

Dean's Office Special Initiatives Area and Global Studies

This project, in collaboration with the Office of Research, and the Humanities and Fine Arts (HFA) Dean and faculty, is intended to rethink and reconceive the relationship between Global and Area Studies across the University. UC Santa Barbara has a long tradition of excellence in Area and International Studies, and the University strategic plan has reiterated its central commitment to becoming a first-rate "*global university*." Spurred forward by a generous gift from the Orfalea family, the University founded the Department of Global Studies (one of the first of its kind in the nation) in 1999 and the [Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies](#).

Our campus also features two vibrant centers and one program in region-specific area studies: the [Center for Middle East Studies](#), the [East Asia Center](#), and the [Latin American and Iberian Studies Program](#). Although global studies programs have grown rapidly on many college campuses, leading some to frame "global studies" as a successor field to area studies, the reality is that each one needs, supports and builds upon the other. Toward this end, we have launched a process of dialogue among faculty leaders in Global and Area studies, in hopes of forging relations that will invigorate this work on our own campus, and generate innovative institutional relations that might serve as a model for others.

The first step is a year-long process of visioning (2019-20), which in turn will yield a three- to five-year plan for an invigorated constellation of Global / Area Studies Centers at UC Santa Barbara. The HFA and Social Sciences Deans will participate actively in this process, to increase chances for ample support for the blueprint that emerges. Five key principles will guide this visioning process: 1) research results with impact on society; 2) potential for achieving external funding; 3) horizontal relations with research partners in the regions under study; 4) collaboration reaching across traditional area / global studies boundaries; 5) involvement of students in these research endeavors. The proposed three-year plan will be presented in the late spring, 2020 and approved after deliberations before July 1 of that year.