Organized Research Units

For nearly 60 years, Organized Research Units (ORUs) have been a key component in bringing faculty together across departments and divisions to pursue interdisciplinary research. They reach across the breadth of the campus to approach areas and problems from diverse and multi-faceted perspectives. ORUs encompass faculty from more than 80 departments as well as all of the professional schools and division of the College of Letters and Science.

Officially, ORUs are academic units that “the University has established to provide a supportive infrastructure for interdisciplinary research...” In practice, ORUs’ activities are wide-ranging. They conduct and facilitate research, provide students with opportunities, create networks of faculty and students, and carry out public service programs across traditional disciplinary boundaries. They publish policy briefs to inform political decisions around labor relations and civil rights, provide facilities for studying fusion energy, support local indigenous communities, publish research projects such as the Hollywood Diversity Report, and design new biomaterials. Many ORUs also provide research opportunities, resources, facilities, and scholarships to students, enabling them to develop interdisciplinary approaches and competencies early in their academic careers.

Unlike most other UCLA centers and institutes, ORUs are governed by UC-wide policy. Per UCOP policy, ORUs and their directors are evaluated on a regular basis, providing a more consistent level of review.

Although ORUs cross schools and divisions, each ORU has a reporting Dean or Vice Provost for purposes of development support. This is usually the Dean of the division or school with which the ORU is most closely aligned.

More information about ORUs in general is available online at https://icca.ucla.edu/organized-research-units

More information about specific ORUs is available on their websites, listed in the summaries that follow.
ORU Overviews by Reporting Area

David Geffen School of Medicine

Brain Research Institute

Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging

UCLA-DOE Institute for Genomics & Proteomics

Division of Humanities

Center for 17th- & 18th-Century Studies

Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

Division of Life Sciences

Molecular Biology Institute

Division of Physical Sciences

Plasma Science & Technology Institute

Division of Social Sciences

Center for the Study of Women

Cotsen Institute of Archaeology

Institute for Research on Labor & Employment

Institute of American Cultures

American Indian Studies Center

Asian American Studies Center

Chicano Studies Research Center

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies

International Institute

African Studies Center

Center for European & Russian Studies

Center for Near Eastern Studies

Latin American Institute
David Geffen School of Medicine

Brain Research Institute

Current Director: Christopher Evans, Stefan Hatos Professor, Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences
Director Since: 2005


Departmental Connections: Anesthesiology; Bioengineering; Biological Chemistry; Chemistry & Biochemistry; Computer Science; Dentistry; Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; Electrical Engineering; Human Genetics; Integrative Biology & Physiology; Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering; Medicine; Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics; Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology; Molecular & Medical Pharmacology; Neurobiology; Neurology; Nursing; Ophthalmology; Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Pediatrics; Physics & Astronomy; Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences; Psychology; Statistics.

Established in 1959

The Brain Research Institute (BRI) brings together 300 faculty members from 30 departments in 6 schools to advance interdisciplinary basic and clinical neuroscience. The Institute runs educational programs for students at UCLA as well as outreach programs for K-12 students in the community. BRI members’ recent research ranges from addiction and depression to cell studies to the psychophysics of visual perception.

The Institute recently established the Integrative Center for Addiction Disorders to advance its long history of advances in addiction research. It also established Project Synapse, an outreach and professional development group for post-doctoral students to build career skills and participate in K-12 outreach activities.

BRI cosponsors the Joint Seminars in Neuroscience series and sponsors affinity groups for researchers to discuss current topics in their specific fields. It also holds the Annual Neuroscience Poster Day and sponsors numerous other lectures, conferences, and symposia. The Institute administers post-doctoral training grant programs and provides research opportunities to graduate and undergraduate students.

Website: http://www.bri.ucla.edu/
Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging

Current Director: Michael Phelps
Director Since: 1999

Departmental Connections: Biological Chemistry; Medicine; Molecular & Medical Pharmacology

Founded in 1989

The Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging provides a venue for faculty, students, and staff from physics, mathematics, engineering, biology, chemistry, and medicine to pursue innovative technologies and accelerate the understanding of biology and medicine. The Institute’s ultimate objective is to provide medicine with new science and technologies to judge the state of health, and identify the early transitions to disease for the development and use of new therapies as part of the new era in molecular medicine.

The Institute’s seven current research programs are: chemical synthesis platform technologies, systems biology, *in vitro* molecular diagnostics, molecular imaging using ImmunoPET, preclinical imaging systems, molecular diagnostics in cancer and immune disorders, and tracer and pharmokinetic modeling. The Institute is also home to the Preclinical Imaging Technology Center, the Cyclotron and Radiochemistry Technology Center, and the Engineering and Prototyping Technology Center.

In addition, the Crump Institute runs the Molecular Imaging Track within the interdisciplinary Physics and Biology in Medicine PhD Program. It also houses the Crump START (Scholars Trained in Advanced Radiochemistry Technologies) Course for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

Website: [https://www.crump.ucla.edu/pages/](https://www.crump.ucla.edu/pages/)

UCLA-DOE Institute for Genomics & Proteomics

Current Director: Sabeea Merchant, Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry
Director Since: 2014

Previous Directors: David Eisenberg (1993 – 2014)

Departmental Connections: Biochemical Engineering; Chemistry & Biochemistry; Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics; Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology.

Established 1947
The UCLA-DOE Institute for Genomics and Proteomics is a team of research laboratories working on fundamental research and technology developments in broad DOE mission areas ranging from system biology of microbes, to biofuels and green chemistry, to the design of new biomaterials. The Institute operates under a Cooperative Agreement between the Department of Energy and UCLA. The Institute includes twelve Principle Investigators from the Division of Life Sciences, the Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the David Geffen School of Medicine. It is home to six Core Technology Centers: the X-Ray Diffraction Core, the Macromolecular Crystallization Core, the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Core, the Computational Biology Core, the Biological Instrumentation Core, and the Protein Expression Core. The Institute also holds group seminars as well as lectures and journal clubs.

Website: [http://www.doe-mbi.ucla.edu/](http://www.doe-mbi.ucla.edu/)
Division of Humanities

Center for 17th- & 18th-Century Studies

Current Director: Helen Deutsch

Previous Directors: Peter Reill, Barbara Fuchs, Mary Terrall (interim)

Departmental Connections: Anthropology; Architecture & Urban Design; Art History; Asian Languages & Cultures; Classics; Comparative Literature; English; French; Geography; German; History; Information Science; Italian; Law; Linguistics; Music; Musicology; Neurobiology; Philosophy; Political Science; Slavic; Spanish & Portuguese; Sociology; Theater, Film & Television; World Arts & Cultures/Dance.

Established in 1985

The Center for 17th- & 18th-Century Studies brings together scholars for the discussion of central issues in the field of early modern studies. It also administers the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, a rare books and manuscript library located in a historic building in the West Adams district.

Each year the Center runs a core program of interdisciplinary conferences around a common theme, as well as a range of other events for academic and general audiences, including conferences and lectures, chamber music concerts, and theatrical performances. Recent and upcoming core program themes include: Explorations, Encounters, and the Circulation of Knowledge, 1600-1830 (2014-15), The Frontiers of Persian Learning: Testing the Limits of a Eurasian Lingua Franca, 1600-1900 (2015-16), Entertaining the Idea: Shakespeare, Philosophy, Performance (2016-17), and Becoming Media (2017-18). Postdoctoral fellows associated with the core program participate in the intellectual life of the Center and use the resources of the Clark Library for their research projects.

Other current Center projects include Diversifying the Classics, encompassing five initiatives to bring theater from the Hispanic Golden Age to a wider audience, and Unediting the Teaching Text, a digital initiative to make rare editions of classic texts accessible to undergraduates. The Center grants graduate research fellowships and assistantships, as well as short-term fellowships for scholars from around the world to use the Clark’s book and manuscript collections.

In addition, the Center hosts several interdisciplinary working groups in early modern studies and book history, sponsors an undergraduate research seminar at the Clark, and administers (with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese) a graduate certificate in Early Modern Studies.

Website: [https://www.icca.ucla.edu/content/center-17th-18th-century-studies](https://www.icca.ucla.edu/content/center-17th-18th-century-studies)
The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS) promotes interdisciplinary and cross-cultural studies from Late Antiquity to the mid-seventeenth century. It supports the research and teaching activities of 125 faculty members in 24 disciplines, bridging the arts, humanities, social sciences, medicine, law, and theater.

The Center provides fellowships and funding for both graduate and undergraduate students and publishes the journal Viator, the graduate student journal Comitatus, and a series of books under Cursor Mundi.


Website: http://cmrs.ucla.edu/
Division of Life Sciences

Molecular Biology Institute

Current Director: Luisa Iruela-Arispe, Professor of Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology
Director Since: 2014

Previous Directors: Steven Clarke (2001 - )

Departmental Connections: Anesthesiology; Biological Chemistry; Chemistry & Biochemistry; Dentistry; Earth, Planetary & Space Sciences; Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; Human Genetics; Integrative Biology & Physiology; Medicine; Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics; Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology; Molecular & Medical Pharmacology; Neurobiology; Neurology; Neurosurgery; Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Pediatrics; Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences; Psychology; Obstetrics & Gynecology; Ophthalmology; Orthopedic Surgery; Radiation Oncology; Surgery; Urology.

Established 1967

The Molecular Biology Institute (MBI) is a hub for interdisciplinary interactions between scientific groups, focused on deciphering molecular structures and identifying regulatory cross-talk in living organisms. The Institute provides a forum for more than 200 faculty members from 30 departments, representing the Divisions of Life Sciences and Physical Sciences, as well as the David Geffen School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, and the Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science. The Institute also has 95 students in its Molecular Biology Interdepartmental PhD Program.

The Institute holds a regular Thursday seminar series as well as regular informal seminars to enable the Institute’s membership to keep up to date on current research developments by MBI faculty. Recent faculty research seminar topics have included: Genetic Basis of Vascular Tumors, The Human Skin Microbiome at the Strain Level, Prokaryotic Cell Clothing/Couture: Diversity of Archael Cell Envelopes, Large-Scale Detection and Dissection of Human Regulatory Elements, and Innate Immune Gene Programs Against Bacterial and Viral Infections and Their Crosstalk to Inflammation and Cell Metabolism. The Institute also hosts an Annual MBI Retreat and Research Conference, giving students, postdocs, and faculty the opportunity to gather together to celebrate the diversity of intellectual pursuits that comprise modern molecular biology at UCLA.

The Institute also strongly supports its graduate students. MBI holds regular MB-IDP Graduate Student Seminars based on the faculty seminar model. It also awards traineeships through the Whitcome Training Program as well as the UCLA Cellular and Molecular Biology Training Program.

Website: [http://www.mbi.ucla.edu/](http://www.mbi.ucla.edu/)
The Plasma Science and Technology Institute (PSTI) at UCLA represents the largest university-based research effort in the world related to the fourth state of matter, known as plasma. The Institute brings together 36 faculty members and 150 researchers, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students from seven departments in the Division of Physical Sciences and the Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science. PSTI research ranges from applied settings such as fusion energy innovation to understanding space environments to making use of plasma for technological application, such as semiconductor production.

The basic plasma science facility includes devices that are the largest of their kind in the world for studying plasma physics. In addition to providing resources for faculty research, graduate students have unparalleled access to PSTI laboratories and computation facilities and machines, giving them hands on experience with their own projects and the ability to build their own machines. The Institute awards fellowships and heavily integrates graduate students into PSTI research.

In 2015 PSTI held a campus-wide Plasma Fest, a celebration of the outstanding breadth and depth of UCLA-based plasma research, from space and astrophysical plasmas to fusion energy, advanced accelerators and radiation sources, plasma-materials interactions, and space propulsion. In addition, PSTI holds regular interdisciplinary seminars.

Website: [http://psti.ucla.edu/](http://psti.ucla.edu/)
Division of Social Sciences

Center for the Study of Women

Current Director: Rachel Lee, Professor of English and Gender Studies
Director Since: 2015

Departmental Connections: African American Studies; Anthropology; Architecture & Urban Design; Art History; Arts; Asian American Studies; Asian Languages & Cultures; Bioengineering; Chicana/o Studies; Classics; Communication Studies; Comparative Literature; Economics; Education; English; Ethnomusicology; French; Gender Studies; Geography; German; History; Integrative Biology & Physiology; Italian; Law; LGBT Studies; Management; Materials Science & Engineering; Medicine; Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology; Musicology; Near Eastern Languages & Cultures; Nursing; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences; Psychology; Public Health; Public Policy; Sociology; Urban Planning; World Arts & Cultures/Dance.

Established 1984

The Center for the Study of Women (CSW) brings together more than two hundred faculty members from 34 departments and 10 schools to foster research on gender, sexuality and women’s issues. Affiliated faculty span the entire UCLA campus.

CSW maintains and publishes an online database of UCLA faculty who are women or have research interests in gender, sexuality, or women’s issues. It also publishes four research and event blogs as well as policy briefs, databases, timelines, and books.

The Center administers research grants for faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students. Current CSW research projects include: Feminism + the Senses: Sense Data and Sensitivity in an Age of Precarity; Chemical Entanglements: Gender and Exposure; Food|Water|Shelter: Gender and the Basics of Life; and Life (Un) Ltd: a research colloquium on race, feminism, and biopolitics. Each year CSW also hosts Thinking Gender, a major student research conference.

Examples of CSW’s 2015-16 events include: “Ungrid-able Ecologies: Cultivating the Arts of Attention in a 10,000 Year Old Happening;” “Black Feminism, the Carceral State, and Abolition;” “Own Your Voice: Assertive Communication and Negotiation;” “A Critical Moment: Sex/Gender Research at the Intersection of Culture, Brain, and Behavior;” and “Personal Safety and Conflict Resolution: An Empowerment Self-Defense Workshop,” as well as many other book talks, discussions, lectures and events.
Cotsen Institute of Archaeology

Current Director: Willeke Wendrich
Director Since: 2016

Previous Directors: Charles Stanish (2002-2016)

Departmental Connections: Anthropology; Archaeology; Architecture & Urban Design; Art History; Asian Languages & Cultures; Classics; German; Information Science; Near Eastern Languages & Cultures; Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences.

Established 1973

The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology provides a forum for interdisciplinary faculty archaeological research, graduate education, and public programs and houses the Interdepartmental Archaeological Program and the UCLA/Getty Program in Archaeological and Ethnographic Conservation.

The Cotsen Institute’s more than 30 faculty belong to 11 departments, with disciplines ranging from classics to psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences to information science. The Institute is home to more than 60 research associates.

The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press publishes seven different series each year, as well as Backdirt, the Institute’s Annual Review. Other series include: Momunemta Archaeologica; Monographs; Cotsen Advanced Seminars; Ideas, Debates, and Perspectives; World Heritage and Monuments; Perspectives in California Archaeology; and Archaeological Research Tools. The Institute is also launching the Cotsen Digital Archive to archive faculty research and host digital publications in collaboration with a number of partner organizations at UCLA.

The Institute holds regular events including the Cotsen Advanced Seminars, Friday Seminars, weekly pizza talks, and an annual UCLA Archaeology Research Conference. Other public lectures during the 2015-16 year included: “Indo-European Origins Revisited: New Data, New Problems,” “Medieval Ireland: An Overview of 1,000 Years from the Archaeological and Historical Record,” and “Wep Wa-upt in Westwood: Ancient Technology.”

Website: http://ioa.ucla.edu/
Institute for Research on Labor & Employment

Current Director: Abel Valenzuela
Director Since: 2016


Departmental Connections: Anthropology; Asian Languages & Cultures; Chicana/o Studies; Economics; Gender Studies; Geography; History; Law; Management; Political Science; Public Health; Public Policy; Sociology; Urban Planning.

Established 1945

The Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (IRLE) was established in 1945 by Governor Earl Warren to strengthen ties between the labor movement and the university. IRLE is now comprised of four units: the IRLE Academic Unit – home to the undergraduate minor in Labor and Workplace Studies; the Center for Labor Research and Education; the Human Resources Round Table; and the Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program, forming a multidisciplinary center dedicated to the study, teaching, and discussion of labor and employment issues.

During the 2015-16 year, IRLE published 39 research and policy briefs, reports, articles, and working papers as well as a book. IRLE experts have conducted briefings and evaluations locally, nationally, and globally. IRLE’s Labor Center also runs the award-winning Re:Work radio show.

Current IRLE research projects include: Experiences Organizing Information Workers; Analyze to Win: The Crucial Role of Strategic Research in Building Worker Power in the Neoliberal Economy; Global Retail Landscapes; Global Strategies for Improving Low-Wage Jobs; Regulating Atypical Employment Relationships in China; The Bifurcation of the U.S. Long-Term Care Industry and the Rise in Filipina Immigrant Entrepreneurship; and Vocational and Technical Education in China: Possibilities for Migrant Workers in the Process of Urbanization.

IRLE events over the past year have included: “Southern California’s Port Truck Drivers: Exploitation and Resistance,” “New Strategies for Youth Employment: Rebuilding Community Jobs in the Face of Globalization,” and “Building China: The Rise of Informal Work and Spatial Politics,” as well as numerous other lectures, conferences, and book talks.

Website: http://www.irle.ucla.edu/
Institute of American Cultures

American Indian Studies Center

Current Director: Shannon Speed, Associate Professor of Gender Studies and Anthropology
Director Since: 2015


Departmental Connections: Anthropology; Art History; Dentistry; Education; Gender Studies; History; Information Science; Law; Public Policy; Sociology; World Arts & Cultures/Dance.

Established in 1969

The American Indian Studies Center (AISC) serves as a focal point for scholars, staff, students, and community members. It works extensively with local, national, and international indigenous communities, with particular attention to California communities.

AISC’s ongoing research projects include: the UCLA Mapping Indigenous LA Project, the Indian Law and Order Commission, Partners for Justice, a series of policy briefs and technical memos, and the Los Angeles Urban Indian Roundtable. Its 2015-16 events included a symposium on Contemporary Indigenous and Native American Cultures in North and Central America, the 31st Annual UCLA Pow Wow, student lunches and discussions, discussions with tribal representatives, talks on issues including disability activism and education in Samoa, and an urgent forum exploring the assassination of Berta Caceres and the future of indigenous and Afrodescendant environmental and land rights in Honduras, among numerous others.

AISC also publishes the American Indian Cultures and Research Journal, supports academic programs in American Indian Studies, and administers fellowships and research awards.

Website: http://www.aisc.ucla.edu/

Asian American Studies Center

Current Director: Margaret Kagawa Singer, Research Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences and Department of Asian American Studies, Director Since: 2017

Departmental Connections: Anthropology; Asian American Studies; Asian Languages & Cultures; Chicana/o Studies; Dentistry; Education; English; Gender Studies; History; Information Studies; Law; Management; Medicine; Nursing; Political Science; Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Science; Psychology; Public Health; Public Policy; Social Welfare; Sociology; Theater, Film & Television; Urban Planning.

Established in 1969

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC) is one of the most widely respected ethnic studies centers in the country. It has established partnerships with a wide range of community-based organizations locally, nationally, and internationally and helped to develop institutions across Southern California to serve and represent the Asian American and Pacific Islander population. The Center Press publishes the Amerasia Journal, AAPI Nexus Journal: Policy, Practice and Community, as well as CrossCurrents – a news magazine, and many other Asian American Studies publications. It awards visiting researcher and scholar fellowships, research grants, as well as undergraduate and graduate funding awards.

The Center’s academic research ranges from history and social science to the humanities, law, education, public policy and public health. Its 2015-2016 events included regular book talks and film screenings, community civil rights discussions, roundtable discussions, and briefings on “The Color of Wealth in Los Angeles” project.

The Center’s major accomplishments include:
- Almost 60 Faculty Members, the largest and most diverse faculty of any university in the United States
- 12 Endowed Chaired Professorships, Research Programs, and Lectures
- More Than 25 Scholarships, Fellowships, and Academic Prizes
- Two National Scholarly Journals and Award-Winning Center Press

Website: http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/

Chicano Studies Research Center

Current Director: Chon Noriega, Professor of Film, Television and Digital Media
Director Since: 2002

Previous Directors: Mesa Directiva, 1969–71, Professor Simón González (Education), 1971–72, Professor Rodolfo Alvarez (Sociology), 1972–74, Professor David A. Sanchez (Mathematics), 1974, Interim Professor Juan Gómez-Quiñones (History), 1974–84, Professor Raymond Rocco (Political Science), 1984–
85, Interim, Professor David Hayes-Bautista (Medicine), 1986–92, Professor David Lopez (Sociology), 1992–93, Interim, Professor Guillermo Hernández (Spanish), 1993–2002

Departmental Connections: Architecture & Urban Design; Art; Art History; Chicana/o Studies; Education; English; History; Information Science; Law; Management; Music; Nursing; Political Science; Psychology; Public Health; Public Policy; Spanish & Portuguese; Sociology; Theater, Film & Television.

Established 1969

The Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC) brings together faculty from fields as diverse as public affairs, public health, management, humanities, STEM fields, and the arts. It is comprised of five components: a library and special collections archive, an academic press, collaborative research projects, public programs and community-based partnerships, and a competitive grants and fellowships program.

The internationally known CSRC Library holds the largest collection in the U.S. of materials pertaining to the Chicana/o-Latina/o experience. It received the first-ever Diversity Award from the Society of American Archivists in 2012. The award-winning CSRC Press is the most active press in the UC outside of UC Press. It publishes Aztlán, the premier journal in its field, in addition to books, e-books, reports, briefs, DVDs, and an oral history series.

Current CSRC research projects include: Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA, A Ver: Revisioning Art History, the Chicano Education Research Project, and Latinos and Economic Security. The CSRC also sponsors and cosponsors over fifty public programs each year, including museum exhibitions, film screenings, book talks, symposia, and conferences.

The CSRC is one of the four founding members of the national Inter-University Program for Latino Research (est. 1983), a national consortium of Latino research centers that now includes twenty-five institutions.

Website: http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies

Current Director: Darnell Hunt, Professor and Chair, Sociology
Director Since: 2001

Departmental Connections: African American Studies; Anthropology; Chicana/o Studies; Dentistry; Education; English; Ethnomusicology; Gender Studies; Geography; Law; Medicine; Musicology; Neurobiology; Political Science; Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Science; Psychology; Public Health; Public Policy; Social Welfare; Sociology; Theater, Film & Television.
Established in 1969

The Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies is comprised of five components: research, academic programs, a library and media center, special projects, and publications. The Center provides a forum for a large number of faculty members from fields as diverse as medicine, geography, musicology, film, and public policy.

The Center supports research that expands the knowledge of the history, lifestyles, and sociocultural systems of people of African descent and investigates problems that have bearing on the psychological, social, and economic well-being of persons of African descent. Current research projects include: the Hollywood Diversity Report, the Bunche Research Report, the Black Los Angeles Report, Race and Hollywood, and the College Access Project for African Americans.

The Bunche Center administers three competitive scholarships and provides assistance to the interdepartmental BA and MA programs in Afro-American Studies. The Center also awards graduate and postdoctoral fellowships and faculty research grants. It holds a number of events, including book talks, film screenings, regular Bunche Circle of Thought and Authors series, and research report releases. The Center houses a library and media center with more than 8,000 books on African, Afro-Caribbean and African American history, literature and social and political issues. It also holds movies and music as well as several manuscript collections. The Center publishes the annual Bunch Research Report and Bunche Review and produces Bunche TV. The special projects unit organizes the annual Thurgood Marshall Lecture on Law and Human Rights and collaborates with external organizations.

Website: http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/
International Institute

African Studies Center

Current Director: Steven Nelson, Professor of African and African American Art
Director Since: 2015


Departmental Connections: Anthropology; Art History; Comparative Literature; Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; Education; Ethnomusicology; French; Gender Studies; Geography; History; Information Science; Law; Linguistics; Political Science; Public Health; Public Policy; Urban Planning; World Arts & Cultures/Dance.

Established in 1959

The James S. Coleman African Studies Center (ASC) at UCLA is one of the nation’s oldest centers devoted to Africa. ASC has a long history of multidisciplinary research, teaching, and public outreach. It works to dispel stereotypes about Africa and its peoples, especially through its outreach to students and schools. Throughout its six decades of work, ASC has pioneered educational and leadership partnerships and programs with a number of African universities.

ASC’s scope extends from history, political science, and linguistics to art and music, as well as science and medicine. Its 2016 events reflect this range and included hosting African artists such as South African writer and poet Natalia Molebatsi, a discussion of local production of renewable energy products as a means for greater economic and gender empowerment in rural communities, and a talk on archaeological work in Ethiopia, among numerous others.

ASC’s website includes the GlobaLink-Africa Project, “a school-year-long, multi-media, online curriculum resources for critical thinking about globalization and its relationship with Africa, Africans, and United States-Africa policy,” as well as profiles of every country in Africa.

In addition, ASC publishes the quarterly journal African Arts as well as the graduate studies journal of African Studies UFAHAMU: the Journal of African Activist Association.

Website: www.international.ucla.edu/africa/
Center for European & Russian Studies

Current Director: Laure Murat, Professor of French & Francophone Studies
Director Since: 2015
Reporting Dean: Vice Provost Cindy Fan


Departmental Connections: Architecture & Urban Design; Art History; Asian Languages & Cultures; Classics; Comparative Literature; Economics; Education; English; Ethnomusicology; French; Gender Studies; Geography; German; History; Information Science; Italian; Law; Linguistics; Management; Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics; Musicology; Near Eastern Languages & Cultures; Pediatrics; Philosophy; Political Science; Public Policy; Scandinavian; Slavic; Sociology; Spanish & Portuguese; Theater, Film & Television; Urban Planning.

Established in 1957

The Center for European & Russian Studies (CERS) brings together faculty from ten divisions and schools to produce programs and discussions to support the development of new generations of experts, foster international scholarly exchange and collaborations, and generate new insights into the complex issues that confront Europe and Russia.

CERS hosts the journal *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* and provides funding opportunities to UCLA faculty and graduate students. It also publishes podcasts on its website and iTunes U and runs Scholar-Teacher Workshop Series for K-12 educators.


Website: [http://www.international.ucla.edu//euro/](http://www.international.ucla.edu//euro/)
Center for Near Eastern Studies

Current Director: Aslı Bâli, Professor of Law
Director Since: 2016


Departmental Connections: Anthropology; Art History; Comparative Literature; Economics; English; Ethnomusicology; French; Gender Studies; History; Law; Near Eastern Languages & Cultures; Political Science; Public Health; Public Policy; Sociology; and World Arts & Cultures/Dance.

Established 1957

The Center for Near Eastern Studies (CNES), one of the oldest and largest centers for interdisciplinary research on the Middle East in the country, promotes research on the region by scholars across all of UCLA’s academic divisions. CNES also pioneered study of Middle Eastern American communities in the United States and around the globe. The Center brings together more than eighty faculty members from the humanities and social sciences, business, law, medicine, and media, as well as 200 graduate students and more than 1000 undergraduates. CNES provides fellowships to UCLA graduate students and welcomes established non-UCLA scholars of the Middle East through its resident visiting scholar program. The Center co-sponsors ongoing publication of a scholarly monograph series, *The Giorgio Levi Della Vida Series in Islamic Studies*, and of the academic journal the *UCLA Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law*.

The Center holds workshops for K-12 educators, and sponsors conferences, seminars, lectures, and film screenings for the general public. The Center is also spearheading collaboration with West Los Angeles College to develop a community college Middle East studies major that will draw on courses offered at UCLA and attract transfer students. The Center’s website hosts podcasts and videos and provides links to Middle East research guides and language learning resources for the wider community.


Website: [www.international.ucla.edu/cnes/home](http://www.international.ucla.edu/cnes/home)
Latin American Institute

Current Director: Kevin Terraciano, Professor of History
Director Since: 2010


Departmental Connections: Anthropology; Art History; Chicana/o Studies; Comparative Literature; Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; Economics; Education; Ethnomusicology; Gender Studies; Geography; History; Information Studies; Law; Linguistics; Management; Medicine; Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics; Music; Musicology; Nursing; Political Science; Psychology; Public Health; Spanish & Portuguese; Social Welfare; Sociology; Theater, Film & Television; Urban Planning; World Arts & Cultures/Dance.

Established 1959

The Latin American Institute provides a forum for collaboration for more than 140 faculty members representing 28 departments and professional schools – from Ecology and Evolutionary Biology to Comparative Literature. The Institute has strong partnerships with a number of universities throughout Latin American and hosts visiting scholars, researchers, and students from those countries. The Institute is made up of three region-specific research centers: the Center for Brazilian Studies, the Center for Mexican Studies, and the Center for Southern Cone Studies. It is also home to working groups on topics including migration, Cuba and the Caribbean, HIV/AIDS in Latin America, Zapotec language and cultures, and Central American feminisms. The Institute provides funding opportunities to faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, including field research grants.

The Institute operates an extensive outreach program to K-12 schools, including frequent educator workshops. Its website hosts the Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI) as well as podcasts of center events.

The Institute’s events reflect the diversity of its affiliated faculty. Examples of events from the 2015-16 academic year include: a monthly film series cosponsored by the Consulate General of Brazil in Los Angeles, “Voice and Exit: The Paradox of Cross-Border Politics in Mexico-US Migration,” “Yanantin: A Journey Toward the Construction of Interculturalism,” “Community Conversation: Blaxicans and Afro-Latinos in LA,” “Minimum Wage, Inequality and the Challenges for Public Policy,” “Tackling Zika,” “Contemporary Mexican Featherwork,” “Contemporary Indigenous and Native American Cultures in North and Central America,” and Korea-Mexico Culture Day at UCLA.

Website: http://www.international.ucla.edu/lai