

Dean's Office Fall Dispatch

Year 2, #1 | November 2, 2020

MSOs and Chairs: please share this with your faculty, staff & graduate students.

ELECTION DAY IS TOMORROW: PLEASE VOTE!!!



To the SOSC Community:

Welcome back! ...even if it neither feels like we are really "back" nor that we were really "away" over the summer. We have adapted. But if the work speed-up of remote everything had left any time at all to pause and reflect, we would have to view this state of affairs as incredible, occasionally bordering on the absurd: an immensely complex university, with a 1.2 billion annual budget, carrying out the multiple tasks of teaching, learning, research, and administration almost entirely from improvised work spaces at home. We certainly have adapted!

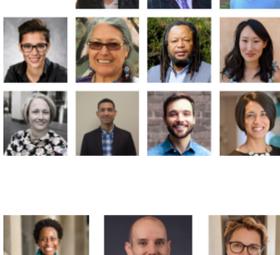
In a Dean's office retreat a few weeks ago, we generated four principles that will guide our continuing efforts at adaption, seeking efficacy and resilience in these highly unusual times:

- We pivot to re-direct part of our energies to engage immediate challenges of the day, from COVID, to budget stress, to the call for a more fully anti-racist university.
- We forge ahead with our core commitments, knowing that the best way to keep spirits high is to demonstrate through our actions that we are stronger and more resolute than ever.
- We seize unexpected opportunities created or unveiled by the multiple crises, including efforts to transform our university so that it can meet more fully its highest aspirations.

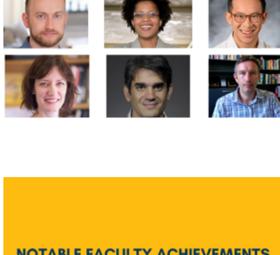
The fourth, and most important principle is our commitment to collective self-care, for faculty, staff and students. But what does collective self-care mean, in times of COVID?

[Read More](#)

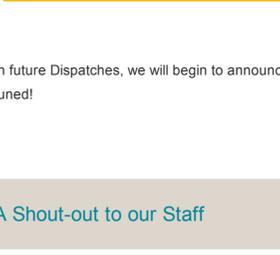
Announcements



**Welcome Diane Fujino!**  
The Division of Social Sciences welcomes Diane Fujino as its Associate Dean and Faculty Equity Advisor for 2020-21!



**2020-21 New Faculty**  
Eleven new faculty formally joined the Division on July 1, 2020. Welcome to all!



**Newly Tenured Faculty**  
Nine Social Sciences faculty members were recently awarded tenure.



**Faculty Achievements**  
Congratulations to many of our faculty who have received honors and awards for the year 2020-21! Please visit our website to see the growing list. If you received an award, fellowship, or grant for 2020-21 and are not on this list, please let us know.

In future Dispatches, we will begin to announce grants achieved by SOSC faculty. Stay tuned!

A Shout-out to our Staff

The staff hiring pause slowed the process of filling vacant staff positions for several months now but after a four-month hiatus in the Asian American Studies Department, we are happy to announce that the position is filled by Tiffany Sabado, formerly from the College of Engineering, who commences work in the department on 11/9/2020. We welcome our newest staff member and look forward to her settling into the Social Sciences with ease!

SOSC versus COVID

In our issues of the Dispatch last year (which are archived [here](#)) we began this segment, meant to share the critical research initiatives emerging from our Division, in direct response to the pandemic and its repercussions. The list can be found [here](#) on our website. Here we would like to highlight two additional components.

With the leadership of our dedicated Development Team, we have launched the "virtual salon" series, which prioritizes COVID-related topics. SOSC faculty members share their research and reflections with friends of the Division. See the impressive roster [here](#).

In partnership with VCR Incandela and the Broom Center for Demography, we have launched an ethnographic study of "Social dimensions of COVID-19 in Isla Vista, California," directed by Anthropology Professor Jeffrey Hoelle. Read the proposal [here](#).

WORKING TO MAKE UCSB AN ANTI-RACIST CAMPUS

Our Division has been playing an active role as partner with Arts and Lectures in their extraordinary *Race to Justice* series. The first event in the series, held earlier this month, featured a dialogue between award-winning author and scholar, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, and our own Professor Jeffrey Stewart. We affirm the central message of Kendi's best-selling book: now more than ever, claims to being "non-racist" ring hollow; we must take leadership in working to make UC Santa Barbara an anti-racist University. Some of our efforts toward that end:

Racial Justice plans update

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

Our final Dispatch of the 19-20 Academic Year (#6) expressed a desire to not return to the pre-COVID "normal," but instead to build a more equitable future. The challenge remains before us and the need is more urgent than ever, as the pandemic exacerbates already existing structural inequities and as we face deepening economic, racial, and environmental crises. In one step toward this goal, the Dean's Team issued a call to each department in the Division for Racial Justice Action Plans. We already have received thoughtful plans, which propose multifaceted discussions to reconsider curriculum, to expand research and other opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students, and to address racial equity in faculty hiring and graduate admissions.

[Read More](#)

PPFP Committee

Content provided by:  
**Aida Hurtado**  
Associate Dean, Division of Social Sciences  
Professor, Chicana/o Studies  
Luis Leal Endowed Chair

The Committee's charge was to create a strategy for SOSC Departments to make full use of the Presidential Postdoctoral Fellows Program (PPFP), both at the post-doc, and the faculty recruitment stages. The Division sees the PPFP as a vehicle to increase the recruitment and retention of a faculty that reflects California's diverse population and to take full advantage of this Program as has been the case in other UC campuses.

- The Committee's first product was a [document](#) sent out to all Department chairs that answered a series of questions, such as:
- How is UCSB taking advantage of the PPFP?
  - How does a campus notify PPFP if they are considering hiring an eligible fellow?
  - In deliberations over possible PPFP recruitments, departments frequently ask: will it count?
  - What are the Best Practices for hiring PPFPs?

During the 2020-2021 AY the PPFP Committee has been reconvened with Professor Inés Casillas as Chair with the purpose of developing a plan to support Division-wide recruitment efforts, including the series of steps necessary for Departments to review PPFP candidates and to request interviews and research presentations in preparation for possible recruitments. We expect that the Committee will produce a document by the end of 2021 Winter quarter with suggested procedures, and with full implementation of requests to the Division for considering potential PPFP interviews and hires during Spring 2021 when the list of new PPFP is produced by UCOP. Needless to say, under current budget conditions competition for these highly qualified potential recruits will be more intense than ever. Potential hires from the PPFP initiative will enhance the Division's commitment to the goals of equity, diversity and inclusion.

Stay tuned! More details to come as the 2020-2021 AY advances.

Intersectional Justice Initiatives

Content provided by:  
**Victor Rios**  
Associate Dean, Division of Social Sciences  
Professor, Sociology

The Division of Social Sciences continues to help build Intersectional Justice Initiatives across campus. The Division is collaborating with the Center for Black Studies Research (CBSR) to create programming that addresses the most pressing social justice issues of our time. The CBSR has begun conversations with other units including the Chicano/a Studies Institute and the Center for Publicly Engaged Scholarship to develop collaborations that encourage faculty and students to conduct research in this area. In addition, we continue to support community engaged research related to covid-19 and social justice. Plans are in the works to organize a campus wide Town Hall meeting that follows up on the Black Student Town Hall meeting we organized in Spring 2020. This town hall served as a catalyst for the "dismantling anti-black racism" cluster hire in the making and other campus initiatives related to racial justice.

For more information on the Black Student Town Hall of Spring 2020 see: <https://www.news.ucsb.edu/2020/019932/black-student-experience>

Faculty also mobilized, making their own call to action. A letter to university leaders, penned by three SOSC Division faculty, and signed by 261 faculty across campus, can be read [here](#).

Resources for Hope and Resilience



HOMAGE TO OUR FRONTLINE MEDICAL WORKERS



The Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration takes place throughout Mesoamerica, guided by indigenous traditions; it offers families an opportunity to remember their beloved ancestors, to honor enduring bonds with them, and to renew family relations through music, art, and cultural creativity. It is fitting that our Dispatch reach you on the final day of this celebration, in a year when so many loved ones have been lost, and when hopes for renewal envelop us like a thick morning fog in a mountain cemetery.



**Charles R. Hale**  
SAGE Sara Miller McCune Dean of Social Sciences

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