



# UCSC ANTHROPOLOGY CHRONICLE

Spring 2019



## Chair's Greeting: Celebrating Anthropology



Nancy N. Chen

By Nancy N. Chen, Professor and Chair

This has been an exciting and productive year filled

with new events and activities. We celebrate our wonderful Anthropology majors - many of whom are first generation students (49%) as the first in their families to attend university. Anthropology students are inspiring and engaging as they filled our classrooms and hallways

with animated questions, inspiring research, and incredible group projects. Throughout the three subdisciplines of anthropology, the department and labs create opportunities for hands-on scientific research and professionalization  
**Chair continues on Page 9**

## Student Finds Possibilities in Research — and in Herself

By Jasmine A. Abdul-Karim

Before coming to UCSC, I was unaware of the potential I had as a student researcher. Since a young age, diet, health and wellbeing have been a huge interest of mine. While taking Assistant Professor Vicky Oelze's ANTH110F: Evolution of Human Diet course, I knew that studying diet in a quantifiable manner was something that I wanted to be part of. After expressing my interest to work with her and after a few failed research projects, Vicky pushed me to write a senior thesis on the dietary reconstruction of two Inca sites in the Cusco Valley of Peru via stable isotope analysis.

I thought, "Me, Aya, writing a thesis?" It was something I never

**Possibilities continues on Page 8**

## Speaking Truth To History



*Isabella Kressman, a student and California State Parks interpreter, poses with large puppets called Los Monos de Calenda used in traditional Oaxacan festivals. Learn about how Kressman applies an anthropological perspective to her interpretive work on page 4.*

Photo Courtesy of Isabella Kressman

# Diving Into the World of 1900s India

## Undergrad's Research Leads to a Past Very New to Her

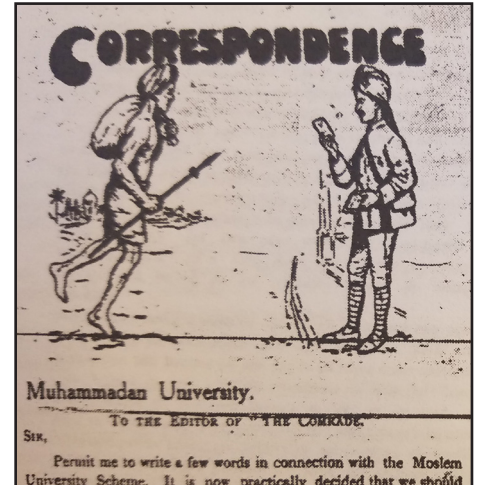
By Janeth Montenegro

The quarter in which I found out about the opportunity to do archival research on *The Comrade* newspaper with Associate Professor Megan Moodie, the history of India was an unusually prevalent aspect of my life. A friend of mine was taking an anthropology of India class and used any chance to tell me about aspects of India's history we never learned about in high school.

The following quarter, as I began to actually read the newspaper, I took Magic, Science, and Religion - a course with lecturer Annapurna Pandey. The readings and lessons in that class drew me further into the religious history of India. My interest for Indian history was piqued.

I had also taken part in the peer advising program the previous quarter, and wanted to be more involved in the department, but I also wanted to find something that would allow me to do cultural anthropology research. I saw this internship as a perfect opportunity to try to do that and more. I didn't know what went into archival research, but I was intrigued by the prospect of looking into old documents and diving into the detailed history of a place.

My research now consists of close readings of the 20th century newspaper, *The Comrade*, created



Janeth Montenegro's research interests led her to close readings of a 19th-century Indian newspaper *The Comrade* (right).

by Maulana Mohammed Ali Jauhar, a prominent figure in the Indian Muslim Movement. There was quite a bit of online archive digging before I actually sat down to read the document, but once I found and organized the expected number of volumes, I was able to print and begin reading.

Professor Moodie told me early on to look for mentions of Eastern Europe, with an addition of Turkey and Greece as well as for uses of the word

"minority". At first, I was unsure of how the search for these topics would unravel, but it wasn't long before I began to understand how they all played a part in what was happening in India at the time. Some of the most interesting sections that I've read thus far have had

to do with the life of Muslim Indians in a country and a time where Hindu-Muslim relations caused much tension. The position of Muslim women was also of importance to many. It didn't take me long to take notice that Hindu-Muslim and Indian-British relations were a big part of what *The Comrade* focused on. In particular, it focused on attempts of many at the time to give Indian Muslims a voice, whether it was through the education of Muslim women, or education for everyone in general. The newspaper focuses on the relationship between India, the British empire and its colonies and potential enemies.

There's still a lot of history that I'd like to learn and there are so many interlocking events to take into consideration. I feel very fortunate to have found this opportunity and to get to work with Professor Moodie. I would encourage anyone with an interest in the fine details of archival work to look into this type of research.

*"I didn't know what went into archival research, but I was intrigued by the prospect of looking into old documents and diving into the detailed history of a place."*

# Brenneis Heading to PNW Scene

From Staff Reports

After 23 years at UC Santa Cruz and a more than forty-year career in anthropology, Distinguished Professor Don Brenneis will move closer to family to enjoy retirement activities in the Pacific Northwest.

Prof. Brenneis has distinguished himself for his path-breaking research at the nexus of communication, performance, and power. His early scholarship focused on communities in Fiji and Nepal as they negotiated conflict and interpersonal relations through speech acts. His more recent work, based in the U.S., analyzed evaluation standards, bureaucratic forms, and interactional dynamics in American academic institutions.

Beyond his own scholarly work and energetic service in teaching, Prof. Brenneis has made valuable contributions to the both the UC Santa Cruz and anthropology communities, including service as de-



Staff Photo

Prof. Don Brenneis addresses a group of friends and colleagues on May 28.

partment chair from 1996 to 2001, chair of the Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate, and interim dean of the Division of Social Sciences in 2017. Brenneis served as the president of the American Anthropological Association from 2001 to 2003 and was awarded the Franz Boas Award for Exemplary

Service to Anthropology in 2017.

By both students and colleagues, Prof. Brenneis has been praised for his scholarship and the generosity with which he shares it. According to longtime friend and colleague Professor Fred Myers, "I have never met anybody who has read so many books, or who so unpretentiously possesses such wide knowledge."

Prof. Brenneis will maintain positions as co-editor of the Annual Review of Anthropology and on the Board of Advanced Research, while also staying in contact with the anthropology community through institutions around Portland. Prof. Brenneis is also very much looking forward to getting reinvented in a local music scene, which thrives in Portland. Brenneis says he will really miss the department and community here, but also looks forward to occasionally "bouncing back" to visit.

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## Comings and Goings In Anthro Labs

By Richard Baldwin, Lab Manager

This year the Department of Anthropology labs celebrated the founding of the Primate Ecology and Molecular Anthropology Lab under the direction of Assistant Professor Victoria Oelze and retirement of the Forensic Osteological Investigations Lab headed by Professor Emeritus Alison Galloway.

Student Lab Assistants have been instrumental in ensuring smooth transitions and effective teaching and research continues in the department labs and beyond. Julia Wood and Michelle Schabin-

### Student Staff Ensure Safe, Smooth Transitions

ger rolled-up their sleeves and did amazing work in support of the human anatomy class as well as reaching into the deepest corners of our walk-in freezer. Lab assistants trained dozens of undergraduates in lab safety fundamentals, biosafety and proper anatomical techniques. Margaret Hames took on the curation of the Monterey Bay Archaeology Archives, along with Dr. Chelsea Blackmore. They launched an innovative curriculum in archaeological curation that brings students

hands-on activities that directly improve the curation of Monterey Bay archaeological materials entrusted to our repository. Morgan Carter deftly curated the dozens of specimens processed by our labs for inclusion in our Comparative Osteology Collection. Morgan also helped with countless loans and database updates throughout the years - ensuring that our collections maintain relevance as both teaching and research materials. Congratulations to our graduating staff!

# Student, Parks Interpreter Uses Anthro Perspective

By Isabella Kressman

When I was offered a position within State Parks as a historic interpreter for the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park. I did not know what to expect from the position, but it soon became clear that this was a very important job! In 2017 I had taken ANTH189: Anthropology Field Methods, a field course coordinated through Albion Environmental, UCSC, and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks. It took place at the site of the Castro Adobe, now a State Park, and involved archaeological assessment to protect cultural resources. After the field school I was contacted by a State Parks recruiter for part time positions, and was accepted.

The Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is home to the remaining Native housing of the Santa Cruz Mission. It is the last surviving structure of the mission, and the oldest building in the county. We use these remaining 7 rooms to explore what daily life would have been like for the people living within the mission grounds.

My personal perspective of indigeneity was formed through living on the Suquamish reservation in Washington for a few years of elementary school. My father is a tribal member, and when I returned to California in the 3rd grade it was a big change. The following year of elementary school, our class learned about California missions and the familiar narratives of our

## Pandey Wins At Gallup Film Fest



*Lecturer Annapurna Pandey displays her plaque for Best Documentary Short, awarded at the 2018 Gallup Film Festival for Road to Zuni, which she directed and produced. The film documents the work of Anthropology Professor Emeritus Triloki Pandey with the Zuni Tribe of New Mexico. After years of living with the historically private Zuni tribe, Triloki Pandey's court testimony helped force the U.S. to recognize the Zuni way of life and pay \$50 million in settlements for injustices perpetrated on the people.*

Staff Photo

state's history. Today, it is my job to educate schoolchildren and the general public about a really tough period in history. I use my UCSC Anthropology education to discuss the importance and significance of sites like the missions.

During my first quarter at UCSC, I took an ethnographic writing class with Associate Professor Mayanthi Fernando where I learned of the concept of "making do," or bricolage. I try to bring this perspective to the experience that Native people would have had at the Mission. They were "making do" in a changing world. Using an archaeological, historical and cultural perspective, I try to speak truth to the varied experiences that would have occurred within the Mission. It is important to continuously reinterpret these landscapes

and give people an opportunity to have the conversations that transform our collective narrative.

I love working with State Parks because people from all backgrounds visit and engage in our shared resources. I also get to meet fellow UCSC students and graduates interested in this site. I have had the opportunity to grow as an individual within an agency that I value. I have coordinated volunteers, helped create events, lead programs, and interpret a historical site for diverse and varied audiences. I even get to work in the garden! Working with State Parks inspired me to pursue a second major in Environmental Studies, which I'll be finishing this quarter. After graduation I will be working in a permanent position with State Parks in the district offices.

# Congratulations to Our Graduate Students!

## Ph.D.s Awarded

Katy Overstreet

Fall 2018

*A well-cared for cow produces more milk:  
the biotechnics of (dis)assembling cow bodies in Wisconsin dairy worlds*

Jon Nyquist

Spring 2019

*Fire and the creation of landscape regimes: Wildness and interconnections in West Australian forests*

Kristine Lawson

Spring 2019

*Acoustic relations: the sounds of pipelines, plant medicine, and sustainability in Vancouver, BC*

Elisa Huerta

Spring 2019

*Buscando la armonía: performance, embodiment and indigeneity in la danza azteca*

## Masters of Arts Degree

Brenda Arjona

Natalie Ng

Lachlan Summers

Eda Tarak

## Awards and Fellowships

Dan Schniedewind	Wenner Gren Dissertation Fellowship
Caroline Kao	Chancellor's Dissertation Year Fellowship AAUW American Dissertation Writing Fellowship
Cristina Verdugo	Dissertation Quarter Fellowship
Zahirah Suhaimi	SSRC International Dissertation Fellowship Wenner Gren Dissertation Fellowship
Joe Klein	AES Rappaport Prize
Jessica Madison	Inaugural Margaret Mead Journalism Fellowship
Rebecca Davis	Graduate Pedagogy Fellowship with CITL
Danielle Dadiago	Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Award Sacramento Archaeological Society Award
Natalie Ng	Summer fieldwork Grant from the American Ethnological Society
Brian Walter	NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant National Geographic Society Research Grant
Seth Phillips	Outstanding TA Award

# Undergraduate Awards and Service Recognition

## Jeremy Demian Marx Award

Anjuli Corzine

*Complications of Ethical Eating in the Modern World*

Maxwell Howard

*The Perpetual Vitality of Poetry in India: An Informant and a Depiction*

## Ryan Heumann Award

### “Ryan’s Travel Money”

Kiera Jordan

*Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Field School Research*

Tanya Magaña

*Ethical Dilemmas in Diverse Anthropology*

Michael Mitchell

*How to Make Local Sustainable Change*

Yiran Zhang

*Chinese Dietary Culture in California*

## Candidates for Highest Honors

Taylor Altenbern	Katya Tashma-Rapp
Amanda English	Isabelle Tiry-Garcia
Margaret Hames	Sofia Vermeulen
Maxwell Howard	Zoe Zoll
Jordan Mazzearella	

## Lab, Collections, and Curation Assistants

Morgan Carter  
Margaret Hames  
Michelle Schabinger  
Julia Wood

## Candidates for Honors

Gabriel Granado	Michelle Schabinger
Tanya Magaña	Michael Seniuk
Cheyenne Nir	Caitlin Stein
Esmeralda Sandoval	Minh Tran

## Lab Safety Training

Jasmine A. Abdul-Karim	Tanya Magaña
Lindsay Alahakoon	Lloyd Molina IV
Julian Berengut	Madeline Nease
Morgan Rose Carter	Damaris Osuna
Cassandra Clough	MacKay Pollard
Ellen Cole	Patrice Puhl
Lily Anne Cross Ruiz	Ariana Robles
Leslie Cuevas	Michelle Schabinger
Kaitlyn Farrell	Isabelle Tiry-Garcia
Margaret Hames	Jessica Torres-Manzo
Taylor Harrison	Emily Nhi Truong
Maxwell Howard	Nanako Van Dyck
Katrina Kirchhof	Julia Wood
Xochitl Lopez	Hailey Zummo

## Peer Advisers

Danae Anable	Shanttelle Pierdant
Taylor Harrison	MacKay Pollard
Xochitl Lopez	Laura Rodriguez
Janeth Montenegro	Jonathan Sanchez
Sarah Montgomery	Sofia Vermeulen
Sophia Grace O’Meara	Brianna Zenter

## Writing Assistants

Brittney Barron (Fall, Winter, Spring)  
Maxwell Howard (Fall, Winter, Spring)  
Gina Krawiec (Fall, Winter, Spring)  
Jordan Mazzearella (Fall, Winter, Spring)  
Jacqueline Medina (Fall)

# Heartfelt Thanks To Chelsea Blackmore

## Asst. Prof. To Leave After 9-Year Service



Chelsea Blackmore

By Megan Moodie, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Director

The faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Anthropology extend heartfelt thanks to Assistant Professor Chelsea Blackmore for her outstanding scholarship, teaching, and service over the last nine years. Dr. Blackmore received her Ph.D. in 2008 from UC Riverside, and was subsequently awarded a prestigious UC Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship; she joined the faculty at UC Santa Cruz in 2010.

A specialist in pre-Columbian Meso-American archaeology, Dr. Blackmore is also at the forefront of the emergent field of queer archaeology, which is generally concerned with how we understand difference in the past: What forms of inequality predominated in ancient Mayan settlements? How did those on the bottom of social hierarchies experience their world? What role, if any, did gender and sexuality play in these social formations? Dr. Blackmore's article "How to Queer the Past Without Sex" is the most downloaded article from the flagship journal *Archaeologies* since 2014.

Dr. Blackmore has always worked to combine scholarship and activism, bringing a social justice-based perspective to her research and her classrooms that attracted countless students to anthropology and benefitted all of us in innumerable ways. She is a beloved colleague, mentor, teacher, and friend, and her impact on the Anthropology Department is fundamental and lasting.

This summer, Dr. Blackmore joins Albion Environmental Inc. as a Senior Archaeologist. Albion is a local, woman-owned business dedicated to cultural and natural resource management, which works on a variety of important projects across California's Central Coast.

# Jay Reti To Head Natural Reserve

## Popular Lecturer To Move For Unique Job At Santa Cruz Island

From Staff Reports

Dr. Jay Reti, a popular lecturer with the department, has announced that he will leave his position here to assume duties as the next director of the Santa Cruz Island Reserve. This protected parcel in the Channel Islands is part of UC Natural Reserve System, with a home campus of



Jay Reti

UC Santa Barbara. As director, Dr. Reti will write, develop, and implement the strategic plan for the space and oversee and facilitate all research, conservation, public outreach, and education programs there.

With the move, the department loses one of its most treasured lecturers, known for his energy for anthropology and his ability to connect with students. MacKay Pollard, who has taken six classes with Dr. Reti, credits his teaching with helping her choose anthropology as a major. "The way he lectures and his passion is so inspiring and infectious," she says.

Student Althea Knapp agrees. "Seeing how passionate he was really solidified that I wanted to take anthropology," she says. "Some people consider digging in dirt boring, but he makes it an adventure."

Santa Cruz Island will be no less of an adventure for Dr. Reti. While Dr. Reti will spend time on the mainland, a large amount of his time will be spent living and working on the secluded island itself. "I see many lines of research on Santa Cruz Island that mirror my own interests in lithic analysis and the development of statistical methods for assessing human reliance on technology," he says.

While he has worked on the island since high school, Dr. Reti will now apply his passion and skills to a lead role. "I look forward to guiding conservation research, archaeological research, and educational outreach for the reserve into the future," he says.



## Meet The Welcome Committee

*Xochitl Lopez (from left), Julia Wood, and Jasmine A. Abdul-Karim meet new students and offer information about Anthro Society and Minorities in Anthropology at the annual orientation and welcome reception for new students in September.*

Staff Photo

**Possibilities** *continued from Page 6*  
considered I had the capability to do. But I took the opportunity to be an undergraduate scientist and spent the summer between my junior and senior year studying and learning how to prepare teeth for analysis with graduate student Eden Washburn's guidance.

As a senior, I decided that taking the yearlong senior thesis course with Associate Professor Lars Fehren-Schmitz would be a good option. The support I received from him and classmates Kelsea Ranks, Savannah Dawson and Gabriel Granado was an enormous help in the process of writing my thesis. We gave each other advice on how to make our writing better. The group was an outlet to express our frustrations and progress, something that I am thankful to have been a part of.

The support I received from the Anthropology Department encouraged me to apply for the Koret Undergraduate Research Scholarship. Hoping and praying I would receive it with Vicky as my mentor, I



Photo Courtesy of Jasmine A. Abdul-Karim  
Jasmine A. Abdul-Karim shows off her safety gear in the Primate Ecology and Molecular Anthropology Lab.

received the scholarship and confirmation that I, Aya, was a student just as capable as anyone, and that I can have a future in research. The secret, I learned, is to just put yourself out there. Ask questions, in research and daily life, that help narrow down your interests while keeping your mind open. Ask questions that project you towards the next step. Believe that you are just as capable as anyone. Believe that possibilities presented to you make you limitless.

Working in the lab, I was humbled and quickly discovered that strict note-taking and observance of

the methodology is crucial to scientific research. One must always be aware of and remind themselves of the next step to produce data that is accurate. Communication with the principal investigator and labmates is important as well, to keep the process as worry-free as possible. I learned that articulation, patience and dedication are real skills that scientists need to be successful in their research. Throughout the process of my thesis, my respect for researchers increased tenfold.

Although my data is still being processed by the mass spectrometers at the UCSC Stable Isotope Laboratory, I am excited to produce a paper that is as fair to the scientific method as possible. I hope to share data that is accurate and honest and I hope my thesis will produce a conclusion and conversation that will help understand the context the Inca people lived in. I hope my conclusions shed light on what foods these people were eating and allow us to understand Inca society and the role the sites had in Peruvian history.



# What Will You Do?

We asked our graduating seniors about their future plans.  
From teaching to autopsies, they've got us covered.

## What are your post-graduation life plans?

*"To attend a field school and join a CRM [cultural resources management] firm."*

*"Applying to the UCSC Masters of Education Program to become a CA certified teacher by 2021."*

*"Physician assistant or nursing school."*

*"Taking the year off and then attending graduate school for museum studies."*

*"Illustrator, therapy."*

*"After graduation I am going to move back home ... and hopefully find a job doing a form of business anthropology. I will also adopt a dog."*

*"Work in a coroner's office."*

*"To engage in teaching history classes at a public high school."*

*"I hope to use my newly acquired knowledge to help people however I can, whether that be far from here or in local classrooms."*

*"Travel the country taking in her natural beauty and learning the stories of her people all along the way."*

**Game on, Class of '19! Don't forget to loop us in on your future successes!**

**Chair** *continued from Page 1*  
experiences for students of all levels. Undergraduate participation has led to conference presentations, publications, and even further academic training in graduate school. Our students have joined in hands-on collaborative work in archaeology, including ceramic and lithic analysis, spatial data analysis, household analysis, cultural heritage, California Native communities, and more. Anthropology students also have the opportunity to work in paleogenomics, primate ecology, and molecular anthropology labs. Our students have enjoyed new courses from our most recent faculty on weather and exposure, queer sexuality, and histories and cultures of piracy. Undergraduates also had the unique opportunity to study abroad over the summer with our faculty, on food and culture.

Our Ph.D. students are also inspiring as they pursue ethnographic field research and gain expertise across three subfields. They are

widely recognized for their creative scholarship and have received graduate funding from highly regarded scholarly programs that include the National Science Foundation, Wenner Gren, Social Science Research Council, Fulbright, Mellon, Carnegie Foundation, and National Geographic.

This year we hosted the Anthropology Film Series, each quarter featuring a film created by department faculty based on their research. This included Professor Emeritus Olga Najera's *Danza Folklórica Escénica: El Sello Artístico de Rafael Zamarripa* (*Mexican Folkloric Dance: Rafael Zamarripa's Artistic Trademark*), Professor Renya Ramirez's *Standing in the Place of Fear: The Legacy of Henry Roe Cloud*, and Senior Lecturer Dr. Annapurna Pandey's *Road to Zuni*, which received a Gallup Film Festival Award.

Our faculty have been active in pursuing grants and working on publications. These include our

three Hellman Fellows (Assistant Professors Nidhi Mahajan, Savannah Shange, and Jerry Zee), Assistant Professor Vicky Oelze's NSF instrumentation grant, and Professor Renya Ramirez's UC Office of the President's Critical Missions collaborative research grant. Recent published books by faculty include: Mark Anderson, *From Boas to Black Power* (Stanford 2019); Lisa Rofel and Sylvia Yanagisako, *Fabricating Transnational Capitalism: A Collaborative Ethnography of Italian-Chinese Global Fashion* (Duke 2019); and Renya Ramirez, *Standing Up to Colonial Power* (Nebraska 2018).

Whether you are a recent alum or a longtime member of our anthropology community, stay in touch. Your journeys and stories are vital, especially for our current and new generations of anthropology students. If you would like to share your knowledge or possible internship opportunities for anthropology majors, please reach out.

# Thank You For Helping Us Build Skills for Living in an Interconnected World!

The department is widely acknowledged as a site for pushing the boundaries of traditional study. With our talent for transcending old boundaries and sparking new conversations and collaborations, we hold the key to the future of our discipline in these changing and challenging times. This would not be possible without the help of our generous donors, who give us the ability to go the extra mile for our students. We are currently seeking donor assistance in the following areas:



**Undergraduate Field Experience.** Archaeological field schools and overseas programs are expensive. We are seeking support for scholarships that would give more of our students access to these life-changing opportunities.

**Writing Assistant Program.** Writing is a critical component of all these forms of research; we have founded a Writing Assistant Program that trains our students to work with their peers. The Anthropology Writing Assistant Program, the only departmental writing program at UC Santa Cruz, was founded to assist with instructional improvement focused on Disciplinary Communication. The availability of this source of funding in the future is in doubt. You can help ensure the future of the Writing Assistant Program by pledging your support.



*Ceramic Analysis Lab students learn to look for a full range of variables and refine their critical observation skills by making their own clay specimens, firing them at a beach bonfire, and analysing results.*

Photos by Richard Baldwin

**Anthropology Labs.** The UCSC Anthropology Laboratories provide an excellent venue for research and instruction. Our faculty and teaching labs need help maintaining state-of-the-art facilities covering broad areas of research:

- Ceramic and Lithic Analysis
- Landscape and Household Archaeology
- Cultural Heritage Management
- Zooarchaeology
- Anthropological Genetics
- Molecular Dietary Ecology

## How to Give to the Anthropology Department at UCSC

- (1) Give online. Go to: <https://anthro.ucsc.edu/support-us/>
- (2) Give by check or credit card. Use the form below to make your donation.
- (3) Call or email our Development Office at (831) 459-3857 or [socsci@ucsc.edu](mailto:socsci@ucsc.edu)

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