

Advancing Equity in the Age of COVID-19

Time	May 5 (Wednesday)	May 13 (Thursday)
4 p.m.	Welcome – Vice Chancellor Douglas Haynes	
4:05 p.m.-5 p.m.	<p><u>Presenters:</u> Rebecca Black, Informatics Victoria Lowerson Bredow, Newkirk Center Angela Chen, DREAM Center Darlene Esparza, Campus Organizations Nickolas Jones, Nursing Alana LeBrón, Public Health and Chicano/Latino Studies Paulina Raygoza, SOAR Adriana Villavicencio, Education</p>	<p><u>Presenters:</u> Pavan Kadandale, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Graeme Boushey, Political Science Laura Enriquez, Chicano/Latino Studies James Lee, Asian American Studies Candice Taylor Lucas, Pediatrics Bill Maurer, School of Social Sciences Mandy Mount, UCI CARE Virginia Parks, Urban Planning & Public Policy Sora Tanjasiri, Epidemiology and Biostatistics</p>
5 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Questions & Conversations	

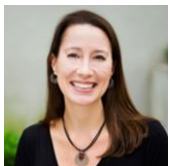
Host



Douglas Haynes – is the inaugural vice chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, UCI’s chief diversity officer and Professor of History in the School of Humanities. He has elevated attention to inclusive excellence as an institutional priority. In this role, he leads a comprehensive effort to establish UCI as a campus community and UC as a Minority Thriving University where all expect equity, support diversity, practice inclusion and honor free speech. As UCI’s senior executive responsible for providing a holistic and integrated vision for all major equity, diversity, and inclusion activities on campus and at UCI Health, he leads a comprehensive effort to conceptualize, cultivate and assess inclusive excellence as an ongoing institutional value and educational asset. He launched the UCI Black Thriving Initiative to ensure holistic efforts for promoting engaging and success of African American students, faculty, and staff to support UCI thriving. He also spearheaded UCI’s successful push to earn federal designations as a Hispanic-serving institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution.

A professor of history, Dr. Haynes has published extensively on the history of medicine and science and was founding director of the UCI Center for Medical Humanities. He has been an active faculty member in the Department of African American Studies since its founding. **Website:** <https://inclusion.uci.edu/>.

Advancing Equity Forums - Presenter Biographies - May 5, 2021



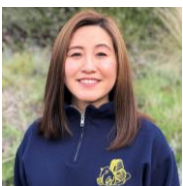
Rebecca Black - Presentation Title: “Analysis of Distance-Based Mental Health Support for URM University Students”

Rebecca Black is associate professor in the Department of Informatics and equity advisor for the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences. Her research focuses on literacy and socialization practices of young people from diverse cultural and linguistic background who are writing and participating in online, popular culture-inspired environments, including 21st century literacy skills. Her Advancing Equity project on Distance-Based Support for HBCU and HSI Students created online communities based on artificial intelligence for underrepresented students attending UCI and Howard University to foster connectivity and student resilience. Additional project investigators included: Lucretia Williams and Gloria Washington (Howard University), and UCI co-investigators Gillian Hayes (Informatics) and Sharnnia Artis (Office of Access & Inclusion). **Website:** <https://www.informatics.uci.edu/explore/faculty-profiles/rebecca-black/>.



Victoria Anne Lowerson Bredow - Presentation Title: “Todo Viene en Cadena: A Story of Equity and Essential Work during COVID-19”

Victoria Lowerson Bredow is director of engaged scholarship at the UCI Newkirk Center for Science and Society and co-directs the Research Justice Shop with Connie McGuire. The Research Justice Shop seeks to transform research practices to be more inclusive through equitable collaboration between the university and community partners. Dr. Lowerson Bredow’s work focuses on issues of community engagement and collaboration in public policy, planning, and research, including practices of inclusion and exclusion. The Advancing Equity project: Documenting for Inclusion, Healing, and Policymaking: The Experience of Essential Workers in Orange County during the COVID-19 Crisis, involved interviewing Orange County residents who do essential work to understand the impacts and strategies used to navigate during the pandemic. Project collaborators included: Connie McGuire, Newkirk Graduate Student Fellows Chengyuan Huang (Drama) and Veronica Valencia Gonzalez (Social Ecology), and undergraduate researcher Susana Rodriguez Guerra (Psychology). **Website:** <https://newkirkcenter.uci.edu/researchjustice/>.



Angela Chen - Presentation Title: Dream Project Fellowship: Changing the Landscape of Opportunity and Support of Undocumented Student Support at UCI “

Angela Chen is director of the UCI DREAM (Diversity, Resilience, Empowerment, Advocacy, Mentorship) Center, space committed to serving the needs of those impacted by immigration policy through advancing systemic change, deconstructing oppressive policies and fostering community. Her institutional advocacy includes leading University of California system-wide efforts to increase awareness about practices, policies, and guiding programs for undocumented youth. The Advancing Equity funding supported programmatic aspects of her DREAM Fellowship Project: Growing Our Roots. The project aimed to enhance the career and leadership skills of undocumented youth while fostering community through partnerships. **Website:** <https://dream.uci.edu/>.



Darlene Esparza - Presentation Title: “ZotCorps: Campus Organization Engagement and Community Partnership”

Darlene Esparza is director of the Office of Campus Organizations and Volunteer Programs in the Division of Student Affairs. She provides education and oversees the member registration process for the 600+ registered campus organizations, also coordinating volunteer and community services activities such as UCI Alternate Break program. She is a NASPA mentor for the undergraduate fellows program (NUFP) and has served formerly as assistant director of the Cross-Cultural Center, director of the Center for Service in Action, and manager of the Veteran’s Services office. The Advancing Equity funding supported a ZotCorps to help Orange County communities during COVID-19. Project collaborators included Project Co-Leads: Angie Keam, Assistant Director, Campus Organizations & Volunteer Programs and Esparza and major UCI collaborators Marguerite Bonous-Hammarth (Office of Inclusive Excellence) and colleagues at the UCI Center for Wellness & Health Promotion, and Santa Ana Unified School District collaborators Katy Castellanos and Jennifer Cisneros. **Website:** <https://campusorgs.uci.edu/> and <https://volunteer.uci.edu/>



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Nickolas M. Jones - Presentation Title: "The Color of COVID Worry: Racial Differences in COVID-19 Pandemic-related Perservative Cognition"

Nickolas M. Jones is a postdoctoral scholar in the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing. He examines topics at the intersection of social psychology, technology, and advanced analytics to learn how people respond psychologically and behaviorally to large-scale traumatic events. He leverages national surveys and big data sources to understand the magnitude and temporality of psychological distress and how the media is implicated in these responses. Dr. Jones is a co-investigator on the Advancing Equity-funded project with Principal Investigators E. Alison Holman (Nursing) and DeWayne Williams (Psychological Science). Their project - COVID-19 is Not an Equalizer - examines pandemic-related health disparities from a national data sample from NORC at the University of Chicago.

Website: <https://nursing.uci.edu/2020/09/covid-19-stress-depression/>.

Alana LeBrón - Presentation Title: "Bouncing Forward: COVID-19 Equity-Focused Community Academic Partnership"

Alana LeBrón is assistant professor in the Program in Public Health and the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies. Her research focuses on the processes that shape the production, maintenance, exacerbation, and mitigation of social inequalities, the intersections of race, socioeconomic position, immigrant generation, legal status, and gender with inequities in health, the health of Latina/o/x communities, and community-engaged strategies for understanding and addressing health inequities. Advancing Equity funding supported Professor LeBrón's project for building and engaging the Orange County Health Equity COVID-19 Community-Academic Partnership, which has worked together to build community power in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and to promote equity in the local COVID-19 response. Senate faculty collaborators included: Sora Park Tanjasiri (Program in Public Health) and Salvador Zarate (Department of Anthropology). Additional personnel included community collaborators representing Latino Health Access, Cooperacion Santa Ana, Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers, and Korean Community Services. Other UCI partners included: Abigail Reyes (Community Resilience), John Billimek (Family Medicine), Cynthia Haq (Family Medicine), Daniel Parker (Public Health), Jun Wu (Public Health), Bernadette Boden-Albala (Public Health), Brittany Morey (Public Health), Vladimir Minin (Statistics), Jun Wu (Public Health), and Candice Taylor Lucas (Pediatrics). **Website:** <https://communityresilience.uci.edu/oc-health-equity-covid-19-partnership/>.

Paulina Raygoza - Presentation Title: "Listening with an Open Heart and Responding to Changing Needs during COVID-19"

Paulina Raygoza is director of the Student Outreach and Retention (SOAR) Center, a student-initiated outreach and retention program dedicated to fostering critical dialogue, mentorship, and educational programs to improve college access, readiness, and retention rates for historically marginalized communities in higher education. Prior to joining UCI, she supported the University of California, Santa Cruz's Engaging Education (e²) center, and formerly worked with the United Way, leading efforts to integrate career experiential learning opportunities and creating high school student internships. The Advancing Equity funding supported a Gateway Scholars Early Start Program to engage 60-80 build students in transitioning to UCI and navigating their digital learning spaces through mentoring and peer counseling networks. Project collaborators included SOAR colleagues Jose Leon and Daniel Cano, and Student Success Initiatives' Joanna Hernandez and Adeeva Myers. **Website:** <https://soar.uci.edu/gateway-scholars/>.

Adriana Villacencio - Presentation Title: "Reimagining Educational Equity and Opportunity during the COVID-19 Pandemic (REEO)"

Adriana Villavicencio is an assistant professor in the School of Education. Her research focuses on K-12 educational policy and practice that disrupts inequities for minoritized communities of students and families. For nearly a decade, she helped lead the Research Alliance for NYC Schools, conducting large-scale, mixed-method studies on the City's schools. Her book, *Am I My Brother's Keeper: Educational Opportunities and Outcomes for Black and Brown Boys* (Harvard Education Press), examines how districts and schools can embed racial equity into sustainable policies and practices. Professor Villavicencio was part of the co-investigator team that received Advancing Equity funding for a project on Reimagining Educational Equity and Opportunity (REEO) during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The REEO project, led by Professor June Ahn, used a research-practice partnership approach to identify the needs of stakeholders in Orange County schools and to co-create solutions targeted at the pandemic and to support teachers, students, and families. In addition to Drs. Villavicencio and Ahn, the multi-investigator research involved School of Education faculty Rossella Santagata, Brandy Gatlin, and Doron Zinger, as well as graduate students Ashlee Belgrave, Jiwon Lee, Ha Nguyen, Khamia Powell, Yenda Prado, Jennifer Rose Renick, and Taffeta Wood. **Website:** http://education.uci.edu/ocean_reeo.html.



Advancing Equity Forums - Presenter Biographies - May 13, 2021



Graeme Boushey - Presentation Title: “Pandemics in the Laboratories of Democracy: COVID-19 Lawmaking in the American States”

Graeme Boushey is associate professor in the Department of Political Science in the School of Social Sciences. He teaches on American politics, public policy and California politics, and his research focuses on public policy innovation and political decision-making in America. He is director of the Jack W. Peltason Center for the Study of Democracy and a core faculty member in the Master in Public Policy program. Prior to arriving at UCI, he was Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. He is the principal investigator for the Advancing Equity-funded project on COVID-19 Problem Definition and Agenda-Setting in the American States, examining how state governments defined the problem of COVID-19 throughout the pandemic and mapping what dimensions of COVID-19 received widespread attention and what areas did not. **Website:**

<https://www.polisci.uci.edu/people/faculty.php>.



Laura Enriquez - Presentation Title: “Undocumented & Invisibilized: The Effects of Pandemic Policies on Immigration-Impacted UC Students”

Laura Enriquez is associate professor in the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies in the School of Social Sciences and faculty-in-residence at the UCI Dream Center. Her research focuses on the educational, political, and social experiences of undocumented young adults who immigrated to the United States as children. She leads the UC Collaborative to Promote Immigrant and Student Equity (UC PromISE) and the Undocumented Student Equity Project (USEP) – both dedicated to conducting research to identify best practices for advancing educational equity for undocumented students and students from mixed-status families. A former Ford Foundation Predoctoral and Dissertation Fellow and UCI Chancellor’s ADVANCE Postdoctoral Fellow, she received a 2020 National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral fellowship. The Advancing Equity funding supported her collaboration with co-PI Annie Ro (Public Health) and UCI collaborators Mariel Calva Hernandez, Alberto Morales, Martha Morales Rodriguez, and Evelyn Sanchez Aguilar, and CSU collaborators Karina Chavarria (CSU Channel Islands), William Rosales (CSU Los Angeles), and Mercedes Valadez (CSU Sacramento State). **Websites:** <https://ucpromise.uci.edu/> and <https://www.undocequity.com/>.



Pavan Kadandale – Presentation Title: “Black Holes with Bars: Education in Prisons”

Pavan Kadandale is an associate professor of teaching in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry in the School of Biological Sciences. His research interests include biology education, assessments, and critical thinking, examining how to improve students’ critical thinking skills and their application in new and meaningful ways and how to improve assessments of higher order thinking. The Advancing Equity funding supported his project on Lighting the Way Forward Through Education (LIFTED) to provide a pathway for incarcerated students to obtain baccalaureates from the University of California. Project collaborators included Valerie Jenness, Carol Seron, and Keramet Reiter (Criminology, Law & Society), and Brandy Gatlin-Nash (Education). **Website:** <https://prisoneducation.uci.edu/>.



James Kyung-Jin Lee - Presentation Title: “Open in Emergency: What we Learn from Mental Unwellness”

James Kyung-Jin Lee is associate professor in the Departments of Asian American Studies and English in the School of Humanities. He also directs the Center for Medical Humanities, a unique collaboration across the School of Humanities, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, and the School of Medicine, with his scholarship intersecting multiple disciplines to examine the human experience, including the state of illness and disability, Asian Americans and model minority concepts. He has served on the Executive Committee of the UCI Medical Humanities Initiatives, as well as a working group that helped to establish the minor program in Medical Humanities. His project on Life Without Cure: Futures of Illness and Care, was supported by Advancing Equity funding and examined through workshops and public events questions raised by the changes engendered by COVID-19 related to radical contingency, unpredictability, slow time, immobility, pain, suffering, and most of all care for the self and for the collective. Executive Director Amanda Swain was a project collaborator.

Website: <https://www.humanities.uci.edu/centermedicalhumanities/>.

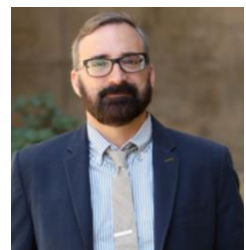


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Candice Taylor Lucas – Presentation Title: “The Power of a Village: Projects Promoting Cultural Humility in the Care of African, Black, and Caribbean Communities”

Candice Taylor Lucas is a pediatrician and assistant clinical professor in the Department of Pediatrics in the UCI School of Medicine. She is affiliated with the Pediatric Exercise and Genomics Research Center and her research broadly addresses the health needs of low-income and minority communities. She is passionate about fostering child well-being and seeks to characterize healthy patterns in early-life physical activity and identify caregiver and environmental factors that support active play and positive health trajectories. She is also an associate program director for the UCI/CHOC pediatric residency program and founder of the UCI/CHOC pediatric residency Service, Teaching, Advocacy and Research (STAR) program fostering mentored research to address child health inequities, and co-founder of the UCI/CHOC Program for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity. She co-directs with Carol Major (professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology) the UCI Leadership Education to Advance Diversity-African, Black and Caribbean (LEAD-ABC) program, a project dedicated to developing the next generation of physician-leaders who are committed to public service, social justice, and advocacy in underserved communities. Her project supported by Advancing Equity funding on Uniting the Village: Promoting Cultural Humility in the Care of African, Black, and Caribbean Communities, Americans, developed curriculum and implemented training for first-, second-, and final-year medical students. The project promoted critical consciousness among health sciences students about systemic and individual care issues affecting individuals of African, Black, and Caribbean descent, particularly during COVID-19. Websites: <https://www.meded.uci.edu/curricular-affairs/lead-abc.asp>.



Bill Maurer - Presentation Title: “Confronting Extremism during COVID’s Digital ‘Infodemic’”

Bill Maurer is dean of the School of Social Sciences, professor in the Departments of Anthropology, Criminology, Law & Society, and in the School of Law, and director of the Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI). He is a cultural anthropologist who examines how professional communities conceptualize and build financial technology and how consumers use and experience it. As IMTFI director, he has coordinated research in over 40 countries on how new payment technologies impact people’s well being. His project on Facing Digital Extremism in a Pandemic was funded by the Advancing Equity initiative and engaged collaborators Colin Bernatzky, Sion Avakian, Jenny Fan, and Stephen Rea. The project created teaching modules and a toolkit on digital extremism during the pandemic to educate teachers, public health professionals and concerned citizens, as well as to inoculate students against digital extremism.

Websites: http://open.uci.edu/courses/confronting_digital_extremism.html and <https://www.imtffi.uci.edu/>.



Mandy Mount - Presentation Title: “Collective CARE amidst Adversity – Equity Centered Programs”

Mandy Mount is a counseling psychologist and director of UCI CARE (Campus Assault Resources and Education). Her research and practice explore how identity factors, personal strengths, experiences and obstacles influence responses to difficult emotions and events, and she uses a holistic, trauma-informed approach to support in her specialty areas of sexual trauma, mindfulness, grief and loss, adjustment difficulties, career exploration, PTSD, sexual and gender identity, body-based healing and psychoendocrinology. She directs the Advancing Equity-funded project on UCI Care Advocacy and Prevention Services during COVID-19 was supported by Advancing Equity funding to expand the free and confidential support services and programs to prevent power-based sexual violence and sexual harassment to students and those in need in isolated and unsafe spaces during COVID’s shelter in place mandates. Her project collaborators included: Eli Pascal, Melissa Bader-Huesgen, Kaeleigh Hayakawa, Nhi Nguyen, Hazal Gurcan, Mica Ang, Ilayda Akman, Jasmine Marie Chvilicek, Lesley Gisselle Cortez, Katelyn Chamberlain, and Tea Leksunthon. **Website:** www.care.uci.edu.



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Virginia Parks - Presentation Title: “COVID Economic Vulnerability: Workers and Communities Most at Risk for Not Receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits”

Virginia Parks is professor and chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Public Policy in the School of Social Ecology. She is a geographer and urban planner specializing in the study of urban inequality, and community development and organizing. Throughout her work, Professor Parks is interested in how urban space, politics, and regulatory environments influence inequality outcomes. Her Advancing Equity funding on COVID Economic Vulnerability identified the populations most vulnerable to unemployment effects from COVID-19. Specifically, she examined workers who were eligible for unemployment benefits but who did not apply for or receive such support. Project collaborators included her Social Ecology students Youjin Kim and Leticia Ramirez. **Website:** <https://uppp.soceco.uci.edu/>.



Sora Park Tanjasiri - Presentation Title: “VOICE: Visualizing Our Identities for Community Empowerment”

Sora Park Tanjasiri is associate director of cancer health disparities & community engagement at the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, a professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and an equity advisor in the Program in Public Health. Her research focuses on community health promotion to reduce cancer health disparities among diverse populations, particularly Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She has served as principal investigator or as co-principal investigator on over two dozen extramurally funded cancer-related studies, including multiple principal investigator of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation-funded Optimizing Access to Cancer Care for Asian Americans. Her advisory work includes service to the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance, St. Joseph Health System Community Partnership Fund, and the Orange County Women’s Health Project. Her project funded by the Advancing Equity initiative on Through Our Eyes, Hear Our Stories: Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities in the Time of Pandemic, focused on training UCI students, faculty, and staff to become photo ethnographers, documenting the experiences of marginalized Asian American and Pacific Islander members to share their COVID-19 experiences and concerns. The project activities of exhibitions, presentations, research papers, and policy advocacy included collaborators Thuy Vo Dang (UCI Southeast Asian Archive), Cevadne Lee (Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center), and Judy Tzu-Chun Wu (Asian American Studies). **Website:** <http://sites.uci.edu/voice/>.

