Establishment of UCR Labor and Community Center

Principal Investigator Dr. Ellen Reese (Sociology) and co-Principal Investigators Drs. Marissa Brooks (Political Science), Richard Rodriguez (Media Cultural Studies), and our very own Michael Bates were awarded $500,000 per year to establish the UCR Labor and Community Center. Dr. Bates was intricately involved in grant writing, budgeting, negotiating with the administration, and meeting with local leaders to build community support. This center brings together workers, students, faculty, labor and community organizations, and policymakers to address critical issues in the Inland Empire and California. In Summer 2023, the center will launch a scholarship as well as an internship program. Reports on the Inland Empire labor market will also be available starting in the summer. In the coming months, the center will recruit an Executive Director and Research Director.

Faculty News

Associate Professor of Teaching Joab Corey was accepted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers (ADT). Proving that economists can be well-rounded, Dr. Corey was also appointed as the interim president of the United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association (USIBA). Associate Professor of Teaching Bree Lang received the Honors Program Mentor of the Year Award awarded for the 2021/2022 academic year. Professor Steven Helfand was selected as a legendary member—membro legendário in Portuguese—or fellow of the Brazilian Society of Rural Economics, Administration and Sociology. This is the society’s highest honor.

Emeritus Professor Ronald Chilcote was awarded the Silvert Lifetime Achievement Award by the Latin American Studies Association. Emeritus Professor Prasanta K. Pattanaik was appointed as an Honorary Distinguished Fellow of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (Mumbai).

Assistant Professor Sarojini Hirshleifer has a new working paper conducted in Pakistan at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic on responses by users of a social media platform to misinformation.
Spring 2023

Undergraduate Excellence

Rebekah Wells and Eugene Baddonado were awarded the Undergraduate Economics Student Achievement Award. Medhar Sarkar was awarded the Bruce McCormick Award for Excellence in Economics. Thanks, Joab Corey, for the fund’s very first contribution.

Grace Kim and Sandy Su were awarded CHASS At Home in the World Fund scholarships for Summer & Fall 2022.

New Faces

During AY 2022/2023, Assistant Professor of Teaching Veronica Sovero joined the Department. Dr. Sovero earned her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of California, Los Angeles. She began her professional academic career at Wake Forest University and joins our department from San Francisco State University. Dr. Sovero is a labor economist with research on higher education institutions. Her courses include Economic Mobility and Data Analysis in Economics.

We also welcome Glenn Jones who joins our staff as a Financial Analyst.

Rock the Classroom

Assistant Professor Carolyn Sloane thanks guest speakers to Econ 150 Rockonomics: Jamie Kitman (Hornblow), Emma Swift (Tiny Ghost Records), Richard Edwards, Broc Barnes (Third Man Pressing), Lew Prince (Vintage Vinyl), Adam Oke (Stagetti), Kaley Caperton, Joshua Epstein, and Marissa R. Moss. In the news: Dr. Sloane was interviewed by Pitchfork, NPR, The Hill, KCBS San Francisco, The Nikki Meddoro Show and Bloomberg discussing the live event ticketing market.

Graduate Student Placements

Congrats to our students and thanks to placement officer Sarojini Hirshleifer.

Justin Dang (2022): Assistant Professor, the University of San Diego.
Ryoji Jinushi (2023): Assistant Professor, Seikei University.
Opinder Kaur (2023): Assistant Professor, SUNY Buffalo.
Tao Wang (2022): Assistant Professor, the University of Victoria.
Quanfeng Zhou (2022): Assistant Professor, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.
Yanchao Yang (2022): Clinical Instructor, DePaul University.
Saman Banafti (2022): Economist, Amazon.
Taghi Farzad (2022): Economist, Fannie Mae.
Zhaozhen Zhao (2022): Economist, Digonex.

Alumni Pursuits

Research by Dr. Deepshikha Batheja on whether the gender of co-workers matters for call center employees via an RCT in five Indian cities was featured in the ISC blog.

Dr. Shruti Kapoor founded Sayfy, a women’s organization focused on female empowerment. Dr. Kapoor was featured in the Summer issue of UCR Magazine.

Graduate Student Excellence

Opinder Kaur presented her work Intergenerational Health Effects of Adult Learning Programs: Evidence from India at the Western Economics Association International Graduate Student workshop which is a highly selective program to help prepare graduate students for the job market.

Congratulations to Saman Banafti, Yaque Xu, and Yongli Chen for being recognized by the Teaching Assistant Development Program of the Graduate Division as Outstanding Teaching Assistants in AY 2021-22.

Master of Arts in Applied Economics

Starting Fall 2024, we will offer a Masters of Arts with a concentration in Applied Economics geared towards preparing students for careers in the private sector, government, and international agencies. It can also prepare students for Ph.D. programs in economics. In the future, we hope to include a 4+1 option for UCR undergraduates. If you know someone who is a great candidate, please encourage them to apply for our inaugural class.

Returning

After 10 years as founding dean of the UCR School of Public Policy, Professor Anil Deolalikar will be returning as faculty to the department effective January 1, 2023. Following a sabbatical, he will resume teaching in the field of development economics. The students and faculty are ecstatic to have Dr. Deolalikar back in Sproul Hall.

Promotion

During the 2021-2021 Academic Year, labor economist Dr. Ozkan Eren was promoted to Full Professor. Dr. Eren earned his Ph.D. in Economics at Southern Methodist University. He began his career at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and joined our department in 2018 from Louisiana State University. Dr. Eren is a labor economist with research in the areas of education, health, and crime. He teaches an undergraduate course on the Economics of Education and a graduate course on Empirical Methods on Applied Economics. He also serves as a Research Affiliate at the Robert Presley Center of Crime and Justice Studies.

Retirements

We are happy for Professor Taradas Bandyopadhyay and former Department Chair Distinguished Professor Aman Ullah as they enter retirement. Dr. Bandyopadhyay is a microeconomist who has published papers on everything from strategic voting to monetary growth. Dr. Ullah is an econometrician who has made important contributions to research on non-parametric, semi-parametric, and finite sample econometrics. In June 2022, we celebrated Dr. Bandyopadhyay. In May 2023, we will host a conference in honor of Dr. Ullah. Dr. Ullah has also been named as a Distinguished Professor of the Graduate Division for Academic Years 2022-25.

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Check out our LinkedIn and Facebook Pages!
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