

### SSHA Newsletter

April/May 2013

<http://ssha.ucmerced.edu>

#### UC Merced Events:

- 5/18 – Natural Sciences and Engineering Commencement
- 5/19 – SSHA Commencement

#### SSHA Events:

- 4/11 – SSHA Administrative Periodic Review

#### Economics Seminar Series:

- 4/3 – Jessamyn Schaller
- 4/10 – Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez
- 4/15 – Gustavo Bobonis
- 4/22 – Jason Lindo
- 4/24 – Youngok Lim
- 4/29 – Giovanni Peri
- 5/1 – Carlos Dobkin
- 5/6 – Gerard Roland
- 5/8 – Daniel Sturm

#### MTS Seminars:

- 4/1 – Bradley Doll
- 4/8 – Vikaas Sohal
- 4/15 – Mikhail Rabinovich
- 4/22 – Helen Neville
- 4/29 – Marjorie Solomon
- 5/6 – Jonathan Schooler

#### Psychology Colloquium:

- 4/3 – Carina Chan Monash

#### Other Seminars/Conferences:

- 4/5 – 50 Years of *City of Night*: New Perspectives on the Work of John Rechy
- 4/12 – From Monadism to Nomadism: A Hybrid Approach to Cultural Productions (CRHA Graduate Students Conference)
- 4/18 – Bobcat Art Show

#### Important Dates, Deadlines and Reminders:

- 4/8 – Fall 2013 student registration for grad students & seniors
- 4/12 – Summer 2013 text/materials request for Summer Session A due
- 5/10 – Summer 2013 text/materials request for Summer Sessions B&C due
- 5/10 – Spring 2013 instruction ends
- 5/11-5/17 – Spring 2013 final exams
- 5/21 before 12:00 p.m., Spring 2013 final grads due
- 5/28 – Summer Session A instruction begins
- 5/31 – PLO Assessment reports due for graduate programs

### New SSHA Faculty:

Please welcome:

**Ramesh Balasubramaniam (Cognitive Science):** Ramesh Balasubramaniam was an Associate Professor and Director of the Sensorimotor Neuroscience Laboratory at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON, Canada. Dr. Balasubramaniam obtained his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Connecticut in the year 2000, where he worked with Prof Michael Turvey. Following this, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Montreal (2000-02) in Motor Neurophysiology with Prof Anatol Feldman. From 2002-04, he was a Research Fellow in Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Birmingham, England, where he worked with Prof Alan Wing. From 2004-08, Dr. Balasubramaniam was Assistant Professor and Research Chair at the Center for Neural Dynamics and Computation, University of Ottawa, Canada.

**Courtenay Conrad (Political Science):** Courtenay Conrad was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her research and teaching interests fall at the intersection of international relations and comparative politics and focus on state repression, international organizations, and comparative political institutions. She is especially interested in how international and domestic institutions constrain state behavior. To date, the majority of Conrad's research centers on how executives make decisions regarding state repression and human rights in the face of institutional constraints. Conrad's work has been published in the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and the *Journal of Peace Research*, among others.

**Emily Ritter (Political Science):** Emily Hencken Ritter was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Alabama and received her Ph.D. from Emory University. Her research uses game theoretic techniques to examine how domestic and international legal institutions impact domestic conflict between states and their citizens. She has published work in the *Journal of Politics*, the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and the *Journal of Theoretical Politics*.

**Zulema Valdez (Sociology):** Zulema Valdez was an Associate Professor of Sociology at Texas A&M University, where she began as an assistant professor in 2005. Her interests include racial and ethnic relations, intersectionality, Latino/a sociology and economic sociology. Her work has been published in several social science journals including *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, and *Social Science Quarterly*, and is featured in several edited volumes. She is the author of the book, *The New Entrepreneurs: How Race, Class and Gender Shape American Enterprise* (Stanford University Press, 2011). Her research examines how social group formations (based on race, class, gender, nativity and the like) affect the social and economic life chances of American workers and entrepreneurs. In a second area of research, she is developing an intersectional approach to segmented assimilation and ethnic minority incorporation.

### New SSHA Administrative Staff:

Please welcome:

**Regan Pope (Graduate Program Specialist):** Regan has been a distinguished UC Merced staff member since 2003, and joins us from positions in Academic Personnel and most recently Undergraduate Admissions. She is working with Mitch, and focusing primarily on graduate student funding.

**Katie Butterfield (Temporary Instructional Services Administrative Assistant):** Katie Butterfield is a recent UC Merced graduate who majored in Political Science. She started her UCM professional career as a Career Peer Educator in the Career Services Center and now is supporting Instructional Services Staff by coordinating all academic and instructional seminars and conferences each semester for all SSHA disciplinary units. She is also assisting with the text order process and the course evaluation process, among other tasks.

**Holly Werner (Research Administrator):** Holly comes to us from the Sponsored Projects Accounting Department where she was the Research Administrator for the School of Natural Sciences. Her previous experience as a financial analyst at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and her UC Merced experience in both pre and post awards will assist in the financial management of both the internal and extramural research funding for our school and faculty