Representations Of National Decline: Social And Cognitive Components

**Julie Guthman** *Community Studies* 🌿  
Investigating The Ontologies Of Agroecology And Ag-Tech With Farmers: A Pilot Project

**Nirvikar Singh** *Economics* 🌿  
Structural Economic Factors In The Us Racial Wealth Gap: An Empirical Analysis

**Madeleine Fairbairn** *Environmental Studies* 🌿  
Farmland Investment And African American Land Access In The Us Southeast

**Regina Day Langhout** *Psychology* 🌿  
We Belong Too: Youth Voices For Action And Equity

**Shelly Grabe** *Psychology* 🌿  
Evidence For Equity: Mechanisms For Advancing Gender Equity And Political Parity In Peru

**Naya Jones** *Sociology* 🌿  
Cultivating Black Botany: A Research And Pedagogy Project

**Flora Lu** *Environmental Studies* 🌿  
SPROUTing Youth Leadership for Environmental and Community Health in Santa Cruz and Salinas

**Eileen Zurbruggen** *Psychology* 🌿  
Authoritarian And Threat Themes In Alt-Right Youtube News Videos: A Test Of The Dual Process Model Of Authoritarianism

**Lindsey Dillon** *Sociology* 🌿  
Climate Grief, Climate Crisis, And Collective Action

**Mark Fathi Massoud** *Politics* 🌿  
Shari'a, Inshallah: Finding God In Somali Legal Politics (Cambridge University Press)

**Jackie Gehring** *Politics* ✍️  
Immigration, Citizenship, and the Right to Racial Equality in Europe: Creation, Transposition, Implementation

**Nidhi Mahajan** *Anthropology* ✍️  
Mooring: The Dhow Trade, Capitalism and Sovereignty in the Indian Ocean

## 2020 Award Recipients

**Patricia Pinho** *Latin American/Latino Studies* 🌱  
Researching And Resisting Brazil's Reactionary Wave

**Juhee Kang** *Sociology* 🌱  
Collaborative Digital Storytelling Of Contemporary Bhutan

**Sara Niedzwiecki** *Politics* 🌿  
Immigration And Social Policy In Latin America

**Katherine Seto** *Environmental Studies* 🌿  
Turning The Tide: Shifting Access, Equity, And Vulnerability In Coastal California

**James Doucet-Battle** *Sociology* 🌿  
A Social History Of The National Human Genome Center: Remapping Race And Research In The First Two Decades Of The 21st Century

**Jeffrey Erbig** *Latin American/Latino Studies* 🌿  
Deportation And Dispossession's Shared Roots

**David Gordon** *Politics* 🌿  
A Servant Of Two Masters? How Cities Are Responding To The Dilemma Of Urban Decarbonization

**Hillary Angelo** *Sociology* 🌿  
Research Report Launch Event: The Challenge Of Equity In California's Municipal Climate Action Plans

**Camilla Hawthorne** *Sociology* ✍️  
Citizenship And Diasporic Ethics: Youth Politics In The Black Mediterranean.

## 2019 Award Recipients

**Sara Niedzwiecki** *Politics* 🌱  
Immigrants' Access To Social Protection In Latin America

**Lily Balloffet** *Latin American & Latino Studies* 🌱  
Cross-Border Mobility & Confinement In The Americas: An Inter-Uc-Csu Migration Studies Workshop

**Savannah Shange** *Anthropology* 🌱  
The Racial Politics Of Breastfeeding

**Sylvanna Falcón** *Latin American & Latino Studies* 🌿  
Human Rights Investigations Lab For The Americas

**Adriana Manago** *Psychology* 🌿  
Social Media, Gender, And Sexual Identity Development In Adolescence

**Steve McKay** *Sociology* 🌿  
We Belong: Collaboration For Community-Engaged Research And Immigrant Justice

**Flora Lu** *Environmental Studies* 🌿  
Transformations To Groundwater Sustainability: Centering Community In Human-Groundwater Interactions In The Pajaro Basin

**Megan Moodie** *Anthropology* 🌿  
Weilplace: Women's Local Pain Learning And Advocacy Centers

**Hillary Angelo** *Sociology* 🌿  
Global Problems, City Solutions: Launching A Mixed Methods Analysis Of Local Climate Adaptation Plans

**Saskias Casanova** *Psychology* 🌿  
Youth Participatory Action Research, Cultural Knowledge, & Resilience For Latinx Youth

**Jessica Taft** *Latin American & Latino Studies* 🌿  
The Kids Are In Charge: Activism And Power In Peru's Movement Of Working Children

**Rebecca London** *Sociology* 🌿  
Rethinking Recess: Creating Safe And Inclusive Playtime For All Children In School

**Lindsey Dillon** *Sociology* ✍️  
Race, Waste, And Space: Urban Redevelopment And Environmental Justice In San Francisco

# Building Belonging Projects and Fellows

Since the program launched, we have awarded over **340 student scholarships** – totalling more than **\$500,000** going directly to students—and supported **over 120 faculty research projects**. Here is the full list of projects and Fellows :

## 2023 – 2022

### **Venom Lab: Inter-American Archival Research Training**

FACULTY MENTOR: Lily Balloffet *Latin American & Latino Studies*  
STUDENTS: Sofia Trigueros Ufford, Fernanda Ruiz-Riedel, Marissa Guzman, Miguel Narez Vazquez

### **Saclo Village Archaeology**

FACULTY MENTOR: J. Cameron Monroe *Anthropology*  
STUDENTS: Elyse Venerable, Eva Middleton

### **Economic benefits of birdwatching tourism in Colombia**

FACULTY MENTOR: Natalia Ocampo-Peñuela *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENT: Olivia Fragiacomio

### **Impacts of Wildfire on Crop Productivity**

FACULTY MENTOR: Elliott Campbell *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENT: Damiana Rojas

### **Farmland Investment in the Mississippi Delta**

FACULTY MENTOR: Madeleine Fairbairn *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Kiaya Moser, Daniel Thurmond

### **Global Environmental Justice Observatory**

FACULTY MENTOR: Ravi Rajan *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Jade Guzman, Maya Lucia Mendoza

### **Chimpanzee Video Coding Team**

FACULTY MENTOR: Vicky Oelze *Anthropology*  
STUDENT: Halena Soto

### **Harm Reduction for All / Reducción de Daños para Todxs**

FACULTY MENTOR: Carlos Martinez *Latin American & Latino Studies*  
STUDENT: Rafael Revolorio Keith

### **School Youth, Restorative Justice, and the Dilemmas of Structural Violence**

FACULTY MENTOR: Rekia Jibrin *Education*  
STUDENTS: Elizabeth Pena Sanchez, Lizeth Pena Sanchez

### **Black Muslim Worldmaking: Race, Religion, and Gender in the Lives of Black Muslim College Students**

FACULTY MENTOR: Saskias Casanova *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Theresa Bostic, Jade Goree, Zina Hamrouni

### **Educational Equity in Agroecology Curriculum and Programing at UCSC**

FACULTY MENTOR: Damian Parr *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Savannah Benefield, Mauricio Chavez, Paradyse Oakley

### **Educational Enclosures and the Digital Divide**

FACULTY MENTOR: Roberto de Roock *Economics*  
STUDENTS: Arianna Fabian, Sophia Partida

### **Intersections of Race, Affect and Environmental Action**

FACULTY MENTOR: Flora Lu *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Laura Galanos, Paradyse Oakley

### **Solar Geoengineering Governance: Justice for Who?**

FACULTY MENTOR: Sikina Jinnah *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENT: Arien Hernandez

### **Language Comprehension and Cognitive Control**

FACULTY MENTOR: Megan Boudewyn *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Lea Toledo

### **Gen Z, Social Media, and Visibility:**

**Navigating the Intersections of Gender and Sexuality**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Adriana Manago *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Gabriella Garcia

### **Education's Surveillance Quandary: Exploring the Cost vs. Convenience of Post-COVID Technology Application**

FACULTY MENTOR: Nolan Higdon *Education*  
STUDENTS: Luyue Zhang, Maria Cecilia Soto, Joshua Garcia, Alexandra Marie Santos

### **Developing an SES Framework for Restoration Decision-Making Under Climate Change**

FACULTY MENTOR: Carrie Pomeroy *Institute of Marine Sciences*  
STUDENT: Carly McCaw

### **The "Hot Cheeto Girl": Gender Performance and Latina Mobility**

FACULTY MENTOR: Julie Bettie *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Leslie Abigail Marquez, Daniela Obeso, Lizeth Guadalupe Calderon Cervantes, Saul Ordaz

### **Collective Temporal Thought**

FACULTY MENTOR: Jeremy Yamashiro *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Gavin Provencio, Lucinda Veloz, Itzia Duque Cordova

### **Social Impact of COVID-19 Study: Understanding Pandemic Loss and Grief**

FACULTY MENTOR: Alicia Riley *Sociology*  
STUDENT: Eileen Amador

### **EEG Replication Project**

FACULTY MENTOR: Liv Hoversten *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Mia Laskan, Guadalupe (Lupita) Mercado

### **Day-to-Day Teacher Activism for Critical Race and Ethnic Studies**

FACULTY MENTOR: Josephine Pham *Education*  
STUDENTS: Autumn Montez, Juli Sofijski

### **We Belong: Collaboration for Community-Engaged Research and Immigrant Justice**

FACULTY MENTOR: Steve McKay *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Crystal Alvarez Castillo, Alysia Leon

### **Building Diversity in Sociology and Science, Technology, and Society Studies**

FACULTY MENTOR: James Doucet-Battle *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Andrea Asher, Dimitri Cardona

### **Assessing Habitat Use by Mammals and Birds in Restored Tropical Forest**

FACULTY MENTOR: Karen Holl *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Selma Ruiz, Karla Vaca

### **Building Capacity for Mitigating the Climate Crisis**

FACULTY MENTOR: Michael Loik *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Daisy Ramirez, Azarely Bedolla

### **Intersectionality, Close Relationships, and Sense of Belonging in First-Generation College Students**

FACULTY MENTOR: Margarita Azmitia *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Isabelle Vo, Kayla Mendoza

### **Impacts of Wildfire on Crop Productivity**

FACULTY MENTOR: Elliot Campbell *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENT: Yara Sheikhvand

### **Family Planning Incentives and Child Health: Evidence from a Natural Experiment**

FACULTY MENTOR: Ariel Zucker *Economics*  
STUDENTS: Kai Kohlwes, Sanjana Dukkupati, Bhaswati Das Gupta

## 2022 – 2021

### **Identifying Critical Environmental Work and Needs on Campus**

FACULTY MENTORS: Hillary Angelo *Sociology*, Emily Murai *Environmental Studies*, & Flora Lu *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENT: Serena Campbell

### **Continuing Hybrid Out-of-School Activities Post-Pandemic:**

**A Partnership with Salud y Cariño**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Rebecca London *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Yaneli Calderon, Lizeth Bautista Amaro

### **Climate Risk and FDI**

FACULTY MENTOR: Galina Hale, *Economics*  
STUDENTS: Axel Morales Sanchez, Dmitrius Rodrigues

### **Chimpanzee Video Coding Team**

FACULTY MENTOR: Vicky Oelze *Anthropology* & Lars Fehren-Schmitz, *Anthropology*  
STUDENTS: Tony Estrella, Kayla Ott

# Building Belonging Projects and Fellows

## 2022 – 2021 continued

### **Insect Diversity and Ecosystem Services in Urban Agroecosystems**

FACULTY MENTOR: Stacy Philpott *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Sheil Grandhi, Taemon Olukayode Omololu, Lauren (Louie) Dunn

### **Exploring Urban Politics in Taiwan and Around the World**

FACULTY MENTOR: Ben Read *Politics*  
STUDENT: Marlena De Castro

### **Global Banks' Foreign Exposure and Risk Management**

FACULTY MENTOR: Grace Gu *Economics*  
STUDENTS: Ken Chen, Joshua Yang

### **Into the Depths: Examining the Deep-History of Fishing**

FACULTY MENTOR: Eréndira Quintana Morales *Anthropology*  
STUDENTS: Lauren Castaneda, Evelin Aquino Cruz

### **Enhancing climate change education through personalized scientific communications on phenology**

FACULTY MENTOR: Kai Zhu *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Nikhita Kalluri, Luke Hamilton

### **Can scraping and mounding help improve native annual wildflower establishment?**

FACULTY MENTOR: Karen Holl *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Janine Anne Tan, Jennifer Valadez

### **Turning the Tide: Shifting Access, Equity, and Vulnerability in Coastal California**

FACULTY MENTORS: Katherine Seto *Environmental Studies* & Juan Pedroza *Sociology*  
STUDENT: Joseph Lee

### **Colonial Disease Transfer and the Impact on Native South Americans**

FACULTY MENTOR: Lars Fehren-Schmitz *Anthropology*  
STUDENT: Polette Garrido

### **Understanding Attention and Language Comprehension**

FACULTY MENTOR: Megan Boudewyn *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Lea Toledo, Hassan Naem

### **We Belong Mapping Advocacy (Focus Groups)**

FACULTY MENTOR: Leslie Lopez *Oakes College and Community Studies*  
STUDENTS: Abigail Eduardo Espinosa, Tara McAteer

### **Whiteness and International Academic Mobility: The Impact of Living and Studying**

Abroad on the Racial Identity and Network Capital of White Brazilians  
FACULTY MENTOR: Patricia Pinho *Latin American and Latino Studies*  
STUDENT: Alma Mungia-Galvan

### **Building Research Capacity in Global Environmental Justice**

FACULTY MENTOR: Ravi Rajan *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Caitlin Schilt, Alcides Fuentes

### **"You gotta keep pushing": How immigrant people regain ontological security and withstand colonial trauma**

FACULTY MENTOR: Regina Langhout *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Mitzy Acevedo, Lizeth Hernandez, Jennifer Aimee Martinez, Cristina Gonzalez

### **The Impacts of COVID-19 on Racial Inequality**

FACULTY MENTOR: Robert Fairlie *Economics*  
STUDENT: Julian Barragan

### **We Belong: Collaboration for Community-Engaged Research and Immigrant Justice**

FACULTY MENTOR: Steve McKay *Sociology*  
STUDENT: Marlene Nava

### **Economic Valuation and Rent in the Bay Area Agri-food Tech Ecosystem**

FACULTY MENTOR: Julie Guthman *Community Studies, Sociology, Environmental Studies, and Feminist Studies*  
STUDENT: Tamar Sasson

### **Watsonville is in the Heart: A Labor and Oral History Archive**

FACULTY MENTOR: Steve McKay *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Toby Baylon, Eva McBride

### **Simple and Complex Contagion of Misinformation**

FACULTY MENTOR: Jeremy Yamashiro *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Hananiel Suradji

### **Bodies of Evidence: Legibility, Medical Uncertainty, and the Knowledge Problem of 'Rape Kits'**

FACULTY MENTOR: Jamie Morse *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Valerie Garcia, Juli Sofijski

### **A Bibliography of Race and Health in Anthropology**

FACULTY MENTOR: James Doucet-Battle *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Andrea Asher, Camryn Newburn

### **Indigeneity in the Constitution: Struggles for Ethnic Autonomy in Latin America**

FACULTY MENTOR: Kent Eaton *Politics*  
STUDENT: Dylan Waste

### **Mapping farmland investment in the Mississippi Delta**

FACULTY MENTOR: Madeleine Fairbairn *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENT: Marielena Benavides

### **Community Health Workers and the Mitigation of Misinformation about COVID**

FACULTY MENTOR: Matt Sparke *Politics*  
STUDENT: Edwina Malmberg

### **What nudges lead to healthier food choices in dining halls?**

FACULTY MENTOR: Galina Hale *Economics*  
STUDENT: Boi-van Nguyen

### **Digital Voices: Latina youth voice the pandemic**

FACULTY MENTOR: Rebecca London *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Yaneli Calderon, Lizeth Bautista Amaro

### **Recovering the Indigenous and Colonial History of Oak Trees on the UCSC Campus**

FACULTY MENTOR: Andrew Mathews *Anthropology*  
STUDENTS: Kahena Wilhite, Carmela Cenicerero, Megan Pajarito, Eliska Prochaska

### **Mistakes: A Friend or Foe of Learning?**

FACULTY MENTOR: Hannah Hausman *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Kaylee Baker, Siobhan Moher, Mariah Ryan

### **Unequal Loss: Social Impacts of Covid-19 Mortality in Latinx & Spanish-speaking Communities**

FACULTY MENTOR: Alicia Riley *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Eileen Amador, Robin Hernandez

### **Global Banks' Value-at-Risk and Risk Management**

FACULTY MENTOR: Grace Gu *Economics*  
STUDENT: Gavin Faridi

### **Salinas Inclusive Economic Development Initiative (SIED): Storymapping**

FACULTY MENTOR: Chris Benner *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Mia Perez, Katherine Vanegas, Nicasio Inchausti

### **Trans Migrant Life Histories in Iquitos, Peru**

FACULTY MENTOR: Justin Perez *Legal Studies*  
STUDENTS: Jesus Najera, Melanie Renteria

### **Documentary Film, Patient-Led Research, and the Question of Medical Evidence**

FACULTY MENTOR: Megan Moodie *Anthropology*  
STUDENT: Isabella Crespin

### **Teaching Environmental Politics and Justice**

FACULTY MENTOR: Sikina Jinnah *Environmental Studies and Legal Studies*  
STUDENTS: Arien Hernandez, Alycia Bernadino

### **Ethnic Studies Research Collaboration with Santa Cruz County Office of Education**

FACULTY MENTOR: Cynthia Lewis *Sociology and Education*  
STUDENTS: Jaedyn Wells, Lizeth Pena Sanchez

### **EEG Replication Project**

FACULTY MENTOR: Liv Hoversten *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Angel Sanchez

### **Civic Identity Development and Social Media Use among U.S. College Students**

FACULTY MENTOR: Adriana Manago *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Jaqueline Gonzales

# Building Belonging Projects and Fellows

## 2021 – 2020

### Building Environmental Belonging: Racial Inclusion and Diversity among Undergraduates at UCSC

FACULTY MENTOR: Flora Lu *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Kimie Dare, Jianjia Gettinger

### Chimpanzee Video Coding Team

FACULTY MENTOR: Vicky Oelze *Anthropology*  
STUDENTS: Lauryn Hobbs, Payton Sime

### Educational Justice across Digital Divides: Building and Sustaining a Community Partnership during COVID-19

FACULTY MENTOR: Cynthia Lewis *Education*  
STUDENT: Jessica Garcia

### Faculty Diversity in California Environmental Studies and Sciences Departments: Implications for Student Learning and the Growth of the Field

FACULTY MENTOR: Sikina Jinnah *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Amani Taylor, Arien Hernandez

### Incorporating Cultural and Family Strengths to Build an Inclusive Campus Climate for Undocumented Community College Students

FACULTY MENTOR: Saskias Casanova *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Arley Aguilar Luna

### Narratives of Political Participation Among Peruvian Women's Right Activists: Archive Project

FACULTY MENTORS: Sylvana Falcón *Latin American and Latino Studies* & Shelly Grabe *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Nicole Herrera-Moro, Lizbeth Garcia Bermude, Karelly Valdez, Maria Govea Mendoza

### Phenology Observers on Social Media

FACULTY MENTOR: Kai Zhu *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Caitlin Schilt, Jade Guzman

### Turning the Tide: Shifting Access, Equity, and Vulnerability in Coastal California

FACULTY MENTOR: Katherine Seto *Environmental Studies* & Juan Pedroza *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Leslie Lazo, Joseph Lee

### Profiling First-Generation Faculty: On Making Sense of Racial/Ethnic Identity in First-Generation Visibility Campaigns Nationwide

FACULTY MENTOR: Rebecca Covarrubias *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Kimberlie Hatch

### Youth Participatory Action Research, Cultural Knowledge & Resilience for (Im)migrant High School Students

FACULTY MENTOR: Saskias Casanova *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Alicia Alvarez

### Suddenly Distant: Teachers' Work in the Context of COVID

FACULTY MENTOR: Lora Bartlett *Education*  
STUDENT: Lila Harte

### We Belong: Collaboration for Community-Engaged Research and Immigrant Justice

FACULTY MENTOR: Steve McKay *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Jonathan Sanchez, Eddie Resendiz, Cristina Gonzalez, Ashley Gutierrez

### Barriers to Adopting Healthful Diets Across Cultural and Socio-Economic Groups

FACULTY MENTOR: Galina Hale *Economics*  
STUDENTS: Dmitrius Rodriguez, Yang Li

### Two Pandemics in the Ring of Fire: COVID-19, Diabetes, and Infernal Change

FACULTY MENTOR: James Doucet-Battle *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Tamar Sasson, Andrea Asher

### Who Saves Whom? Compassionate Economies of Care in Animal Rescue

FACULTY MENTOR: Lissa Caldwell *Anthropology*  
STUDENTS: Samuel Bass, Jazmin Gonzalez, Erendira Blanco Castano, Alyssa Cabral, Dee Cappelli

### Vulnerability and Positionality in Fieldwork on Law

FACULTY MENTOR: Mark Fathi Massoud *Politics*  
STUDENT: Anushka Shah

### SEMILLA Teach Project

FACULTY MENTOR: Samuel Severance *Education*  
STUDENTS: Karina Ibeth Rosales, Noemi Avenida

### Ecosystem Services and Shade Management in coffee Agroecosystems: Ecology and Application

FACULTY MENTOR: Stacy Philpott *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Jenny Hsu, Robyn Fowler

### Lost in Translation: Language Segregation Among Hispanics in the United States

FACULTY MENTOR: Juan Manuel Pedroza *Sociology*  
STUDENT: Alejandra Martinez Saldivar

### Hate Speech and Community

FACULTY MENTOR: Ryan Coonerty *Politics*  
STUDENTS: Cassandra Mar, Edward Estrada

### Language, Literacy, and Academic Pathways for the 'New Mainstream' in Community Colleges

FACULTY MENTOR: George Bunch *Education*  
STUDENTS: Alexis Roman, Gabriela Nunez de la Torre

### Making Noncitizen Rights Real

FACULTY MENTOR: Juan Manuel Pedroza *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Dennise Onchi-Molina, Melissa Garcia Carrillo

### Optimizing Feedback to Enhance Student Learning

FACULTY MENTOR: Hannah Hausman *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Kaylie Kurland, Huda Ajaz, Sid Masuda

### Platform Workers in the Post Prop 22 Environment

FACULTY MENTOR: Chris Benner *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Jonathan Winston, Karina Diaz Alvarez

### Socio-Environmental Conflicts in Chile's Huasco Valley

FACULTY MENTOR: Fernando Leiva *Latin American & Latino Studies*  
STUDENT: Dalia Cervantes

### Translatinx Migrant Health during COVID-19

FACULTY MENTOR: Katherine Seto *Environmental Studies Department* & Juan Manuel Pedroza *Sociology*  
STUDENT: Melanie Renteria

### Bodies of Evidence: Legibility, Medical Uncertainty, and the Knowledge Problem of 'Rape Kits'

FACULTY MENTOR: Jaimie Morse *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Valerie Garcia, Bridge Kennedy, Victoria Crowley, Sophia Grewell

### Civic Identity Development and Social Media Use among U.S. College students

FACULTY MENTOR: Adriana Manago *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Jacqueline Gonzales

### Communicational Remembering in Social Networks

FACULTY MENTOR: Jeremy Yamashiro *Psychology*  
STUDENT: Hananiel Suradji

### Enhancing Climate Change Education Through Personalized Scientific Communications on Phenology

FACULTY MENTOR: Kai Zhu *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Jade Guzman, Luke Hamilton

### Global Banking Capital Allocation Project

FACULTY MENTOR: Grace Weishi Gu, *Economics Department*  
STUDENT: Jacob Hammersly

### Interrupting Patriarchal Violence: Abolitionist Approaches to Harm in Black Communities

FACULTY MENTOR: Savannah Shange *Anthropology*  
STUDENT: Shaye Paysinger

### Pandemic Politics, Structural Racism and Community Resilience

FACULTY MENTOR: Matt Sparke *Politics*  
STUDENT: Samantha Gonzalez

# Building Belonging Projects and Fellows

## 2021 – 2020 continued

**Political Distancing across the Carceral Divide: COVID-19, Confinement, Contagion, Containment, and County Choices in California**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Anjali Verma *Politics*  
STUDENTS: Saron Yared, Heather Collins, Jared Farley, Cassandra Beale, Shaye Paysinger

**The Digital Undercommons: Documenting Abolitionist Pedagogies in Global Social Movements**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Roberto de Roock *Education*  
STUDENTS: Yareli Jimenez, Sophia Partida, Mitzy Acevedo

**Uncanny Ecologies: Toward a NonSecular Understanding of Nature**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Mayanthi Fernando *Anthropology*  
STUDENTS: Queenie Don, Adria Vidales

**Moonshot or Mundane? Tracing Investment Patterns in the Bay Area Agri-food Tech Sector**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Julie Guthman *Community Studies*  
STUDENTS: Tara Lamb, Tamar Sasson, Bonafacio Miranda

**Internship in the Archaeology of Slavery and the Slave Trade**  
FACULTY MENTOR: J. Cameron Monroe *Anthropology Department*  
STUDENTS: John Berg, Lauren Castaneda

**Intergenerational Occupation Mobility and Trade**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Gueyon Kim *Economics*  
STUDENTS: Manisha Magal, Crystal Fok

## 2020 – 2019

**Human Rights Investigations**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Sylvanna Falcón *Latin American & Latino Studies*  
STUDENTS: Josue Perez-Hernandez, Marian Avila Breach, Juan Castañon, Angie Valencia

**The Financial Impact of COVID-19 on University Students**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Steve Owen *Economics*  
STUDENTS: Manik Wason, Christina Le, Erica De La Cruz, Andrea Antezana

**We Belong: Collaboration for Community-Engaged Research and Immigrant Justice**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Steve McKay *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Janetzi Juárez, Anakaren Quintero Davalos, Sophie Shaw, Alejandro Ruelas-Mora

**A Servant of Two Masters? How Cities are Responding to the Dilemma of Urban Decarbonization**  
FACULTY MENTOR: David Gordon *Politics*  
STUDENTS: Tylan Ahmed, Ryan Aston, Christina Monis-Hernandez, Gabriela Sherren

**Socio-Environmental Conflicts in Chile's Huasco Valley**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Fernando Leiva *Latin American & Latino Studies*  
STUDENTS: Daniel Barrientos Castaneda, Benjamin Gonzalez Cueto, Zoila A Gonzalez

**Non-STEM College Students' Learning of Digital Skills to Curate and Create Technology**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Juhee Kang *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Autumn Hill, Kayla Gomez, Karina Cruz Rosales

**Chimpanzee Video Coding**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Vicky Oelze *Anthropology*  
STUDENTS: Maria Borges, Cielo De La Rosa Meza, Payton Sime, Julie Elliott

**Neural Mechanisms of Confidence in a Perceptual Decision**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Jason Samaha *Psychology Department*  
STUDENTS: Lleydi J. Martinez Arango, Leopoldo Arellano

**Experiences for Social Impact**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Chris Benner *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENT: Alexandra Munoz

**Theorizing Race After Race**  
FACULTY MENTORS: Camilla Hawthorne and Jenny Reardon *Sociology*  
STUDENT: Aitanna Parker

**Measuring Labor Market Transitions In The Asia And Pacific Region**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Brenda Samaniego de la Parra *Economics*  
STUDENT: Hana Braitsch

**Costly Information and State-Contingent Attention**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Grace Weishi Gu *Economics*  
STUDENTS: Melanie Wong, Leqi Zeng

**Immigrants at the Crossroads: Where Has Immigration Enforcement Reinforced Social Friction Across the United States?**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Juan Pedroza *Sociology*  
STUDENTS: Joshua Solis, Melissa Carrillo Garcia

**The Determinants of Teacher Labor Supply**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Laura Giuliano *Economics*  
STUDENTS: Laniah Lewis, Xingpei Zhang

**A 15-year Longitudinal Study of College Students' Identities, Close Relationships, Education and Career Trajectories, and Mental Health**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Margarita Azmitia *Psychology*  
STUDENTS: Jonathan Melchor, Matthew Alvarez

**Using Design Anthropology to Address Flooding in South Carolina Environmental Justice Communities**  
FACULTY MENTORS: Melissa Caldwell and Brian Walter *Anthropology*  
STUDENTS: Brittney Barron, Natalie Adey, Jessica Peters

**Phenology Observers on Twitter**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Kai Zhu *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Caitlin Schilt, Luke Hamilton

**Faculty Diversity in US Environmental Studies Department: Implications for Student Learning and Growth of the Field**  
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STUDENT: Lila Harte

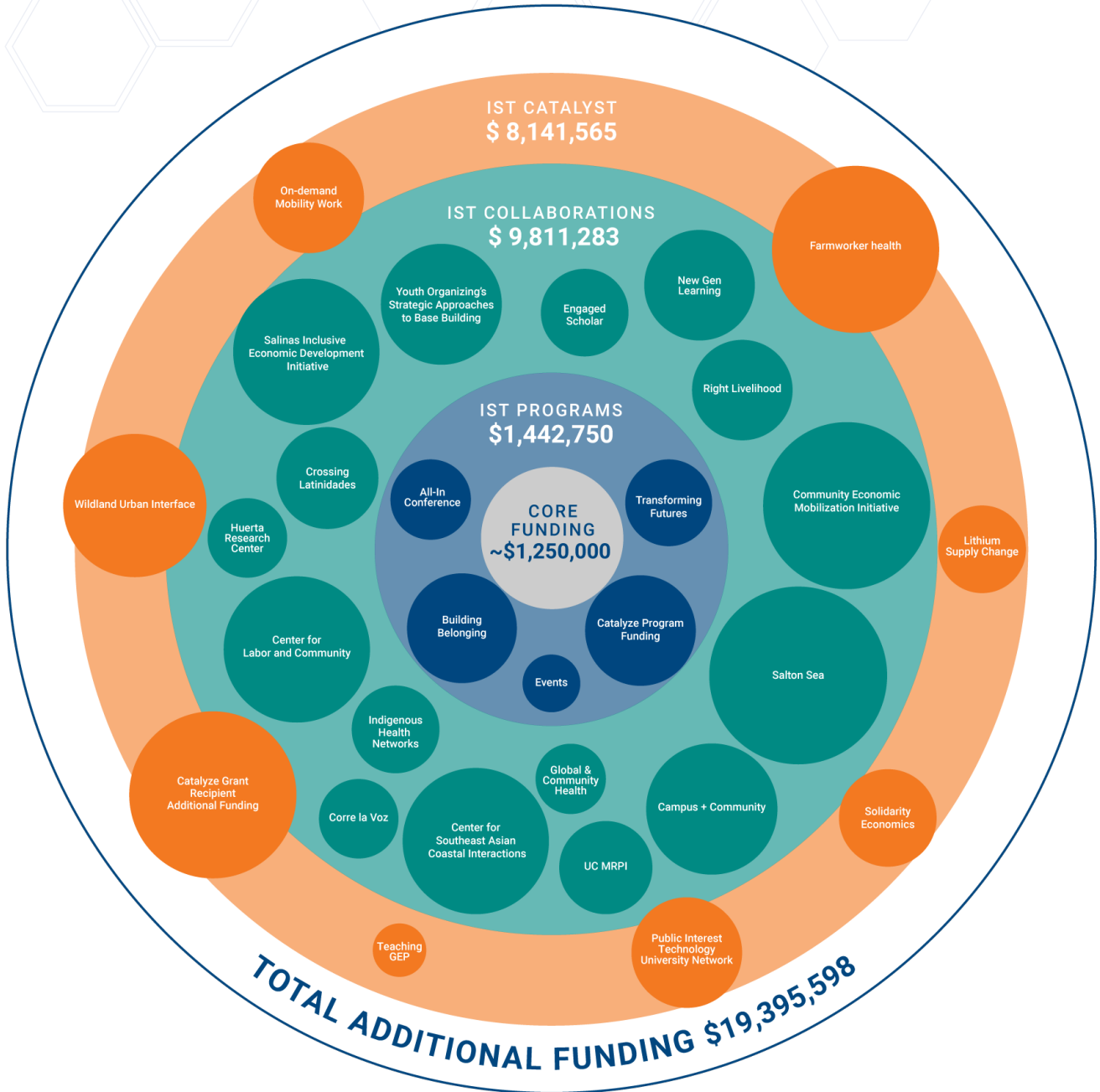
**Language, Literacy, and Academic Pathways for the "New Mainstream" in Community Colleges**  
FACULTY MENTOR: George Bunch *Education*  
STUDENT: Alexis Roman

**American Venom: What Snakes Tell Us about our Interconnected Hemisphere**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Lily Balloffet *Latin American & Latino Studies*  
STUDENTS: Cynthia Valadon, Lizbeth Garcia, Isabelle Arguilez

**Covid-19 Public Health Campaign with DigitalNEST**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Chris Benner *Environmental Studies*  
STUDENTS: Bianca Esquivias, Jonathan Winston

# Financial Highlights

CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018 TO 2023, SHOWS THE LEVERAGING POWER OF THE INSTITUTE.



**CORE FUNDING**  
These funds are provided by the Social Sciences Division for core staffing and operational costs.

**IST PROGRAMS**  
These programs are administered or led directly by IST staff, with external financial support.

**IST COLLABORATIONS**  
In these collaborations, IST staff work directly with collaborators to help them in their project development and implementation.

**IST CATALYST**  
These are initiatives that are either recipients of IST Catalyst funding, or in which IST has provided some other assistance that have helped them access additional support.



# Funding

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We are grateful to all our funders, both inside and outside the university, as well as individual donors who make our work possible.

## INSTITUTE CORE FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

**~\$250k** PER YEAR IN CORE FUNDING  **+\$19 Million** ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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## OUR FUNDERS

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Chavez Family Foundation  
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Ford Foundation  
Henry Luce Foundation  
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James Irvine Foundation  
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UCSC Baskin School of Engineering  
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UCSC Center for Labor and Community  
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# Partners

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We work closely with a variety of collaborative partners to develop many of our projects, programs, and events.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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4th Second  
AAPI Equity Alliance  
Action Council of Monterey County, Inc.  
Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association  
Alianza Coachella Valley  
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band  
Anti-Recidivism Coalition  
Building Healthy Communities  
CA Association for Microenterprise Opportunity (CAMEO)  
California Calls Education Fund  
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (CHNSC)  
California Heritage Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP)  
Center for Community Advocacy  
Central Valley Community Foundation  
Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indígenas Oaxaqueño  
Chaffey College Foundation  
Chinese Progressive Association  
CHISPA  
CIELO-Community for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership  
City Heights Community Development Corporation  
Communities Development Technologies Center (CDTech)  
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County  
Community Economic Mobilization Initiative Community Partners  
Community Foundation of San Joaquin  
COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Dolores Huerta Foundation  
First 5 Monterey County  
Flintridge Center  
Friendship House Association of American Indians  
Hartnell College Foundation  
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Imagining America  
Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition  
Inland Empire Black Worker Center  
Inland Empire Growth & Opportunity  
Inland Empire Labor Institute  
Jewish Vocational & Career Counseling Service  
La Familia Counseling Center  
LAUNCH  
Loaves, Fishes & Computers  
Los Angeles Black Worker Center  
Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade, Black United Fund, Inc  
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council  
Monterey Bay Economic Partnership  
Mujeres en Acción  
Museum of Art and History  
Nevada Sierra Connecting Point Public Authority  
New Energy Nexus  
North Bay Jobs with Justice  
Organizacion en California Lideres Campesinas  
Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association  
Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California  
PolicyLink  
Rancho Cielo  
Regions Rise Together Salinas  
Roots Community Health Center  
Salinas Inclusive Economic Development Initiative

San Francisco Jobs with Justice  
San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission  
Senderos  
Small Business Majority Foundation, Inc  
Stanislaus Equity Partners  
Taller San Jose Hope Builders  
The Digital NEST  
The United Way California Capital Region  
The Utility Reform Network  
United Way of Santa Cruz County  
Uplift Central Coast  
Urban Displacement Project  
Vision y Compromiso  
West Fresno Family Resource Center  
Working Partnerships USA

## HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS

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Occidental College Urban & Environmental Policy Institute  
UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education  
UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment  
UC Berkeley Labor Center  
UC Davis Center for Regional Change  
UC Davis Public Scholarship and Engagement  
UCLA Labor Center  
UC Merced Labor Center  
UC Merced Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship  
UC Riverside Center for Social Innovation  
UC Santa Cruz  
American Indian Resource Center  
Arts Research Institute  
Blum Center on Poverty, Social Enterprise, and Participatory Governance  
Campus + Community  
Career Success  
Center for Agroecology  
Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development  
Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning  
Center for Labor and Community  
Center for Racial Justice  
CITRIS  
Division of Social Sciences  
Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas  
Earth Futures Institute  
Educational Opportunity Programs  
Everett Program  
Innovation & Business Engagement Hub  
Institute of the Arts and Sciences  
John R. Lewis College  
People of Color Sustainability Collective  
Office of Research  
Science & Justice Research Center  
The Humanities Institute  
University Relations  
URBAN Research Action Network  
USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute

# Social Sciences Division at UC Santa Cruz

The Chancellor of UC Santa Cruz has called the Division of Social Sciences the heart and soul of the university, and for good reason. The division is the largest academic unit on campus. It includes about 45 percent of undergraduate majors and nearly 30 percent of graduate students, and course enrollments are at an all-time high. Across all disciplines in the Division of Social Sciences, students see clear relevance and purpose. There is a strong commitment to environmental and social responsibility, and many students want to give back to society when they graduate. All majors and programs provide this opportunity.

Since its inception, the Division of Social Sciences has sought to achieve the highest possible distinction for scholarship. Faculty members have extended the boundaries of knowledge in both traditional and new fields. Research is conducted through disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary lines of inquiry, with a major focus on the study of human relationships in society.

UC Santa Cruz was established as a grand experiment in higher education. Although the campus has now grown, work by Social Sciences faculty and students incorporates many of the same basic values on which this trailblazing campus was founded. Research and publications by our faculty question mainstream assumptions and are frequently cited in academic and media outlets. The division is still a place where risk taking is not only encouraged but also rewarded.

As dean of the Division of Social Sciences, Katharyne Mitchell's goal is promoting the exceptional work of the faculty, fostering student success both on campus and in their daily lives, and supporting the launch and growth of the Institute for Social Transformation, a critical intellectual and social hub that develops research-based solutions to urgent problems in the world.

## Division-wide Research Centers & Initiatives

BLUM CENTER ON POVERTY, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE  
CAMPUS + COMMUNITY

CENTER FOR AGROECOLOGY

CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL FINANCE (CAFIN)

CENTER FOR CULTURAL STUDIES

CENTER FOR INTEGRATED SPATIAL RESEARCH (CISR)

CENTER FOR LABOR AND COMMUNITY

CENTER FOR STATISTICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES (CSASS)

EVERETT PROGRAM

DOLORES HUERTA RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS (HUERTA CENTER)

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OBSERVATORY

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

KENNETH S. NORRIS CENTER FOR NATURAL HISTORY

SCIENCE & JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTER

**“Social justice is the foundation of the Division of Social Sciences at UC Santa Cruz. Our faculty and students are connecting urgent issues of the day to important themes of equity, access, policy, and politics. This current political juncture presents critical opportunities for scholars in the social sciences committed to making a difference.”**

— KATHARYNE MITCHELL,  
DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



**UC SANTA CRUZ** | **Institute for  
Social Transformation**

**Institute for Social Transformation**  
**Division of Social Sciences**

1156 High St. Santa Cruz, CA 95064  
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