

UCI School of
Humanities

Ideas that Matter

UCI
BRILLIANT
FUTURE

*What can we imagine
as our future?*

*How do we understand
our present?*

*How did we become
who we are?*

**UCI Humanities:
Ideas That Matter**



From UCI Humanities Dean Tyrus Miller

The humanities clarify our histories, deepen our imagination, sharpen our logical and ethical tools and open vistas on the cultural diversity of our shared world.

Critical thinking, storytelling, ethics and human understanding: these are the byproducts of a humanities education, which are essential in addressing today's grand challenges.

We are international leaders in the humanities through our research, teaching and community engagement.

As we build on the UCI School of Humanities' bright past, we invite you to join us in creating a brilliant future for our society.



**“The humanities form the foundation
for the greatness of an entire university.”**

– UCI Chancellor Howard Gillman, Ph.D.

UCI Humanities can be described in four connected areas of teaching and research:



Global Cultural and Historical Studies

Opening a gateway to the wider world and a window onto the human past



Languages, Literature and Media

Understanding stories and images that express the human experience



Human Dimensions of Science and Technology

Asking the ethical, historical and aesthetic questions behind the breakthroughs of science and technology



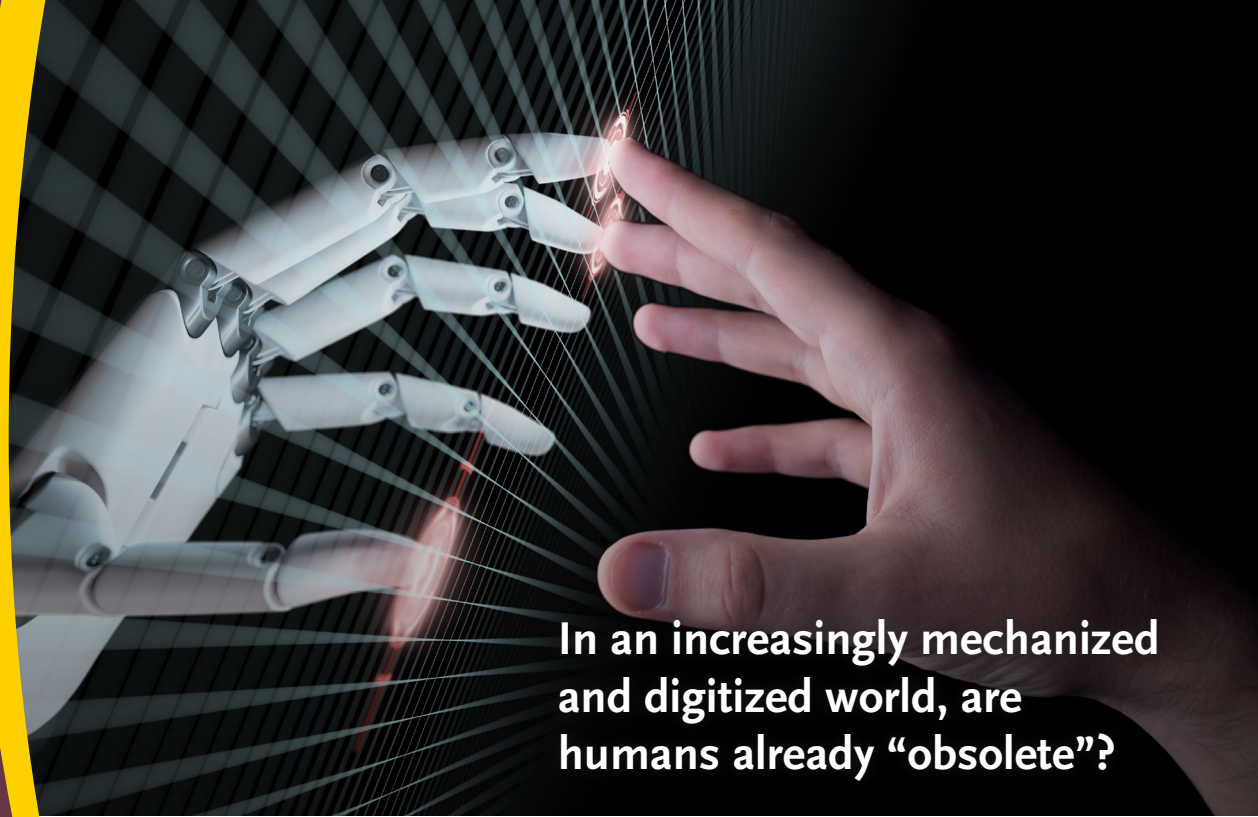
Philosophy and Critical Theory

Cultivating logical and critical thinking – essential skills for an age of complexity and change

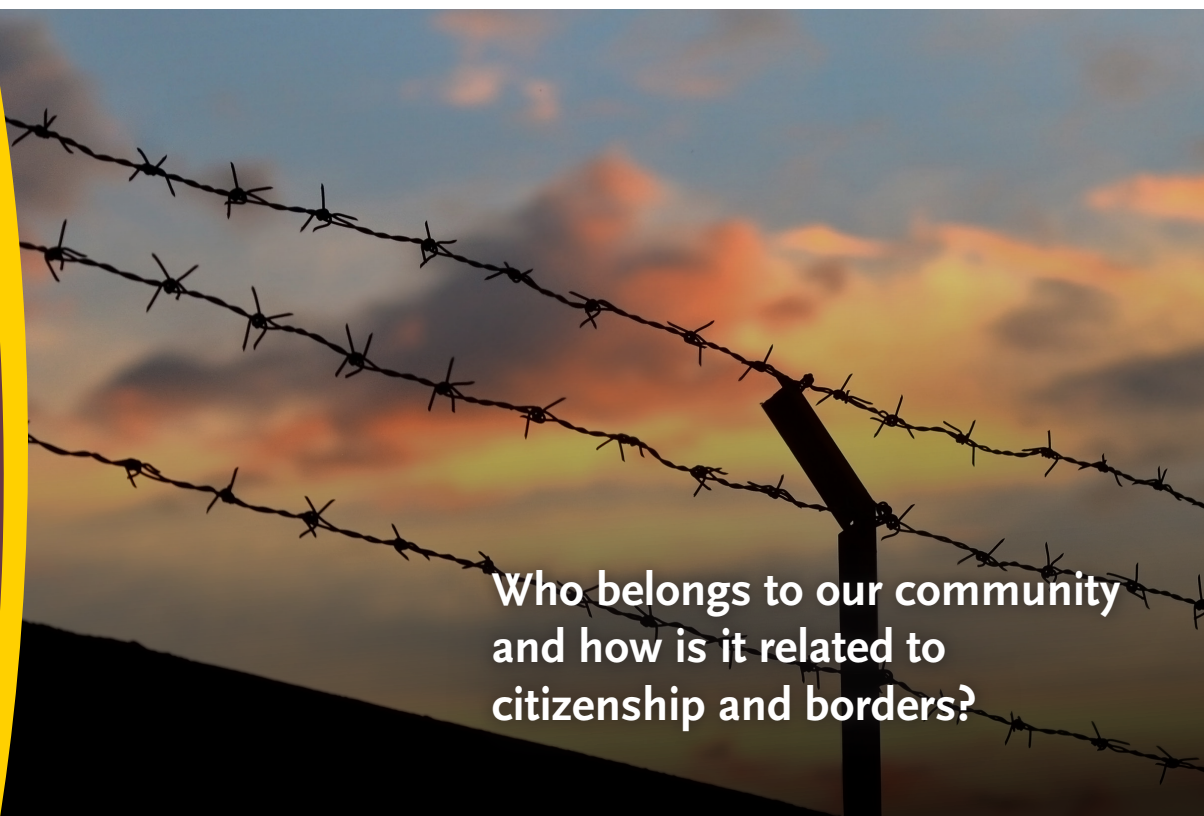
Conversations That Matter

The UCI School of Humanities is uniquely positioned to lead conversations about the most pressing issues of our time.

Through our *Conversations That Matter* programming, our goal is nothing less than to change the conversation, locally and globally, deepening it with insights from history, culture, ethics and the creative arts.



In an increasingly mechanized and digitized world, are humans already “obsolete”?



Who belongs to our community and how is it related to citizenship and borders?

In an era of “alternative facts,” what is truth and how do we recognize it?



Can science and technology alone solve climate change?



What will gender mean to us in the future?

Global Cultural and Historical Studies

Engaging more than a dozen languages, literature, history, art and media from across the globe – we are the gateway to the world and window onto humanity’s past for our students and the public.

From ancient to contemporary, understanding history prepares us intellectually, culturally and linguistically to engage with diverse people and ideas from across the globe and within our own neighborhoods. Teaching works of literature, art and history from all times and places, we empower our students to imagine their shared future.

Through new research, UCI Humanities faculty broaden our understanding of history while enriching the learning of our students and community.



“I feel a responsibility to capture and preserve Vietnamese American stories for future generations. In contrast to the misrepresentations of these people in popular culture, they tell a much more complex narrative of the population and are being used by students and researchers around the world.”

– Linda Vo, professor of Asian American studies and director of Viet Stories: the Vietnamese American Oral History Project



“I hope the new intra-American Slave Trade Database inspires more educational institutions to focus on the interconnectedness of slave trading across Atlantic empires. It provides new insights into how people experienced their captivity.”

– Alex Borucki, associate professor of history, director of the Latin American Studies Center, and member of the executive committee of the Slave Voyages website at www.slavevoyages.org, one of the most used resources in the digital humanities





“My team is designing vivid encounters with words, sounds and objects from the Italian Renaissance. Powerful digital humanities tools are enabling new forms of analysis and bringing the men and women of history closer to us than ever before.”

– Deanna Shemek, professor of Italian and co-director of IDEA: Isabella d’Este Archive



“My book examines the commitments, stories, discourses, practices, visions and organizational cultures of Iranian women’s rights activists—those inside and primarily outside of Iran. In rendering an account of activist labor across multiple borders, I attend to what it means to partake in daily, year-after-year thinking, writing and doing of changing one’s society and the world.”

– Catherine Sameh, assistant professor of gender and sexuality studies



“Sometimes accused of being apolitical and naive, young South African activists born since 1994 have not had their true history told. I’m working to change that. My book project draws from principles of feminist, economic justice, Pan-Africanist and anti-colonial diaspora activists to accurately situate their activities and ideas in the long struggle for liberation in South Africa.”

– Tiffany Willoughby-Herard, associate professor of African American studies

Languages, Literature and Media

Bringing together literary analysis, creative writing, literary journalism, film and media studies and art history, we interpret and renew our world's diverse stories.

Storytelling has real-world power to move hearts and minds. Stories spark connection, challenge perceptions and motivate change. Our faculty are some of the most prized creative and critical scholars in the world who teach writing, literary history and criticism, image and media analysis, and film production to students throughout campus.



Barry Siegel, director of the Literary Journalism Program

From small-town crime to the history of Los Angeles, Pulitzer Prize-winning literary journalist Barry Siegel captivates readers with his nonfiction stories. He is currently working with his colleagues to launch UCI's Center for Storytelling—the first storytelling center within the UC system.



Jane O. Newman, professor of comparative literature and European languages and studies

In our contemporary globalized world, texts of all sorts circulate around the globe. Students in Jane O. Newman's courses follow the pathways traveled by these great stories, poems, plays and creation myths around the world.



Zina Giannopoulou, professor of classics

Visual retellings of Greek and Roman antiquity renew our interest in heroic ideals and meaningful lives. Zina Giannopoulou uses cinematic adaptations of the classics to explore the ways in which the classical past remains relevant and endlessly inspiring.



Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Distinguished Professor of English and comparative literature

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's short story "The Upright Revolution" is the single most-translated short story in the history of African writing. While a political prisoner, he wrote the first modern novel in the Gikuyu language, *Devil on the Cross*, on the only paper available to him: toilet paper.



Joseph Jonghyun Jeon, professor of English

While cinema can be a vehicle for telling powerful visual stories, it can also reveal our deepest anxieties. Joseph Jonghyun Jeon studies how films made after South Korea's economic collapse of 1997 highlight fears of economic instability while simultaneously representing the film and cultural industries' booming economic power.

Meet our alumni

Distinguished alumni of our languages, literature and media programs include:

- **Sona Patel** (B.A.s literary journalism and Spanish '06), senior social strategy and user-generated content editor for *The New York Times*
- **Thierry Boucquey** (M.A. and Ph.D. French '85), associate dean of faculty and professor of French and humanities at Scripps College
- **David Benioff** (M.F.A. in writing '99), Emmy Award-winning co-creator and show-runner of HBO's "Game of Thrones"
- **Michaela Holland** (B.A. literary journalism '16), a content producer who won an Emmy for her work on LIFE VR and *Sports Illustrated's* "Capturing Everest," a groundbreaking virtual-reality experience
- **Tiffany Chu** (B.A. film and media studies '15) who starred in, and **Allen E. Ho** (B.A. film and media studies '07) who directed photography for, the Emmy Award-winning Twitch show "Artificial"

Human Dimensions of Science and Technology

Science and technology are driving rapid and unprecedented changes in the human experience. Scholars in the humanities possess the tools—historical, cultural, ethical and imaginative—for understanding and evaluating their human meaning.



Environmental Humanities



Medical Humanities



Digital Humanities

Our environmental humanities scholars research and teach climate writing, environmental justice, history and literature of the environment, the culture and ethics of our interactions with animals and much more.



“In my courses on Japanese literature, students explore how novels tackle environmental issues and ecological disasters like the Fukushima nuclear meltdowns. We learn not only how fiction represents our cultural anxieties and beliefs, but also how it challenges us to understand that we are not separate from our environment.”

– Margherita Long, associate professor of East Asian studies

Our medical humanities scholars bring perspectives of ethics, history and literature to medicine.



“Scholars in the medical humanities pose and probe questions about health, disease, wellness and suffering from various perspectives. In what way does culture shape the meaning of pain? What roles do race, class, gender and/or sexual identity play in accessing public health and medicine and the experience of healing? What does age mean as life expectancy lengthens? How can we make sure that today’s medicine and biotechnologies are used and applied justly?”

– Douglas M. Haynes, professor of history and UCI’s inaugural vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion

Our digital humanities scholars draw upon techniques ranging from collaborative databases to geospatial mapping, virtual reality and gaming to bring history, culture and thought to new life on the screen.

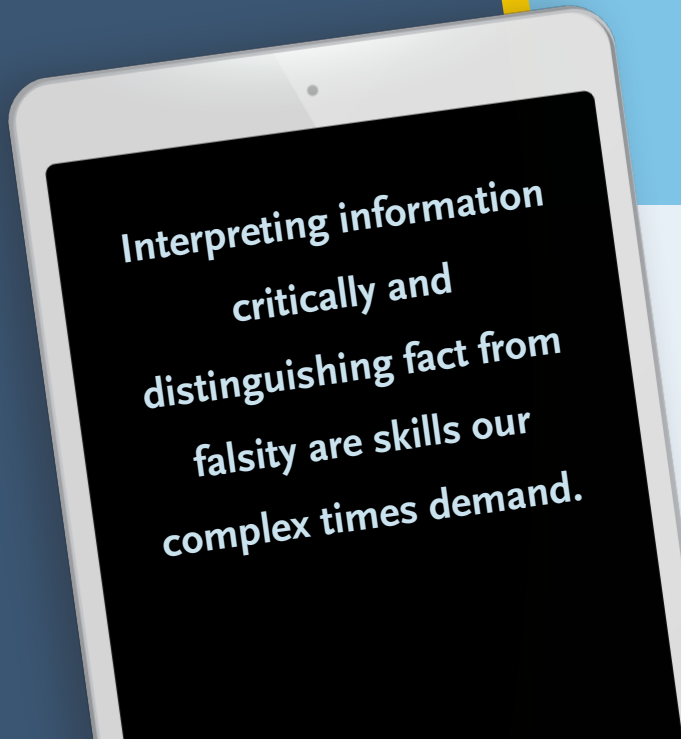


“My passion is finding innovative ways to engage students with the past. One example is my computer game, ‘Sankofa,’ which transports students to 19th-century Ghana through a virtual reality experience. This is the power of history and imagination working together!”

– Patricia Seed, professor of history and co-creator of the computer game “Sankofa”

Philosophy and Critical Theory

The UCI Humanities house nationally leading programs in philosophy and critical theory, which are the framework for asking deep questions about the ways we form our opinions, beliefs and expert knowledge.



Virtue

How do we cultivate intellectual virtues like integrity, curiosity and open-mindedness? Philosopher **Duncan Pritchard** is directing a campus-wide project that integrates these cognitive skills into coursework for all majors at UCI.



Trauma

Analyzing the legacies of the nuclear age, **Gabriele Schwab**, comparative literature scholar, traces the persistent impact of nuclear wars and accidents. How do past nuclear terrors continue to affect our psyches today and make our future haunt us? How does the specter of nuclear attacks shadow our politics and our sense of connection to one another? These and related questions inform Schwab's recent book *Radioactive Ghosts*.



Identity

The meanings and categories we ascribe to gender and sexuality shift across time and place: regulated, resisted, unspoken and outlawed. Gender & sexuality studies scholar **Jeanne Schepers** takes up the past to anticipate a future where perhaps gender as we have known it is over.



Blackness

How are slavery and anti-blackness expressed in contemporary existence and psychic life? **Frank Wilderson III**, a defining voice in Afropessimist philosophy and literature, explores how slavery persists as a force in civilization and how blackness defines an incomparable form of being and experience. His writing challenges easy answers to difficult questions about race, power and shared humanity.



Doubt

How do we know what we think we know? Philosopher **Annalisa Coliva** studies knowledge and its useful companion, doubt. When we become conscious of how we acquire and test knowledge, we can address some of today's most contentious challenges—from climate change to vaccinations.



Justice

How does economic injustice affect our everyday lives? Literary scholar **Annie McClanahan** studies the relationship between consumer debt and U.S. culture after the financial crisis of 2008, as well as our emerging “tip work” culture where steady wages are replaced with a dependence on tips.

TH!NK: UCI scholars bring philosophy to local 5th-graders
We bring philosophical and critical thinking tools to our local communities, helping them make more considered decisions in areas that matter to our democracy.





UCI Humanities
Center

THE UCI HUMANITIES CENTER: IDEAS THAT MATTER

In the UCI Humanities Center, you will find innovative collaborations that:

SPARK NEW
KNOWLEDGE

LAUNCH VIBRANT
INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITIES

INSPIRE CONVERSATIONS
THAT MATTER

“The UCI Humanities Center is UCI’s incubator of humanities research, discussion and thought. With your support, we can make it Southern California’s preeminent space for re-centering our shared humanity.”

– Judy Wu, director, UCI Humanities Center



Our **Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies** holds more faculty endowed chairs than any other Persian center in the nation. The center hosts many public and academic events each year—from Iranian food, music, film and book festivals to Persian language courses.



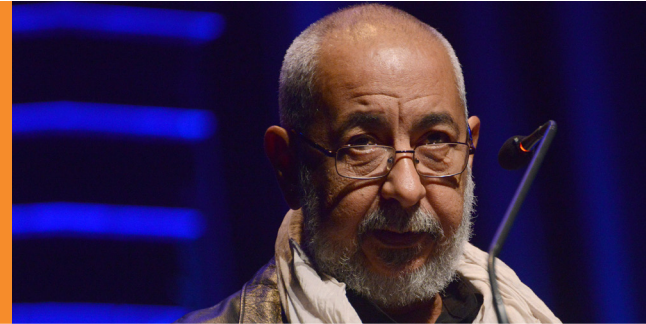
Touraj Daryaei, director of the center, welcomes attendees to the 12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference

Our **New Swan Shakespeare Center** is an innovative incubator of the arts, performance and humanities that reimagines the world of Will for today's audiences. With extraordinary resources you won't find elsewhere, including Shakespeare's First Folio and the New Swan Shakespeare Festival, the center transforms all of UCI into a stage.



Co-director Julia Lupton leads workshops on the use of masks in Shakespeare's plays

The **Latin American Studies Center** promotes research and dialogue about Latin American history, society, arts and culture across the UCI campus. The center also engages the Orange County community through public programs and film screenings.



LASC collaborated to bring the world-acclaimed Cuban novelist Leonardo Padura to UCI

The **Forum for the Academy and the Public** bridges the university and the public through conferences and pop-up events that tackle the most pressing issues of our time. The Forum's climate change conference reached millions through its in-person events and media coverage.



Renowned experts and storytellers, including keynote and best-selling author Bill McKibben, came to campus to speak about climate change

Learning through Experience: Enriching Undergraduate Opportunities

The humanities are where many future leaders, communicators, scholars, CEOs, storytellers, creatives, directors, writers and entrepreneurs come to get their start. We provide students with a common set of skills that employers of today, and especially those of the future, will rely on.

In our classrooms, students grow as thinkers and scholars in their chosen fields. Learning experiences beyond the classroom take students to the next level.



Dissecting Disneyland

Art historian Roland Betancourt's Disneyland course makes UCI the happiest place to study. Students find joy in studying what makes the theme park tick—from its roller coaster brakes to the design patents that make it all possible. An optional field trip turns theory into practice.

Journalism in action

Oriana Gonzalez, a literary journalism major, is getting a head start on her journalism career. She has already interned for E! News, NBCU International, *Orange Coast Magazine* and "Hardball with Chris Matthews." On top of that, she's the editor-in-chief for UCI's student-run newspaper, *New University*.





Connection-building festivals

Faculty in our Department of Film and Media Studies bring students to film festivals across Southern California to see the industry in action and to network with future mentors.

Non-profit experience abroad

Sarah Rodriguez, gender & sexuality studies and film & media studies double major, traveled to Hong Kong to intern at the nonprofit Hong Kong-America Center. While there, she gained professional experience in digital communications, public relations and social media.



Passion-sparking internships

Internships sparked the passion that led alumna Coryn Hardison '19 (B.A. history) to pursue a master's in library science at UCLA. While at UCI, she interned at the National Archives through the University of California, Washington, D.C. Program (UCDC) and at UCI Libraries' Special Collections.



Awe-inspiring art trip

Students in art historian James Nisbet's course cross three states and 1,900 miles in search of awe-inspiring artworks hidden in desert landscapes.



Supporting Future Generations of Humanities Researchers

Humanities graduate students are the next generation of researchers and teachers in fields fundamental to addressing humanity's grand challenges.

Private funds, especially endowments, make it possible for us to recruit and retain the best students from all over the world, to offer them the opportunity to learn languages and conduct research in many countries, and to pursue original lines of research.

Your gift will support the next generation of humanities scholars and help UCI Humanities recruit outstanding students from throughout the world. You can make a transformative impact on their lives – and our world!

“Fellowship support has allowed me to pursue a doctoral degree without the burden of debt accrued from graduate school and to focus more intently on my duties as a researcher and instructor at the university. With the support of fellowships, graduate students are in an even better position to make a positive impact through their research and in the classroom.”

– Henry Lem '19 (Ph.D. Chinese language, literature and culture)



Bridging the humanities and medicine can improve the patient experience. **Sarah O'Dell**, a graduate student earning a joint M.D./ Ph.D. in English through UCI's Medical Scientist Training Program, believes understanding literature will enhance her future practice.



Erica Maria Cheung, a Ph.D. candidate in culture and theory, explores the relationship between food and political identity. Her appetite for critical thinking about issues of taste motivates her work in and outside of academia.



Hidden in his works, Shakespeare has left us new ways to think about how we interact with and affect the natural environment around us. **Danilo Caputo**, a Ph.D. candidate in English, is uncovering these meanings and believes that teaching students how to write and read about the environment is vital to our collective future.



Alumna **Araceli Calderón '19** (Ph.D. Spanish) seeks historical justice. She writes women back into the historical record of the Mexican Revolution through an analysis of literature, photographs, films and postcards. Her research intersects with her commitment to the empowerment of women.



How do we ensure we have a full and equitable understanding of the past? This question drives alumnus **Finley Freibert '19** (Ph.D. visual studies). His scholarship tracks and memorializes the forgotten past of theater chains and distribution companies owned by women and gay men in the 1960s and 70s.



Marketus Presswood, a Ph.D. candidate in history, researches the Chinese reception of the real and imagined solidarities between African American and Chinese communities from the 1920s to the 1960s. His work seeks to understand what the reemergence of China in the 21st century as a world power means for the African diaspora.

UCI Humanities Overview

Our Numbers at a Glance

29 departments & programs

22 majors

37 minors

14 foreign languages

Ideas that matter

UCI Humanities Distinctions

One of the original five founding schools

Highest number of endowed chairs on campus

Largest number of faculty of any school on campus



1 National Humanities Medal
Vicki Ruiz (emerita), 2015



3 Pulitzer Prize-winning professors
Barry Siegel, 2002
John R. Miles (emeritus), 1996
Héctor Tobar, 1992

AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF ARTS & SCIENCES



4 American Academy of Arts
& Sciences members
Margaret Gilbert, 2016
Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, 2014
Vicki Ruiz (emerita), 2012
J. Hillis Miller (emeritus), 1970



Invest in UCI Humanities

The UCI School of Humanities is uniquely positioned to make a lasting impact on the momentous issues of our time. Only with your support, however, can we realize our full potential. Please join us as we explore big questions and ideas that matter.



Outstanding research – endowed chairs, endowed centers and program support



Student experience – fellowships, internships and summer research for undergraduate and graduate students



Public impact – help us launch *Conversations That Matter*

Thank You

شكرا Ευχαριστώ/ Ευχαριστούμε

תודה רבה תודה רבה

谢谢 Grazie 고맙습니다 Спасибо

Merci ありがとうございます。

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