

# College of Arts and Letters

## Administration

**Dean:** Monica J. Casper

**Associate Dean:** Madhavi M. McCall

**Associate Dean:** Ronnee D. Schreiber

**Assistant Dean for Student Affairs:** Karey Sabol

**Senior Director of Development:** Keely A. Bamberg

**Director of Resources Management:** Elaine Rother

## Research Centers and Institutes

### Bread and Roses Center

Huma Ahmed Ghosh and Kimala J. Price, Co-Directors

The Bread and Roses Center for the promotion of creativity, scholarship, and community action in support of the women's movement, is the first such center in the nation. The Bread and Roses Center plays a central role in promoting activism in close connection with research and teaching. Since its founding in 2002 by the Department of Women's Studies, the center has been home to interdisciplinary and intersectional projects that foster women's economic, social, and political empowerment; promote internationalization and transnational feminist collaborations; build a stronger local feminist community within the university and with other San Diego organizations; link feminist theory to practice; and train future feminist advocates and professionals.

The Bread and Roses Center is housed in the Department of Women's Studies and is led by a committee composed of members from across SDSU and the greater San Diego community. It can be reached by contacting the department office at 619-594-2952, by e-mail at [breadandroses@sdsu.edu](mailto:breadandroses@sdsu.edu), or on the website at <http://breadandroses.sdsu.edu>.

### Center for Asian and Pacific Studies

Sandra A. Wawrytko, Director

The Center for Asian and Pacific Studies brings together interested students, faculty, and community members, to promote teaching, research, and contemporary dialogues on the cultures and societies of Asia and the Pacific Rim and their relationships to North America. To explore East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Rim, and Asian American communities, the center draws on the academic resources of multiple departments and programs within and outside of the College of Arts and Letters, including: anthropology, art, Chinese, comparative literature, economics, geography, history, Japanese, linguistics, philosophy, political science, religious studies, sociology, and women's studies. The center supports colloquia and symposia, curriculum development, student and faculty research, community research, international programs, and new college initiatives to educate students, community members, and working professionals about Asian and Pacific languages, cultures, politics, economies, histories, and societies. The center promotes faculty and student exchanges with Asian universities as well as study abroad programs in the Asia Pacific. The center houses the undergraduate major, the emphasis in Chinese Studies and Language, a minor in Asian studies, a minor in Chinese studies, as well as the graduate program. For more information, please visit <http://asiapacific.sdsu.edu>.

### Center for Community Research and Engagement

Minjeong Kim, Interim Director

The Center for Community Research and Engagement, located within the Department of Sociology at San Diego State University, promotes the use of qualitative methods in the quest to understand and explain important aspects of social organization. Qualitative researchers utilize a wide range of methods to gather data

including participant observation, in-depth interviews, content analysis, focus groups, photography, film, and videography to accomplish a holistic study of social meanings, social relations, and social institutions. The primary objectives of the center are to:

- Create and sustain an interdisciplinary community of scholars whose principal research focus is qualitative;
- Organize and facilitate workshops and colloquia focusing on the key issues facing qualitative researchers such as methodological, epistemological, and ethical issues;
- Provide a forum for the dissemination of the products of qualitative research across all disciplines.

For more information, contact the center at 619-594-4826.

### Center for Earth Systems Analysis Research (CESAR)

Trent W. Biggs, Fernando Bosco, and Douglas A. Stow, Co-Directors

The Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation Center for Earth Systems Analysis Research (CESAR) was founded in 1986 as a computer-based facility for geographic information science research and instruction that is administered by the Department of Geography. The purpose of the center is to apply state-of-the-art, geo-spatial technology in geographic information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), remote sensing, image processing, automated cartography, spatial statistics, and spatial modeling to problems with geographic dimensions. As such, a number of Geography Department faculty are affiliated with the center. Research conducted by CESAR is directed at both applied and fundamental problems in fields ranging from urban and regional planning to earth system science. This research includes computer-based map and image data processing and human-environment systems modeling, as well as field-based data collection. CESAR has extensive hardware, software, imaging systems, and field equipment resources in its four laboratories: (1) Richard Wright Spatial Analysis Laboratory, (2) Regional Analysis Laboratory (REGAL), (3) William Finch Remote Sensing Laboratory, and (4) Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation GIS Laboratory.

For more information about on-going research projects or services provided by CESAR, or for a demonstration of its capabilities, call 619-594-5437 or email [tbiggs@sdsu.edu](mailto:tbiggs@sdsu.edu) or [pjankows@sdsu.edu](mailto:pjankows@sdsu.edu).

### Center for European Studies

The Center for European Studies, through its associated faculty and students, is committed to the multidisciplinary study of Europe and its dynamic and evolving configuration of nations, cultures, languages, and perspectives. The center fosters an appreciation and deep understanding of Europe through grant-funded programs (e.g., colloquia, symposia, etc.), collaborative teaching and research opportunities, faculty exchanges, internship leads for partner programs, workshops, and related activities.

For more information regarding the Center for European Studies, contact the Department of European Studies at 619-594-5111.

### Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies (CHEPS)

Joseph J. Sabia, Director

The Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies (CHEPS) is an interdisciplinary research center that supports impactful, policy-relevant scholarship in health economics and social policy analysis. CHEPS brings together faculty and graduate students engaged in complementary research in the areas of economic demography, the economics of crime and punishment, the economics of risky health behaviors, and national defense policy.

For more information, visit <http://cheps.sdsu.edu>.

### **Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age (HDMA)**

Ming-Hsiang Tsou, Director

The Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age (HDMA) examines the transformation of innovative academic research into technological and practical software solutions for solving real world problems (such as disease outbreaks, disaster response and recovery, health disparities in cancer and obesity, drug abuse, and urban crime rates). Researchers integrate spatial science (GIS and GPS technologies), mobile applications and technologies, and big data sources to analyze real world problems in order to build transformative scientific theories and computational models for understanding human dynamics. The HDMA Center is the host institute for the big data analytics program (M.S.). For more information, please visit <http://humandynamics.sdsu.edu>.

### **Center for Information Convergence and Strategy (CICS)**

André Skupin and Akshay Pottathil, Co-Directors

The Center for Information Convergence and Strategy (CICS), established in mid-2014, focuses on the application of modern technology in diverse domains at local, state, federal, tribal, and international levels. It supports research across related disciplines with an emphasis on data acquisition and analytics, social media solutions, strategic mapping, and systems integration and development. From visualization to predictive analytics, CICS leverages various information technologies to evaluate current trends and develop strategies based on dynamically evolving content.

To promote innovation through open collaboration, the center offers transparent interaction among government, industry, and academia by acting as a platform for transdisciplinary research and education efforts, with a focus on data mining and advanced visual techniques, as well as building strategies and solutions for government and private industry. To incubate innovation organically, CICS aims to catalyze and nurture partnerships and collaborations in strategic regions globally.

The center comprises a diverse group of faculty researchers and subject matter experts that deploy a range of methodologies, from machine learning and advanced visualization to rhetoric analysis, applied to subjects as diverse as disaster response, global security, threat reduction, business development, biomedicine, public health, and digital humanities.

For further information or to schedule a visit, see the website at <http://cics.sdsu.edu>. The CICS office is located in Storm Hall, Room 339.

### **Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Young People, Environments, Society, and Space (YESS)**

Stuart C. Aitken, Director

Tom Herman, Managing Director

Fernando J. Bosco, Pascale J. Marcelli, Ramona L. Pérez, P.J.E. (Jenny) Quintana, Shulamit N. Riblatt, Co-Directors

YESS is an interdisciplinary collective of academic and community interests that integrates multiple approaches to foster child and youth well-being. The mission of the center is to support research on children, environments, families, society, and space. It includes not only international scholarship and global perspectives on families and young people but also local community research initiatives in San Diego and Tijuana.

The geographical contexts within which young people live structure individual lives and provide connections to social and political formations. It is important to get beyond the problematization of “children,” “families,” and “communities” as categories so that we may find ways to account for the unique processes of identity formation and the relationships through which young people construct their lived spaces. Consequently, YESS supports research that is intent on raising new questions concerning the interdependence of children, caregivers, their communities and social and spatial structures.

The center focuses on local and international research, workshops, and conferences as funding allows. It is connected to international child research centers in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. YESS sponsors the international Routledge journal, *Children's Geographies: Advancing interdisciplinary understanding*

of younger people's lives. In addition to this international, global focus, YESS supports research in San Diego and Tijuana that relates to children, families and communities.

For information call 619-594-6498, or visit the website at <http://geog.sdsu.edu/Research/Projects/ISYS/>.

### **Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies**

Farid Abdel-Nour, Director

The Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies administers the major and minor in Islamic and Arabic Studies, and the major in Social Science: Emphasis on Islamic and Arabic Studies. It is committed to supporting teaching and research on the lives of Muslim and Arabic-speaking peoples past and present. The center's study of the Islamic world focuses on the global context in which Islam emerged historically, the cultures and societies that it helped shape, most especially in Eurasia and Africa, and the current global condition in which people in the Islamic world situate themselves today. It sees the Arabic language as the cultural medium for diverse ways of life that are of world historical significance.

The center is multi-disciplinary and includes in its scope of study the Arabic and Persian languages and literatures; the history of Muslim and Arabic-speaking peoples; political, economic, and social dynamics of contemporary societies; art and architecture; social, political, religious, and philosophic thought; and the experience of Muslim communities in the United States and around the world. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.cias.sdsu.edu>.

### **Center for Latin American Studies**

Ramona L. Pérez, Director

The Center for Latin American Studies supports teaching and research related to Latin America. It has primary responsibility for the administration of the Latin American studies undergraduate and graduate degrees. It also participates in joint degree programs in international business, business administration, and public health. The center administers programs that are interdisciplinary, drawing on the expertise of an outstanding Latin Americanist faculty from the following departments and schools: Anthropology; Art and Design; English and Comparative Literature; Economics; Geography; History; Political Science; Public Affairs; Public Health; Social Work; Sociology; Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures; Women's Studies; and the Fowler College of Business. In addition, the center is involved with the development of innovative methods of instruction in Mixtec, Spanish, and Zapotec; the provision of information and in-service training programs for elementary and secondary school teachers; and the provision of services for the general public through the sponsorship of conferences, workshops, lectures, and films. The center also assists in the development of the university library's Latin American holdings. The center has cooperative agreements for research, faculty, and student exchanges with several Latin American universities, particularly in Mexico, Chile, and Costa Rica.

For additional information, visit the website at <http://latinamericanstudies.sdsu.edu>.

### **Collections Management Program (CMP)**

Jaime Lennox, Interim Director

The Collections Management Program (CMP) works toward the following goals: preserving and curating historic and prehistoric anthropological, archaeological, and ethnological collections; encouraging professional and student research with the collections; promoting the preservation of these resources in partnership with Native Americans and other ethnic groups; and advocating community involvement with the collections. It meets federal and state legislation regarding care of the collections, fosters an understanding of the value and importance of the collections, and provides advanced curation management and facilities for the care of over 900 collections and several hundred thousand artifacts. For more information on CMP and internship opportunities, visit the website at <http://cmp.sdsu.edu>.

### Institute for Ethics and Public Affairs (IEPA)

Mark R. Wheeler, Director

The Institute for Ethics and Public Affairs (IEPA) at San Diego State University seeks to promote critical thinking about moral issues that are often complex in nature. IEPA aims to be a resource to members of the campus community, the larger community of scholars, and the greater San Diego community who wish to pursue thoughtful discussion and research as a means of clarifying moral problems. It also aims to raise the profile of the moral dimensions of contemporary issues. Housed in the Department of Philosophy, IEPA seeks interdisciplinary discussion and collaboration since clarity on contemporary moral problems often involves both the application of normative theorizing and empirical investigation. The institute organizes and sponsors a variety of programs on applied and theoretical moral issues. Among these programs are colloquia, community outreach talks, lectures, and student essay contests. Visit the website at <http://ethics.sdsu.edu> for details.

### Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias (IRSC)

Paul Ganster, Director

The Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias (IRSC) provides San Diego State University with a forum for the investigation, discussion, and dissemination of information about the United States-Mexican border region. Although the institute focuses on the border region of California, Baja California, the United States, and Mexico, it is also concerned with important issues of border regions elsewhere in the world.

Created in 1983, the institute has undertaken multidisciplinary applied research projects on important regional concerns including transborder environmental issues, policy perspectives of the California-Mexico relationship, quality of life, and sustainable development. IRSC also plays an active role in Mexico-related professional organizations and is frequently consulted on transborder issues by the media, nongovernmental organizations, the public sector, and other border stakeholders.

Other institute activities include conducting binational symposia; improving communication between public and private sector representatives on both sides of the border; serving as a clearinghouse for information on transborder events, issues, and institutions; and encouraging the effective use of educational resources among the region's universities. The institute serves as a major link between SDSU and Mexican universities and institutions.

IRSC has an ongoing publications program that includes books, monographs, and shorter items. Many titles are co-published with SDSU Press.

IRSC conducts applied research projects on border environmental issues and policy, regional economic issues, and transborder planning issues. For more information, visit the website at <http://irsc.sdsu.edu>.

### International Population Center (IPC)

John R. Weeks, Director

The International Population Center (IPC) promotes applied demographic research and the provision of technical assistance and consulting, especially focusing on population issues and policy within the San Diego/Tijuana region, the U.S.-Mexico border, Africa, and the Middle East.

Although it is located in the Department of Geography, IPC is a multidisciplinary facility, linking center faculty from several departments on campus with center associates from other organizations and universities in the San Diego region. Contact the center at 619-594-8040 or visit the website at <https://ipc.sdsu.edu>.

### Language Acquisition Resource Center (LARC)

#### National Language Training Center (LTC)

Mathias Schulze, Director

Chris Brown, Managing Director

SDSU created the Language Acquisition Resource Center (LARC) in 1989 to teach foreign languages more effectively using technology. From 1990-2014, the center served as a national Language Resource Center (LRC), with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. Since 2011, LARC functions as a national Language Training Center to train military personnel in critical world languages and cultures. SDSU-LARC executes a number of federally and state-funded projects—Project Global Officer, STARTALK, Southern Area International Languages Network—that provide opportunities for intensive training in less commonly taught languages such as Arabic, Pashto, Persian, Portuguese, and Russian, and for the training, development, and professionalization of teachers (K-16) of critical world languages in the San Diego area.

The center's staff and faculty provide professional development for teachers focused on enhancing transcultural awareness and on developing language proficiency. Its laboratories and facilities offer all faculty and instructors of the College of Arts and Letters a technology-rich environment for teaching courses, supporting self-study, and material and course design. SDSU-LARC's digital archives house learning objects, authentic materials, lesson plans, and courses for a variety of (less commonly taught) languages for different levels of language proficiency. Students and instructors use the laboratories to enhance their language-learning experience. Increasingly, these facilities are also used by classes from fields beyond language education, with a strong emphasis on digital humanities.

Visit the website at <http://larcnet.sdsu.edu> for more information.

### Lipinsky Institute

Risa Levitt, Director

The Lipinsky Institute supports the advancement of community outreach and annual visiting Israeli professorships. To learn more, visit the website at <http://jewishstudies.sdsu.edu>.

### National Center for the Study of Children's Literature (NCSSL)

Joseph T. Thomas, Jr., Director

Situated in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, the National Center for the Study of Children's Literature (NCSSL) embodies SDSU's long-term commitment to the study of children's and adolescents' literatures. As one of North America's oldest and largest programs, SDSU's children's literature program employs many specialists with national and international reputations and enrolls as many as 1,000 students annually in its undergraduate classes, in its Master of Arts degree in English, specialization in children's literature, and in its Advanced Certificate in Children's/Adolescent Literature.

As a research center, the NCSSL hosts visiting scholars, sponsors annual lectures and special events, and provides faculty with the wherewithal to engage in scholarship within a collegial environment. In terms of campus and community outreach, NCSSL faculty collaborate with other programs and departments, conduct summer programs and professional seminars for K-12 teachers, discuss books for the young in various media outlets, and speak to public and professional groups. NCSSL faculty and students also review contemporary children's/young adult books and have donated thousands of books to the SDSU library and to local school districts; these reviews and other announcements are available at <http://sdsuchildlit.blogspot.com>. Information about the NCSSL can be found at <http://childlit.sdsu.edu>.

**South Coastal Information Center (SCIC)**

Seth W. Mallios, Director; Jaime Lennox, Coordinator

The South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) promotes and ensures the preservation of historic resources in San Diego County through archaeological research, archival maintenance, and education. As the state-sponsored archaeological archive for the region, SCIC is responsible for coordinating all written and spatial information for over 50,000 archaeological sites. SCIC specializes in digital conversion and analysis and has a fully integrated archaeological Geographic Information System (GIS). Student internships are available with emphasis on the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) and GIS. For more information, visit the website at <http://scic.org>.

**Watershed Science Institute (WSI)**

Trent W. Biggs, Director

The Watershed Science Institute (WSI) promotes collaboration among SDSU researchers and communities involved in the management and regulation of land and water resources. The objective of WSI is to improve the integration of science, policy, and management of watersheds by aligning research questions with critical management needs. The regional focus is on Southern California, including San Diego County, Imperial Valley, and the US-Mexico Border region, all of which face critical challenges related to water resources and water quality, drinking water supply shortages, climate change, water quality deterioration, impaired surface water bodies, soil erosion, and coastal contamination. WSI has collaborators across the university, including faculty in biology, civil and environmental engineering, geography, mathematics and statistics, and public health, and is a university-wide institute housed in the Division of Research Affairs. Community collaborators include the City of San Diego Water Department, San Diego Coastkeeper, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego River Park Foundation, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, and others. For more information, visit <http://watershed.sdsu.edu>.

**Social Science Research Laboratory (SSRL)**

Cathy Cirina-Chiu, Director

The Social Science Research Laboratory (SSRL) provides program evaluation and survey research services to university faculty and administrators, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. SSRL has evaluated programs in a variety of areas, including public health, education, youth development, youth violence prevention, criminal justice, and public administration. In addition to program evaluation and survey research, SSRL's services include research design, data analysis, data visualization, and writing evaluation components for grant proposals.

SSRL also provides training to SDSU students through its Internship in Applied Survey Research and Program Evaluation. The goal of the internship is to provide eligible students with field experience and an opportunity to apply the information and skills learned in their academic curriculum in a real-world setting.

SSRL is located in the College of Arts and Letters, Room 374. For more information, call 619-594-1363 or visit: <http://ssrl.sdsu.edu>.