# Table of Contents

- Welcome Letter .......................................................... 3
- Inquiry with Impact ..................................................... 4
- Reflecting on our First Five Years ................................. 7 - 9
- Leadership ................................................................. 10
- Staff .......................................................................... 11
- Executive Board Members ............................................. 12
- Our Five Year Impact .................................................... 13
- Programs at the Institute for Social Transformation .......... 14
  - Catalyze Awards Program ............................................ 15
  - Building Belonging Program ....................................... 16
  - Transforming Futures Program .................................... 18
- Spotlight: Campus + Community .................................. 20
- Spotlight: Center for Labor and Community .................. 21
- Spotlight: Right Livelihood Center Santa Cruz ............... 22
- Spotlight: Global and Community Health ...................... 23
- Spotlight: Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas . 24
- Supporting Collaborative Research ................................. 25 - 28
- Publications .................................................................. 29
- Five Years of Events ..................................................... 30 - 34
- Award Recipients List ................................................... 35 - 39
- Financial Highlights ...................................................... 40
- Funders ....................................................................... 41
- Partners ...................................................................... 42
- Social Sciences Division at UC Santa Cruz .................... 43
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
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.
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 Falcon, 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.
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.

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

Dario 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

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
Catalyze & Emerging Scholar Grants

63 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 & 123 TOTALING $515,500
- 342 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
- 123 FACULTY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Transforming Futures Awarded Scholarships

19 TOTALING $115,500
- 19 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

65 TOTAL WITH MORE THAN 12,974 PARTICIPANTS

INSTITUTE CORE FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

~$250k LEVERAGED +$19 Million
- PER YEAR IN CORE FUNDING
- ADDITIONAL FUNDING
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
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
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—totaling more than $500,000 going directly to students—and supported over 120 faculty research projects.

“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

“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

SEE PAGE 36 FOR FULL LIST OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

transform.ucsc.edu/funding/building-belonging
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.

"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

"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
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.

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).
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.

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 Sanctuary

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

transform.ucsc.edu/funding/transforming-futures-internship
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.

"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

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.

campuscommunity.ucsc.edu
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.

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.

CENTER FOR LABOR AND COMMUNITY IN ACTION
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 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

rightlivelihood.ucsc.edu
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 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

PROPOSED OR DECLARED GCH B.A. OR B.S. STUDENTS

167

BY THE END OF ITS FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR, GCH INCLUDED A TOTAL OF

gch.ucsc.edu
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 Chicano/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.

huerta.ucsc.edu

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.

Solidarity Economics

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.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Sylvanna Falcón</td>
<td>Latin American &amp; Latino Studies</td>
<td>Human Rights Investigations Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>David Lee</td>
<td>Computational Media</td>
<td>Tech4Good Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Sylvanna Falcón</td>
<td>Latin American &amp; Latino Studies</td>
<td>Human Rights Investigations Lab</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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.
Youth Civic Engagement Projects
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 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.
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.

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.
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
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 Roock, James Doucet-Battle, Sylvanna Falcón, Camilla Hawthorne, Fernando Levia, Mark Massoud, Steven McKay, Bob Meister, Catherine Ramirez, Tsrin 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. Ramírez, Megan Thomas.

December 7, 2019

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 Konefal, 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

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
Anjuli 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, Zoë 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

**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 Cormelo, 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 Artunes, 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, Maria Elena 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 Giuliani | 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), Harvest Grants ($500-$1,500), and Emerging Scholar Support.

2023 Award Recipients

Grace (Hyesung) Hwang Psychology 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

Natalia Ocampo-Peruella 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

Siukin Jinah Environmental Studies Solar Geoeconomics: 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 Cospatial 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

Mijn Chao Environmental Studies A Just Transition For All Workers And Communities Fighting For A Low-Carbon Future

J Betty Sociology Erotic Politics

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

2021 Award Recipients

Grace Weishi Gu Economics Global Banking Capital Allocation Project

Fernando Leiva Latin American/Latino Studies Investigating The Ontologies Of Agroecology And AgTech With Farmers: A Pilot Project

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

Julie Guthman Community Studies Cultivating Black Botany: A Research And Pedagogy Project

Nirvikar Singh Economics Structural Economic Factors In The Us 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 Climate Grief, Climate Crisis, And Collective Action

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

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

Lindsey Dillon Sociology The Kids Are In Charge: Activism And Power In Peru’s Movement Of Working Children

Megan Moodie Anthropology 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

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 We Belong: 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 Young Participatory Action Research, Cultural Knowledge, And 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 Reciprocity: 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

Saskias Casanova Psychology 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

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J Betty Sociology Erotic Politics

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

Grace Weishi Gu Economics Global Banking Capital Allocation Project

Fernando Leiva Latin American/Latino Studies Investigating The Ontologies Of Agroecology And AgTech With Farmers: A Pilot Project

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

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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 Narey Vazquez

**Saclo Village Archaeology**  
FACULTY MENTOR: J. Cameron Monroe Anthropology  
STUDENTS: Elyse Venable, Erika Middleton

**Economic benefits of birdwatching tourism in Colombia**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Natalia Ocampo-Peñuela Environmental Studies  
STUDENT: Olivia Fragiacomo

**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 Thurnmond

**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: Helena Soto

**Harm Reduction for All / Reducción de Daños para Todxs**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Carlos Martinez Latin American & Latino Studies  
STUDENT: Rafael Revolendo 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: Saskia Casanova Psychology  
STUDENTS: Theresa Bostic, Jade Gere, Zina Hamrouni

**Educational Equity in Agroecology Curriculum and Programing at UCSC**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Damian Part 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  
STUDENT: 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 Boudevyn 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 Pomery 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  
STUDENT: Autumn Montez, Juli Sofiski

**We Belong: Collaboration for Community-Engaged Research and Immigrant Justice**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Steve McKay Sociology  
STUDENT: Crystal Alvarez Castillo, Alyssa Leon

**Building Diversity in Sociology and Science, Technology, and Society Studies**  
FACULTY MENTOR: James Doucet-Battle Sociology  
STUDENT: Andrea Asher, Dimitri Gardona

**Assessing Habitat Use by Mammals and Birds in Restored Tropical Forest**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Karen Hall Environmental Studies  
STUDENT: Selma Ruiz, Karla Vaca

**Building Capacity for Mitigating the Climate Crisis**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Michael Loi Environmental Studies  
STUDENT: Daisy Ramirez, Azarely Bedolla

**Intersectionality, Close Relationships, and Sense of Belonging in First-Generation College Students**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Margarita Azmitia Psychology  
STUDENT: Isabelle Vo, Kayla Mendoza

**Impacts of Wildfire on Crop Productivity**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Elliot Campbell Environmental Studies  
STUDENT: Yara Sheikhvanad

**Family Planning Incentives and Child Health: Evidence from a Natural Experiment**  
FACULTY MENTOR: Ariel Zucker Economics  
STUDENT: Kai Kohliws, Sanjana Dukkipati, Bhaswati Das Gupta

**Identifying Critical Environmental Work and Needs on Campus**  
FACULTY MENTORS: Hillary Angelo Sociology, Emily Mural Environmental Studies, & Flora Lu Environmental Studies  
STUDENT: Serena Campbell

**Continuing Hybrid Out-of-School Activities Post-Pandemic: A Partnership with Salud y Carilo**  
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  
STUDENT: Tony Estrella, Kayla Ott

**2022 – 2021**

**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  
STUDENT: Tony Estrella, Kayla Ott
2022 – 2021 continued

Insect Diversity and Ecosystem Services in Urban Agroecosystems
FACULTY MENTOR: Stacy Philpott Environmental Studies
STUDENTS: Sheil Grandhi, Taemon Olukayode Ormololu, 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: Erénidia Quintana Morales Anthropology
STUDENTS: Lauren Castaneda, Eelin Aquino Cruz

Enhancing climate change education through personalized scientific communications on phonology
FACULTY MENTOR: Kai Zha Environmental Studies
STUDENT: 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 Naeem

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: Raji Raman 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 Bayon, 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, Camden 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: Bo-van Nguyen

Digital Voices: Latina youth voice the pandemic
FACULTY MENTOR: Rebecca London Sociology
STUDENTS: Yaneli Calderon, Lizeth Baustista Amaro

Recovering the Indigenous and Colonial History of Oak Trees on the UCSC Campus
FACULTY MENTOR: Andrew Matthews Anthropology
STUDENTS: Kahena Wilhite, Carmela Ceniceroz, 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 Fardhi

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: Skikna Jinnnah Environmental Studies and Legal Studies
STUDENTS: Arieh Hernandez, Alcyia Bernardino

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 Gelze
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 Janah
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
STUDENT: Amani Taylor, Arien Hernandez

Incorporating Cultural and Family Strengths to Build an Inclusive Campus Climate for Undocumented Community College Students
FACULTY MENTOR: Saskia Casanova
PSYCHOLOGY
STUDENT: Arley Aguilar Luna

Narratives of Political Participation Among Peruvian Women's Right Activists: Archive Project
FACULTY MENTORS: Sylvena Falcón
LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES
& Shelly Grabe
PSYCHOLOGY
STUDENTS: Nicole Herrera-Moro, Lizbeth Garcia Bermude, Karely 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
STUDENT: 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: Saskia 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
STUDENT: 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

SEMINLA Teach Project
FACULTY MENTOR: Samuel Severance
EDUCATION
STUDENTS: Karina Ibeth Rosales, Noemi Avenido

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
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Socio-Environmental Conflicts in Chile's Huasco Valley
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Translating Migrant Health during COVID-19
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STUDENT: Melanie Renteria

Bodies of Evidence: Legibility, Medical Uncertainty, and the Knowledge Problem of 'Rape Kits'
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Civic Identity Development and Social Media Use among U.S. College students
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Communicational Remembering in Social Networks
FACULTY MENTOR: Jeremy Yamashiro
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Enhancing Climate Change Education Through Personalized Scientific Communications on Phenology
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STUDENTS: Jade Guzman, Luke Hamilton

Global Banking Capital Allocation Project
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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
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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
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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
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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 Lam, Tamar Sasson, Bonalfacio 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: Guey Kim Economics
STUDENTS: Manisha Magal, Crystal Fok

Human Rights Investigations
FACULTY MENTOR: Sylvanna Falcón Latin American & Latino Studies
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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
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STUDENTS: Janeti Juárez, Anakaren Quintero Davalos, Sophie Shaw, Alejandro Ruelas-Mora

A Servant of Two Masters? How Cities are Responding to the Dilemma of Urban Decarbonization
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Non-STEM College Students’ Learning of Digital Skills to Curate and Create Technology
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Chimpanzee Video Coding
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A 15-year Longitudinal Study of College Students’ Identities, Close Relationships, Education and Career Trajectories, and Mental Health
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FACULTY MENTORS: Melissa Caldwell and Brian Walter Anthropology
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**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.

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

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

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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.

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~$250k LEVERAGED +$19 Million

PER YEAR IN CORE FUNDING ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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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