

A Vision: Center for Feminist Futures Mobilizing Intergenerational Connections for Gender Justice

The contemporary movement for gender justice stands at a generational crossroads. For at least two hundred years, the feminist struggle has waxed and waned but always persisted. New generations come along to take up the work, often challenging and moving beyond what came before. Now those who came of age in the 1960s are in the culminating phase of their careers as scholars, policy-makers, and activists. It is time to build the kind of intergenerational bridges that connect experience and wisdom to fresh visions and novel strategies. It is time to help empower future feminist leaders to chart their own course.

The fundamental objective of the Center for Feminist Futures will be to enable transformative intergenerational exchange and learning in every facet of our work. We will develop our own distinctive best practices for intergenerational leadership transition; we will collaborate across generations on forward-looking research; and we will mobilize research to find innovative solutions to persisting problems of gender inequality.

The Center will bring together faculty members, graduate students, undergraduates, visiting practitioners, and community members, including high school students to:

- engage in collaborative and individual research;
- translate and disseminate research through op-eds, social media, and policy briefs;
- sponsor talks, performances, workshops, and reading groups on campus;
- create interdisciplinary courses offered through existing departments and programs; and,
- institute a regular weekly social hour to facilitate informal interaction.

UC Santa Barbara enjoys a robust history of strength in research and teaching around gender justice, from the top rankings of the Department of Sociology in the field of sex and gender and the Department of History in women's history to the Hull Chair, the first endowed chair in women's studies in the University of California system. Led by a high-profile faculty director, the Center will feature thematic scholarly initiatives focused on forward-looking intergenerational collaboration. Potential themes include:

- Feminist Environmental Justice: Building a Healthy Future
- The Gig Economy, Gender, and the Future of Work
- The Future of Politics with Feminists at the Table
- The Unfinished Business of Race, Class, and Gender Equality
- Technological Intimacies: How are Social Media Changing Relationships?

Funding Priorities

Phase I: \$1.5M Current Use Funding over 5 years to provide an infusion of support to launch the public face of the Center through public programming, graduate fellowships, postdoctoral scholars, undergraduate internships, and support for program leadership.

Phase II: \$2.5M Endowment to solidify the future of the Center and provide a foundation of support to realize our vision and goals, including teaching, research, and public programming.

Phase III: \$5M Endowment to name the Center for Feminist Futures to realize our bold vision through support of an ambitious agenda of research, teaching, and public programming.