

June 15, 2020

Regents of UC  
[regentsoffice@ucop.edu](mailto:regentsoffice@ucop.edu)

Janet Napolitano  
President, University of California  
[President@ucop.edu](mailto:President@ucop.edu)

Dear Regents and President Janet Napolitano:

We write to you as the DIVEST/ INVEST UCLA Faculty Collective to forward the attached letter to UCLA leadership in which we demand an immediate commitment to divest from policing and reinvest the university's resources toward research and teaching, especially in the areas of racial justice, and to supporting Black students, faculty, staff, and workers at UCLA. This letter was signed by the 33 members of our collective as well as 214 other UCLA faculty. (The Collective has now grown to 36 and 230 other faculty have now signed on to the letter since it was sent).

Our collective is made up of faculty who played a key role in exposing LAPD's recent use of UCLA's Jackie Robinson Stadium as a field jail for detaining protesters and processing arrests. When we wrote to UCLA leadership in protest, UCLA leadership initially claimed to have had no knowledge of LAPD's use of the stadium, only to acknowledge later that they did know that it was to be used as a "staging area," though not as a field jail. In the attached letter, we insist that UCLA take accountability for having aided the field jail and point out that "as long as UCLA collaborates with LAPD and other police forces, it is complicit in, and bears responsibility for, police brutality and racialized state violence."

We urge you to implement system-wide these demands for divestment from police and investment in racial justice and Black members of the UC community.

Sincerely,

DIVEST/ INVEST UCLA Faculty Collective

Laura Abrams  
Professor and Chair of Social Welfare

Leisy Abrego

Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies

E. Tendayi Achiume

Professor of Law, UCLA Law School

Hannah Appel

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Global Studies

Associate Director, UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy

Matt A. Barreto

Professor of Political Science

Michelle Caswell

Associate Professor of Information Studies

Director, UCLA Community Archives Lab

Dana Cuff

Professor of Architecture and Urban Design

Director, cityLAB UCLA

Mishuana Goeman (Tonawanda Band of Seneca)

Associate Professor of Gender Studies

Chair of American Indian Studies IDP

Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Native American and Indigenous Affairs

Sarah Haley

Associate Professor of African American Studies and Gender Studies

Director, Black Feminism Initiative, Center for the Study of Women at UCLA

Cheryl I. Harris

Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Professor in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

UCLA Law

Grace Kyungwon Hong

Associate Director, Center for the Study of Women

Professor of Asian American Studies and Gender Studies

Peter James Hudson

Professor of History and African American Studies

Gaye Theresa Johnson

Associate Professor of African American Studies and Chicana and Chicano Studies

Leyla Karimli

Assistant Professor of Social Welfare

Robin D.G. Kelley

Distinguished Professor of History and African American Studies

Gary B. Nash Endowed Chair in U.S. History

Michael Lens

Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy

Associate Director, UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies

Tamara Levitz

Professor of Comparative Literature and Musicology

Kelly Lytle Hernández

Professor of History, African American Studies, and Urban Planning

The Thomas E. Lifka Endowed Chair of History

Director, Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA

Director, Million Dollar Hoods

Chon Noriega

Professor of Film, Television, and Digital Media

Director, UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

Sherene H. Razack

Distinguished Professor of Gender Studies

Penny Kanner Endowed Chair in Women's Studies

Shana L. Redmond

Professor of Musicology and African American Studies

Amy Ritterbusch

Assistant Professor of Social Welfare

Sarah Roberts  
Assistant Professor of Information Studies

Ananya Roy  
Professor of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography  
The Meyer and Renee Luskin Chair in Inequality and Democracy  
Director, UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy

Peter Sellars  
Distinguished Professor, World Arts and Cultures/Dance  
Director, Boethius Initiative

SA Smythe  
Assistant Professor of African American Studies

Shannon Speed (Chickasaw)  
Professor of Gender Studies and Anthropology  
Director, American Indian Studies Center

Marike Splint  
Assistant Professor  
Theater, Film, and Television

Renee Tajima-Peña  
Professor of Asian American Studies  
Director, UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications

Aradhna Tripathi  
Associate Professor, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability  
Director and Founder, UCLA Center for Diverse Leadership in Science

Karen Umemoto  
Helen and Morgan Chu Chair, Asian American Studies Center  
Professor of Urban Planning and Asian American Studies

Miguel Unzueta  
Senior Associate Dean of MBA Programs  
Professor of Management and Organizations  
Anderson School of Management

Abel Valenzuela Jr.  
Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Immigration Policy  
Director, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment  
Professor of Chicana/o Studies and Urban Planning

Alicia Virani  
Associate Director of the Criminal Justice Program at UCLA School of Law

Lee Ann Wang  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Asian American Studies  
Department of Social Welfare

Noah Zatz  
Professor of Law

Maite Zubiaurre  
Professor of Germanic Languages and Spanish & Portuguese

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Cc:  
Council of UC Faculty Associations  
[info@cucfa.org](mailto:info@cucfa.org)

June 11, 2020

Dear Chancellor Block:

We, the undersigned UCLA faculty, demand an immediate commitment from UCLA leadership to divest from policing and reinvest the university's resources toward research and teaching, especially in the areas of racial justice, and to supporting Black students, faculty, staff, and workers at UCLA. We join the eloquent and important divestment demands put forward by UCLA students, especially the Black Graduate Student Association, the Afrikan Student Union, the concerns stated by Black faculty, as well as what is a growing UC-wide and national movement for campus divestment from the police state. We ask UCLA leadership to take heed of recent calls for the transformation of universities to ensure racial justice, including by [Scholars for Social Justice](#) and by the [President of the American Studies Association](#).

We want to be clear: this is not a call for police reform or better training or kinder and gentler approaches such as community policing. A national, indeed global, commonsense is taking shape, rejecting such reform. We call upon UCLA to step up to this moment and to commit to abolition as a key component of its responsibility as a public university.

Specifically, we demand that UCLA

1. Implement measures to take accountability for [the university's actions in connection with the recent detention of protesters at Jackie Robinson Stadium](#). These measures must include a public hearing that includes taking testimony from those detained, as well as all other relevant evidence, and establishing a compensation fund for any protesters who were detained at Jackie Robinson Stadium. These processes should be developed and overseen by faculty and community experts on anti-carceral forms of accountability and restorative justice.
2. Drop any strike and demonstration-related student conduct charges that resulted from Black Lives Matter or UC4Cola protests.
3. End its relationship with the Los Angeles Police Department and other county, state, and federal police departments and security agencies, including but not limited to the LA Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol, the Santa Monica Police Department, Department of Homeland Security, and ICE. As part of this demand, we want a public accounting of all existing contracts, memoranda of understanding and other agreements with such agencies.
4. Defund the UCPD and replace it with anti-carceral forms of accountability, including restorative and transformative justice and community-led public safety. We also want to have a comprehensive report on the staffing, funding and activities of the UCPD in terms of arrests, detentions and its investigatory activities. Presently, UCPD's operations and

the impact of it on people of color, and particularly Black people in the UCLA community, are often obscured or known only to those who have suffered its effects.

5. Redirect the resources from policing toward racial and gender justice teaching, research, and community initiatives as well as increased material support for Black faculty, staff, students, and workers on campus. The plan for the redirection of both immediate and ongoing resources should be developed by faculty experts in the field of Black and ethnic studies on campus as well as by students, staff, workers, and organizations representing communities of color impacted by UCLA.

The administration's recent equivocation about UCLA's role and complicity in LAPD's use of Jackie Robinson Stadium as a staging site and field jail has badly damaged UCLA's already weak credibility around issues of racial justice, particularly anti-Black racism. The only way for UCLA to regain trust is to commit immediately and without qualification to divest from policing and invest in Black lives and Black study. As long as UCLA collaborates with LAPD and other police forces, it is complicit in, and bears responsibility for, police brutality and racialized state violence. As long as UCLA collaborates with LAPD and other police forces and adopts a policing approach to the management of the campus, it will not be a credible home for research, teaching, and community engagement that promotes racial justice.

There is no legitimate reason that UCLA cannot make these commitments immediately. The University of Minnesota cut ties and severed contracts with MPD a day after the death of George Floyd. The Minneapolis public school system did the same less than a week after. And just this past Sunday, the Minneapolis City Council pledged to disband the MPD, stating that it was time to "end policing as we know it, and to re-create systems of public safety that actually keep us safe." These decisions are informed by many decades of research and analysis by national experts, including those at UCLA, and abolitionist organizations, including [Critical Resistance](#), [MPD150](#), [BYP100](#) and many more. We urge UCLA to uphold its stated commitments to the valuing of Black lives by doing the same and by doing so promptly. We ask that you respond to these Divestment Now Demands by Juneteenth, a day that is an appropriate occasion for a real pledge to Black liberation and racial justice.

**SIGNED BY**  
**DIVEST/ INVEST UCLA Faculty Collective which includes**

Laura Abrams  
Professor and Chair of Social Welfare

Leisy Abrego  
Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies

E. Tendayi Achiume  
Professor of Law, UCLA Law School

Hannah Appel  
Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Global Studies  
Associate Director, UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy

Matt A. Barreto  
Professor of Political Science

Michelle Caswell  
Associate Professor of Information Studies  
Director, UCLA Community Archives Lab

Dana Cuff  
Professor of Architecture and Urban Design  
Director, cityLAB UCLA

Mishuana Goeman (Tonawanda Band of Seneca)  
Associate Professor of Gender Studies  
Chair of American Indian Studies IDP  
Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Native American and Indigenous Affairs

Sarah Haley  
Associate Professor of African American Studies and Gender Studies  
Director, Black Feminism Initiative, Center for the Study of Women at UCLA

Cheryl I. Harris  
Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Professor in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties  
UCLA Law

Kelly Lytle Hernández  
Professor of History, African American Studies, and Urban Planning  
The Thomas E. Lifka Endowed Chair of History  
Director, Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA  
Director, Million Dollar Hoods

Grace Kyungwon Hong  
Associate Director, Center for the Study of Women  
Professor of Asian American Studies and Gender Studies

Peter James Hudson  
Professor of History and African American Studies

Gaye Theresa Johnson  
Associate Professor of African American Studies and Chicana and Chicano Studies



Leyla Karimli  
Assistant Professor of Social Welfare

Robin D.G. Kelley  
Distinguished Professor of History and African American Studies  
Gary B. Nash Endowed Chair in U.S. History

Michael Lens  
Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy  
Associate Director, UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies

Tamara Levitz  
Professor of Comparative Literature and Musicology

Chon Noriega  
Professor of Film, Television, and Digital Media  
Director, UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

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Distinguished Professor of Gender Studies  
Penny Kanner Endowed Chair in Women's Studies

Shana L. Redmond  
Professor of Musicology and African American Studies

Amy Ritterbusch  
Assistant Professor of Social Welfare

Sarah Roberts  
Assistant Professor of Information Studies

Ananya Roy  
Professor of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography  
The Meyer and Renee Luskin Chair in Inequality and Democracy  
Director, UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy

Peter Sellars  
Distinguished Professor, World Arts and Cultures/Dance  
Director, Boethius Initiative

SA Smythe  
Assistant Professor of African American Studies

Shannon Speed (Chickasaw)  
Professor of Gender Studies and Anthropology  
Director, American Indian Studies Center

Renee Tajima-Peña  
Professor of Asian American Studies  
Director, UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications

Aradhna Tripathi  
Associate Professor, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability  
Director and Founder, UCLA Center for Diverse Leadership in Science

Karen Umemoto  
Helen and Morgan Chu Chair, Asian American Studies Center  
Professor of Urban Planning and Asian American Studies

Alicia Virani  
Associate Director of the Criminal Justice Program at UCLA School of Law

Noah Zatz  
Professor of Law

Maite Zubiaurre  
Professor of Germanic Languages and Spanish & Portuguese

---

**CO-SIGNED BY**

Nicholas Shapiro  
Assistant Professor, ISG

Akhil Gupta  
Professor, Anthropology

Bharat Venkat  
Assistant Professor, Institute for Society and Genetics, Dept of History

Gaspar Rivera-Salgado  
Project Director, UCLA Labor Center

Susan Slyomovics  
Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Near Eastern Languages & Cultures

Betty Hung  
Staff Director, UCLA Labor Center

Jennifer Jihye Chun  
Associate Professor, Asian American Studies

Idan A. Blank  
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Rachel Kennison  
Interim Director, Center for Education Innovation and Learning in the Sciences, Life Sciences

Jason Throop  
Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology

Norma Mendoza-Denton  
Professor, Anthropology

Aomar Boum  
Associate Professor, Anthropology

Siobhan Braybrook  
Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology

Ippolytos Kalophonos  
Assistant Professor, Center for Social Medicine and Humanities and International Institute

Abigail Bigham  
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology

Christopher M. Kelty  
Professor, Institute for Society and Genetics

Rachel Vaughn  
Lecturer, Institute for Society & Genetics

Joseph Berra  
Human Rights in the Americas Project Director, Promise Institute for Human Rights, UCLA School of Law

Jemima Pierre  
Associate Professor, African American Studies/Anthropology

Erin Debenport  
Associate Professor, Anthropology

Sonya Gabrielian  
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

Melissa Paquette-Smith  
Assistant Professor of Teaching (LPSOE), Psychology

Margaret "Megie" Shean  
Neuropsychologist/Psychologist II, UCLA's Operation Mend

David Shorter  
Professor, Faculty

Sherry B. Ortner  
Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Anthropology

Jason De Leon  
Professor, Anthropology and Chicana/o and Central American Studies

Viet Nguyen  
Health Sciences Clinical Instructor, David Geffen School of Medicine

Paul M. Ong  
Research Professor and Director of the Center for Neighborhood Knowledge Luskin School of Public Affairs

Sonja Diaz  
Director UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

Kent Wong  
Director UCLA Labor Center

Goetz Wolff  
Lecturer in Urban Planning, Faculty

Paavo Monkkonen  
Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy, Luskin School of Public Affairs

Marike Splint  
Assistant Professor, Department of Theater

Daniel Solorzano  
Professor of Education and Chicana and Chicano Studies, School of Education and Information Studies

Dan Froot  
Professor and Chair, Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Abigail Saguy  
Professor, Sociology

Kyle T. Mays  
Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies & American Indian Studies

Tria Blu Wakpa  
Assistant Professor, World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Jasleen Kohli  
Director, Critical Race Studies UCLA School of Law

Eraka Bath  
Associate Professor, Vice Chair of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Psychiatry

Melissa Del'Homme  
Co-Director UCLA ADHD Program, Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior

Vinit Mukhija  
Professor and Chair, Urban Planning, Luskin School

Larone Ellison  
Program Representative MARC, Staff

Natalia Moss  
Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellow, Psychiatry

Amada Armenta  
Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Planning, Luskin School of Public Affairs

George Dutton  
Professor and Vice Chair, Dept. of Asian Languages and Cultures Director, UCLA Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Jonathan H. Grossman  
Professor, English

Kamari Clarke  
Professor, Department of Anthropology

Carole Browner  
Research Professor, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior

David Kim  
Associate Professor, Department of Germanic Languages

Lauren van Schilfgaarde  
Tribal Legal Development Clinic Director, UCLA School of Law

Paul V Kroskirty  
Professor of Anthropology and American Indian Studies, Department of Anthropology

Kirsten Schwarz  
Associate Professor, Departments of Urban Planning & Environmental Health Sciences

Carlos Santos  
Assistant Professor, Department of Social Welfare

Diana Azurdia  
Director for Inclusion, Graduate Programs in Bioscience

Michael Rothberg  
1939 Society Samuel Goetz Chair in Holocaust Studies, Departments of English and Comparative Literature

Michelle Rensel  
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Institute for Society and Genetics

Enrique I. Gracian  
Postdoctoral Clinical Fellow, UCLA Semel Institute

Rupinder Legha  
Assistant Research Scientist, Department of Psychiatry

Randall Akee  
Associate Professor, Public Policy and American Indian Studies

Martin Gilens  
Professor and Chair, Department of Public Policy

Paloma Giottonini  
Lecturer, Urban Planning

Cecilia Menjivar  
Dorothy L. Meier Chair in Social Equities, Department of Sociology

Peter Nabokov  
Professor, World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Sharon Traweek  
Assoc Prof, Gender Studies Dept

Dominic Thomas  
Chair, European Languages & Transcultural UCLA

Kalani Michell  
Assistant Professor, Germanic Languages

Nichole Goodsmith  
Fellow, UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program

Elizabeth DeLoughrey  
Professor, Dept of English and IoES

Shaina Potts  
Assistant Professor, Departments of Geography and Global Studies

Laurie Hart  
Professor, Department of Anthropology and Global Studies

Andrew Whitcup  
Lecturer in Law, UCLA School of Law, David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law & Policy

Oona Appel  
Health Sciences Clinical Instructor, David Geffen School of Medicine

LaToya Baldwin Clark  
Assistant Professor, Law

Laura Adery  
Clinical Instructor, Psychiatry

Ju Hui Judy Han  
Assistant Professor, Gender Studies

Amanda Montoya  
Assistant Professor

Nancy Marie Mithlo  
Professor, Gender Studies

Janet O'Shea  
Professor, World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Keith L Camacho  
Professor, Asian American Studies

Joan Ling  
Lecturer, Urban Planning Department

Cecile Guedon  
Assistant Professor, French and Francophone Studies

Carol Goldstein  
Lecturer, Urban Planning, Luskin School

Kelly Kay  
Assistant Professor, Department of Geography

Laure Murat  
Professor, French and Francophone Studies

Andrew Rosenblatt  
Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychiatry

Todd Presner  
Professor and Chair, Dept of Germanic Languages and Digital Humanities Program

Otto Santa Ana  
Professor, Chicana/o and Central American Studies

Tobias Higbie  
Professor, History and Labor Studies

Jennifer M. Chacón  
Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law

Liz Koslov  
Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Planning and UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

Vinay Lal  
Professor of History and Asian American Studies

Purnima Mankekar  
Professor, Anthropology and Asian American Studies

Juliann Anesi  
Assistant Professor, Gender Studies

Jasmine Nadua Trice  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Film, Television, and Digital Media

César Ayala  
Professor, Sociology Department UCLA

Leah Gasser-Ordaz  
Juvenile Justice Fellow, UCLA Law Criminal Justice Program

Eric Sheppard  
Alexander Von Humboldt Chair, Geography

Veronica Herrera  
Assistant Professor, Urban Planning, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs



George Huang  
Professor, School of Film, Television and Digital Media

Lené Levy-Storms  
Associate Professor, Departments of Social Welfare & Medicine/Geriatrics

Kian Goh  
Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, Luskin School of Public Affairs

John Rogers  
Professor of Education and Director, Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access  
School of Education and Information Studies

Bianca D.M. Wilson  
Associate Researcher, UCLA School of Law

Shalom Staub  
Director, UCLA Center for Community Learning

Martine Lappé  
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo  
Former Postdoctoral Fellow, UCLA Institute for Society & Genetics

Uri McMillan  
Associate Professor, English/Gender Studies

Stephanie Pincetl  
Professor in Residence, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

Ayako Miyashita Ochoa  
Adjunct Faculty, Social Welfare

Phyllis Nagy  
Professor & Area Head, Screenwriting, School of Theater, Film & Television

Jessica Cattelino  
Associate Professor, UCLA Department of Anthropology

Maylei Blackwell  
Associate Professor, Chicana and Chicano Studies

Bryonn Bain  
Professor and Director, UCLA Prison Education Program  
Departments of African American Studies, and World Arts & Cultures/Dance

Anurima Banerji  
Associate Professor, UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Laura Wray-Lake  
Associate Professor , Department of Social Welfare, Luskin School of Public Affairs

Allen F. Roberts  
Distinguished Professor, Dept of World Arts & Cultures/Dance

Aisha Finch  
Associate Professor, Gender Studies and African American Studies

Yogita Goyal  
Professor , English and African American Studies

David Roussève  
Distinguished Professor, World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Rebecca Jean Emigh  
Professor, Department of Sociology

Katherine Marino  
Assistant Professor, History Department

David Gere  
Professor of World Arts and Cultures/Dance  
Director, UCLA Art & Global Health Center

W. Toby Hur  
Lecturer, UCLA Luskin Social Welfare

Rosalie Edmonds  
Lecturer, Department of Anthropology

Judith Carney  
Professor, Department of Geography

Valerie Matsumoto  
Professor, Departments of History and Asian American Studies

Ron Avi Astor  
Professor, Crump Chair in Social Welfare, Public Affairs/ GSEIS

Teruko Vida Mitsuhara  
Lecturer, Anthropology

Nancy Lee  
Senior Manager, Public Relations, Hammer Museum

Liza Johnson  
Professor, School of Theater Film and Television

Allison Carruth  
Associate Professor of English, Director, Laboratory for Environmental Narrative Strategies (LENS)

Kayuet Liu  
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

Gerardo P. Laviña  
Director of Field Education, Department of Social Welfare

Clover May  
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Mathematics

Jessica L. Collett  
Professor, Department of Sociology

Miguel Unzueta  
Professor of Management, UCLA Anderson School of Management

Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris  
Professor, Department of Urban Planning

Casandra Rauser  
Executive Director, Sustainable LA Grand Challenge, Staff

Victoria Marks  
Professor, Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance

Kimberly Narain  
Assistant Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research.

Blanca Orellana  
Director of Clinical Training, Division of Population Behavioral Health

Jessica Lynch  
Associate Professor, Institute for Society and Genetics/Department of Anthropology

Liza Buchbinder  
Researcher/Physician, Center for Social Medicine and Humanities/Department of Medicine

Daniel Kozman  
Assistant Clinical Professor, David Geffen School of Medicine / UCLA Health

Christina Palmer  
Professor, Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences, Human Genetics, Institute for Society and Genetics

Evelyn Blumenberg  
Professor, Department of Urban Planning

Joshua Guzman  
Assistant Professor, Gender Studies

T. Nguyen-vo  
Associate professor, Asian American Studies, and Asian Languages and Cultures

Enrico Castillo  
Assistant Professor, Center for Social Medicine and Humanities, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

Adriana Vazquez  
Assistant Professor, Department of Classics

Stacey Weinstein, MD  
Assistant Clinical Professor, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

Judith F. Baca  
Professor, Emeritus Professor Chicano/a Studies and World Arts and Culture Departmentss

Nina Sun Eidsheim  
Professor, Department of Musicology

Soraya de Chadarevian  
Professor, Department of History and Institute for Society and Genetics

Elinor Ochs  
Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Anthropology

Lydia Spielberg  
Assistant Professor, Department of Classics

Kevan Harris  
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

Fernando Pérez-Montesinos  
Assistant Professor, Department of History

Cecilia Rios-Aguilar  
Professor and Associate Dean of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies

Milos Jovanovic  
Assistant Professor, Department of History

Safiya U. Noble  
Associate Professor, Information Studies, African American Studies, Gender Studies and the Center  
for Critical Internet Inquiry

Mariko Tamanoi  
Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology

Lucy MSP burns  
Associate Professor, Asian American Studies Department

Laura Adery  
Clinical Instructor, Psychiatry

Teresa L. McCarty  
GF Kneller Chair in Education and Anthropology and Faculty, American Indian Studies, Education

Vilma Ortiz  
Professor, Sociology

Susan L. Foster  
Distinguished Professor, Department of WorldArts and Cultures/Dance

Min Zhou  
Professor, Sociology & Asian American Studies

Hollian Wint  
Assistant Professor, History Department

Natalie Masuoka  
Associate Professor, Political Science and Asian American Studies

J.Ed Araiza  
Professor of Theater, School of Theater, Film and Television, Faculty Chair

Jeff Burke  
Professor In-Residence, Department of Theater

Rachel Lee  
Director, Center for the Study of Women

John A Garofalo  
Adjunct Faculty, School of Theater, Film, and Television

Alex Purves  
Professor, Department of Classics

Hiram Beltrán-Sánchez  
Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences

Andrew Apter  
Professor, Departments of History and Anthropology; Interim Director, African Studies Center

Michael Manville  
Associate Professor, Department of Urban Planning

Lea Madda  
Lecturer, School of Theatre, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television

J. Whitson  
Associate Professor, UCLA Anderson School of Management

Timothy D. Taylor  
Professor, Department of Ethnomusicology

Jenny Sharpe  
Professor, Vice Chair of Graduate Studies in English; EDI Assoc. Dean for Humanities

Kristy Guevara-Flanagan  
Associate Professor, School of Theatre, Film and Television

Ian Holloway  
Associate Professor, Department of Social Welfare

Helen Deutsch  
Professor, English, Director, Center for 17th- & 18th-C. Studies/W.A. Clark Memorial Library

Johanna Drucker  
Distinguish Professor, Information Studies

Lowell Gallagher  
Professor, Department of English

Alexandra Wright  
Lecturer, School of Theater, Film, and Television

Eric Avila  
Chair and Professor, Cesar E Chavez Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies  
Depts of History, Chicana/o Studies and Urban Planning

Veronica Paredes  
Assistant Professor, Film, Television, and Digital Media

Marilyn Raphael  
Professor, Department of Geography

Kenneth Reinhard  
Professor of Comparative Literature and English  
Director, Program in Experimental Critical Theory

Raymond Knapp  
Professor, Musicology

Talia Seider  
Clinical Psychology Fellow, Psychiatry

Patricia Arroyo Calderón  
Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Katherine Callen King  
Professor Emerita, Comparative Literature and Classics

Stephanie Bosch Santana  
Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Literature

Hijab Zubairi  
Assistant clinical Professor, Internal Medicine/Pediatrics; David Geffen School of Medicine

Kevin Y. Kim  
Assistant Professor, Department of History

Kathlyn (Kara) Cooney  
Professor of Ancient Egyptian Art and Architecture, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Kathleen A McHugh  
Professor, Film, TV, Digital Media; English

Eryn Lê Espiritu Gandhi  
Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies

Zrinka Stahuljak  
Professor of Comparative Literature and French  
Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

Thomas O'Connor  
Associate Professor, Department of Theater

Catherine Bonesho  
Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Lorrie Frasure  
Associate Professor, Political Science and African American Studies

Torquil Duthie  
Associate Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures

Cindy Sangalang  
Assistant Professor, Social Welfare and Asian American Studies

Can Aciksoz  
Assistant Professor, Anthropology

Namhee Lee  
Associate Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures

Elizabeth Marchant  
Associate Professor, Gender Studies & Comparative Literature

Rafael Pérez-Torres  
Professor, English

Jenna Barrett  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker, UCLA Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital

Abel Valenzuela Jr.  
Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Immigration Policy  
Director, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment  
Professor of Chicana/o Studies and Urban Planning

---

**cc: UCLA leaders who signed the May 31, 2020 solidarity statement**

Emily	Carter	Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
Michael	Meranze	Chair, Academic Senate
Michael J.	Beck	Administrative Vice Chancellor
Gregg	Goldman	Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
Monroe	Gorden, Jr.	Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Jerry	Kang	Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Michael S.	Levine	Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel
John	Mazziotta	Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences; CEO, UCLA Health
Louise C.	Nelson	Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs
Mary	Osako	Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications
Rhea	Turteltaub	Vice Chancellor for External Affairs
Roger	Wakimoto	Vice Chancellor for Research
Yolanda J.	Gorman	Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Chief of Staff
Dan	Guerrero	The Alice and Nahum Lainer Family Director of Athletics
Antonio E.	Bernardo	Dean, Anderson School of Management



Ronald S.	Brookmeyer	Dean, Fielding School of Public Health
Eric	Bullard	Dean, Continuing Education and UCLA Extension
Miguel A.	García-Garibay	Dean, Division of Physical Sciences
Robin L.	Garrell	Vice Provost, Graduate Education; Dean, Graduate Division
Darnell M.	Hunt	Dean, Division of Social Sciences
Brian	Kite	Interim Dean, School of Theater, Film and Television
Paul H.	Krebsbach	Dean, School of Dentistry
Kelsey	Martin	Dean, David Geffen School of Medicine
Jennifer L.	Mnookin	Dean, School of Law
Jayathi Y.	Murthy	Dean, Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science
Linda	Sarna	Dean, School of Nursing
Gary M.	Segura	Dean, Luskin School of Public Affairs
David	Schaberg	Dean, Division of Humanities
Victoria	Sork	Dean, Division of Life Sciences
Brett	Steele	Dean, School of the Arts and Architecture
Eileen	Strepel	Dean, The Herb Alpert School of Music
Marcelo	Suárez-Orozco	Dean, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies
Pat	Turner	Senior Dean, College; Dean and Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education
Tony	Lee	Chief of UCLA Police Department
Naomi	Riley	President, Undergraduate Students Association
Jean Paul	Santos	President, Graduate Students Association