

Dean's Office Dispatch

Winter 2021 | January 29, 2021

To the SOSOC Community:

First, a news flash!

"...science is a social phenomenon and a reflection of people, their relationships, and their institutions."

— Dr. Alondra Nelson, on the occasion of her appointment as White House science and technology leader on AI, diversity, and society

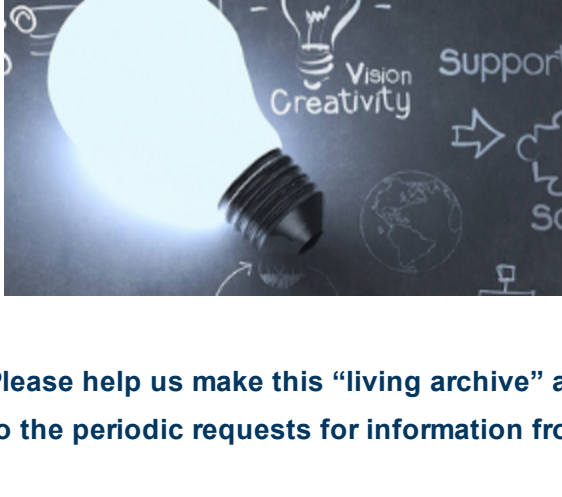
We had the great honor of hosting Dr. Nelson on campus in 2019, as the inaugural presenter in the Dean's Social Science Lecture Series. She is currently President of the Social Science Research Council. More information on Dr. Nelson's appointment can be found [here](#).

These extraordinary times have us all devoting enormous energy to keeping the University on an even keel in the face of daunting, multiple adversities—both acute and chronic. This requires an incongruous combination of responses: We need to keep our positive, "can-do" energies flowing, and at the same time, societal conditions—amplified by the horrific events of 6 January 2021—compel us to pause, reflect and act in an ever more systemic manner.

[Read More](#)

DIVISIONAL HIGHLIGHTS - FALL 2020

Over the past year, we have been working diligently to set up a system to help us document and share with the world the accomplishments of our amazing faculty, staff, and students. This system currently consists of the following:

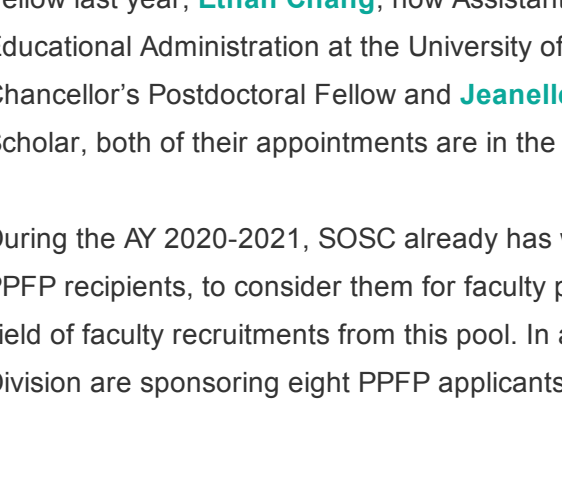


Media Stories

Media stories that highlight faculty and graduate student research news can be found on the SOSOC [website](#).

Faculty Notable Achievements

Faculty awards, honors and notable achievements can be found on the SOSOC [website](#), in alphabetical order by the faculty member's last name.



Grants Achieved by Faculty

Grants achieved by SOSOC faculty are compiled by Barbara Walker of the Office of Research, and will be archived quarterly here starting with the Spring quarter Dispatch.

STAY TUNED!

Please help us make this "living archive" as complete as possible, by responding to the periodic requests for information from Tiffany Ibarra.

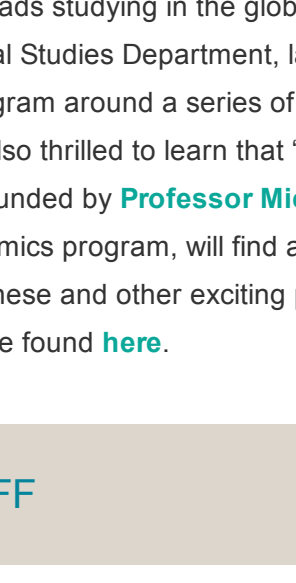
Post-Doctoral Fellows

Dean Hale has appointed [Professor Inés Casillas](#) (Chicana and Chicano Studies Department and Chicano Studies Institute Director) as Chair of the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) Divisional Committee. Members of the Committee include: [Miriam Metzger](#) (Communication), [Zakiya Luna](#) (Sociology), [Pei-Te Lien](#) (Political Science) and [Aid Hurtado](#) (liaison to the Dean's Office). The purpose of the Committee is to increase the number of PPFP hires and to continue to support the Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship. UCSB hosted its first Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow last year, [Ethan Chang](#), now Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Hawai'i. [Sini Kang](#) is this year's Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow and [Jeanelle Hope](#) is a UC President's Postdoctoral Scholar, both of their appointments are in the Department of Asian American Studies.

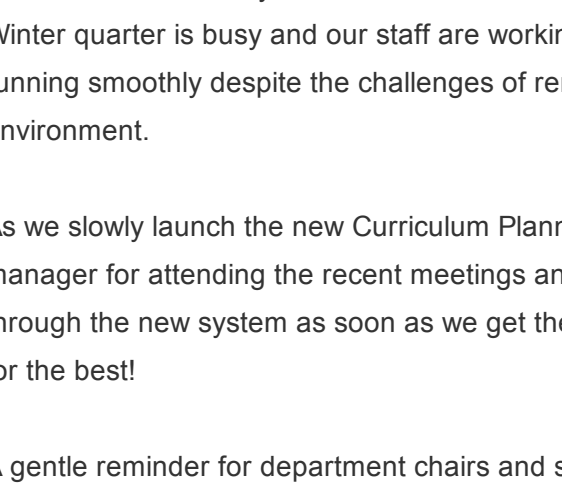
During the AY 2020-2021, SOSOC already has welcomed seven campus zoom visits of PPFP recipients, to consider them for faculty positions. We look forward to a significant yield of faculty recruitments from this pool. In addition, Social Science faculty in the Division are sponsoring eight PPFP applicants as potential postdoctoral fellows.

Divisional Special Initiatives: Spotlight on Global Migration

We were thrilled to welcome nine newly recruited faculty members to our Division, located in seven Social Science Departments, all of whom bring a research specialization in global migration. The roster of these faculty members can be found [here](#). This provided a major infusion of energies to our Global Migration Initiative, under the direction of [Professor John S.W. Park](#) (Asian American Studies), and coordinated by [Amanda Pinheiro de Oliveira](#), graduate student (Global Studies). In partnership with the Office of Research and the EVC, the Initiative has allocated seed funding for collaborative research projects in this area. More information on their projects can be found [here](#).



UC SANTA BARBARA
Migration Initiative



SOSOC Research Centers: Spotlight on Orfalea Center

Under the directorship of [Professor Amar](#) (Global Studies), the [Orfalea Center](#) has flourished over the past two years. Highlights include the achievement of [two major extramural grants](#), the formation of a "consultative council" consisting of

some 35 faculty members from across campus, who in turn have contributed their expertise toward the formation of eight "thematic clusters" of collaborative research and dialogue. In the last year, to build community and extend lifelines to researchers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, the Orfalea Center recruited and funded 30 graduate student fellowships on campus, and launched 17 "global south research partnerships" with community-based scholars. The research and pedagogical products of these fellowships and partnerships will be revealed in a series of events in the Spring quarter 2021. To enrich the experience of undergrads studying in the global south and global east, the OC, in partnership with the Global Studies Department, launched the "Orfalea Undergraduate Research Fellowship" program around a series of specialized seminars in collaboration with EAP faculty. We are also thrilled to learn that "e-global," a widely circulating online "global affairs" journal founded by [Professor Michael Curtin](#), and supported by the Mellichamp Global Dynamics program, will find a permanent home in the Orfalea Center. More information on these and other exciting programmatic developments of the Orfalea Center can be found [here](#).

A SHOUT-OUT TO OUR STAFF

Content provided by:

Tilly Govender

Assistant Dean, Division of Social Sciences

We all returned to work to greet 2021 with the hope that there would be a little shift toward some normalcy in our work lives but instead it is Groundhog Day all over again. Winter quarter is busy and our staff are working tirelessly to keep our departments running smoothly despite the challenges of remote work and a constantly changing environment.

As we slowly launch the new Curriculum Planning System, special thanks go to each manager for attending the recent meetings and making every effort to submit your plans through the new system as soon as we get the green light. Let's stay positive and hope for the best!

A gentle reminder for department chairs and supervisors of policy covered staff (non-represented staff only): the new ePerformance system will be adopted by Human Resources in March 2021. Remote training, slide decks and links to trainings are available through HR.

Dean Hale launched several initiatives in the last two years and we are happy to announce that work has commenced on many of these projects. We have ramped up to develop new research opportunities and were awarded donor funding for one year to staff these initiatives. A successful search was completed recently and new employee, Carmiya Baskin joins the SOSOC team on 02/08/21. We look forward to getting involved with each department working on the Dean's Special Initiatives. This gives us hope to do exciting new work in the near future, in timely keeping with the change for our nation at large.

SOSOC VERSUS COVID

Content provided by:

Charles R. Hale

SAGE Sara Miller McCune Dean of Social Sciences

Bi-Annual Rupe Conference: Communicating about COVID

[Professor Ronald Rice](#) is the lead organizer of this conference, in collaboration with the SOSOC Dean's Office, and [Development Team](#). We know that many faculty and graduate students, from the Department of Communication and across campus, are working on COVID-related issues. You can provide a brief title and one-paragraph summary, and you can later provide a video clip, or video/URL/research resources. There are no papers or proceedings. This is primarily a public science communication event. However, it could be listed on a participant's CV as a conference presentation. For more information, see this preliminary [conference summary](#) or contact Professor Rice rice@comm.ucsb.edu.

Research Salons organized by the SOSOC Development Team

Soon after the onset of the shift to remote communication, our development team, in a burst of creative energy and innovation, developed the art of online salons, organized around the theme of "SOSOC v COVID." These salons were highly successful, and now are considered a campus model for the practice. As a public university, we are funded to contribute solutions to our most pressing problems through our missions of teaching, service, and creating new knowledge. We also invite you send any announcements that highlight research projects, new publications (books, articles, chapters, newspaper opinion pieces), noteworthy contributions to media outlets, undergraduate and graduate student accomplishments, colloquia, webinars and other material that advances the mission of the University and the Social Science Division. Please send all announcements to Associate Dean Aida Hurtado (aidahurtado@ucsb.edu). If you have any questions about potential postings, also direct them to Associate Dean Hurtado.

Please follow us and invite others to join! Many exciting announcements and helpful information to come!



RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

Content provided by:

Victor Rios

Associate Dean, Division of Social Sciences

Professor, Sociology

Winthrop Scholars selected!

The Winthrop Scholars program was established through the generosity of Eric and Silvi Winthrop. This year, two undergraduate researchers were selected for the Winthrop fellowship:

Jocelyn Tapia is a Sociology and Global Studies double major conducting research on the labor exploitation of immigrant agricultural workers. Her work explores how COVID-19 has impacted labor relations.

Patricia Salazar is a Chicana and Chicano Studies major. Her research examines the effects of anti-immigrant sentiment on the lives of Mexican and Mexican American workers and their conceptualization of the American Dream.

Research Support for SOSOC faculty

I have identified a limited source of funds to be made available to faculty conducting research that advances Divisional guiding principles: "to generate new knowledge about society, both locally and globally, with an emphasis on issues of pressing contemporary importance; to make this knowledge accessible to diverse publics, with practical contributions to social justice and the common good." More specifically, these funds will support faculty research that advance principles of intersectional justice, broadly defined, in keeping with one of my priorities in my work as Associate Dean over the past two years. The Dean will mobilize a modest additional allotment of funds to further enhance this initiative.

There will be an open call for all ladder-rank faculty in the Division of Social Sciences, though with a strong preference for supporting the research agendas of Assistant and Associate Professors. Applicants should submit a two-page single spaced project description, a CV, and a budget with brief explanatory narrative. Funding will be limited to \$3,000.

These funds can be used to support on-going projects, finalize data analysis, write research proposals, help launch a new research project, or for editorial assistance in research write-up. For details on guidelines on the use of research funds, please refer to the Academic Senate's [faculty research grants policy](#).

The open call will be sent to SOSOC faculty in the next few days with more information. Stay tuned!

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Content provided by:
Diane Fujino
Associate Dean and Faculty Equity Advisor, Division of Social Sciences
Professor, Asian American Studies

The new year brings some hope, as well as continuing concerns, about our abilities to engage the monumental social problems magnified in 2020, from pandemic, to racism and structural inequalities, to economic and environmental crises. We in the Social Sciences recognize that change doesn't just happen, but gets built through our actions and inactions in institutional and grassroots interventions. In that spirit, I highlight three of the many important divisional efforts toward racial and intersectional justice, focusing on faculty, public engagement, and students.

[Read More](#)

I write this during Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday weekend, so it is fitting to end with the words of Dr. King: "The arc of the universe is long but it bends toward justice." These are some examples of our work, admittedly small, but actionable steps, to create the projects and momentum that, we hope, propels us towards justice.

RESOURCES FOR HOPE AND RESILIENCE

Vaccines!

Read this [memo](#) for an update on the University's vaccine planning.

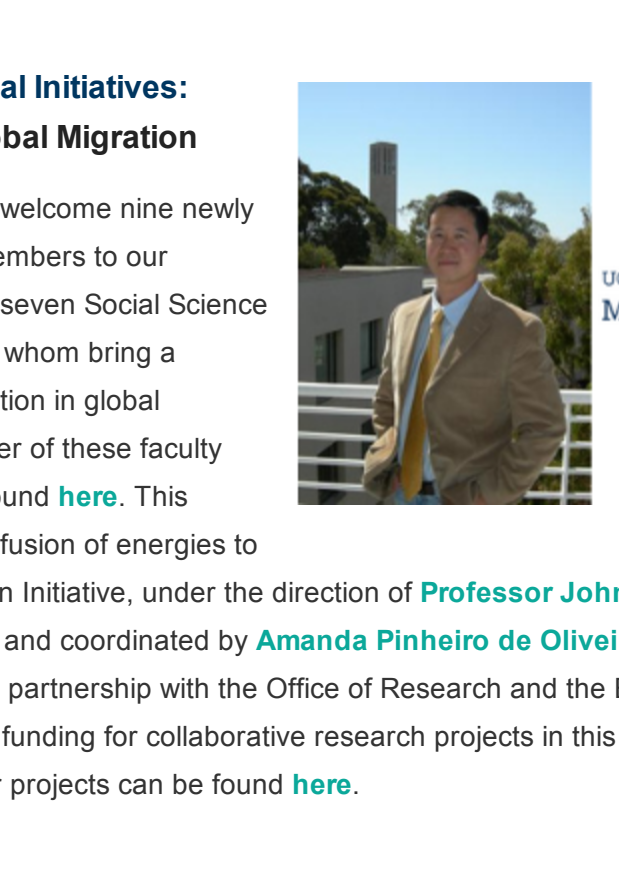
If you are having feelings of hesitancy, visit this [website](#) for frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Environment!

Check out this terrific [podcast](#), "for the climate curious," a co-creation of [Professor Leah Stokes](#) of Political Science.

Listen again to a paean of hopeful critique and inspiration...

...to bolster our confidence as we place this troubled world in the hands of the next generation.



Charles R. Hale

SAGE Sara Miller McCune Dean of Social Sciences