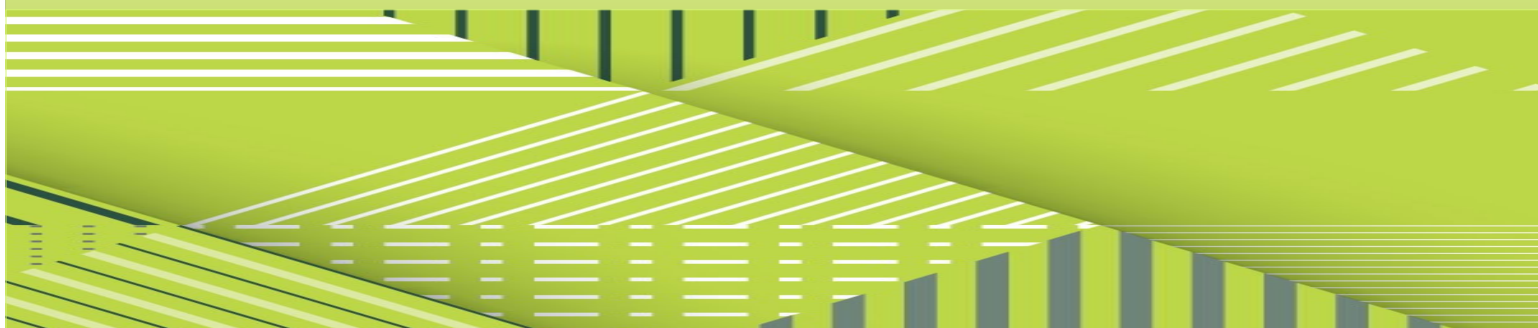


Mellon Advancing Intercultural Studies Conference

# POLARITY, DIVERSITY, CONFLUENCE

an interdisciplinary exploration in the intersections of  
economic inequality ~ religious identity  
contested histories ~ diversity in higher education

March 7 & 8, 2019



# Day 1: Graduate Student Research

8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 Welcome: Shaun Bowler, Dean, Graduate Division

## 9:30 **Session 1: Impact**

Moderators: Alejandra Dubcovsky & Howard Wettstein

**Hassanah El-Yacoubi** (Religious Studies) | Female Muslim Embodiment: from Marginal to Mainstream.

**Kai Cheang** (English) | Remediating Asian America: The Representational Logic of Capitalism and the Camera in Documentary Fictions by Sam Tagatac and Karen Tei Yamashita.

**Evan Suda** (History) | Is Illegitimacy Legit?: A Case Study in the Southern California Spanish Missions.

**Carly Maris** (History) | Destruction as Decoloniality: Ancient Roman Religious Monuments in Syria and the Western Gaze.

**Kevin Sliwoski** (Music) | Sounds and Stuff: Listening to U.S. Military Infrastructure.

11:00 Break

## 11:15 **Session 2: Experience**

Moderators: Carlos Cortés & Georgia Warnke

**Undergraduate researchers** | Josh Hueth (English), Angela Ojeda (Anthropology), Danielle Kennelly (Middle East and Islamic Studies), Rewa Ousman (Global Studies), Esperanza Bey (Art History).

12:00 Lunch Break [*Lunch will be provided for presenters & respondents in INTS 1109*]

## 1:30 **Session 3: Education**

Moderators: Katja Guenther & Rita Kohli

**Josh Thunder Little** (History) | Using Lakota Sovereignty to Protect Water.

**Yoon Ro** (Economics) | The Effect of Teacher Evaluation on Student Performance.

**Rabea Qamar** (Education) | Muslim Representation in US History and Government Textbooks.

**Danielle Mireles** (Education) | Racist Ableist Discourses in Higher Education.

2:45 Break

**3:00 Session 4: Politics & Place**

Moderators: David Brady & Matthew Mahutga

**Stephen Omar El-Khatib** (Political Science) | The Muslims Next Door: How Proximity to Mosques Impacts Political Attitudes.

**Michaela Curran** (Sociology) | Resource Reappraisal? Socioeconomic Status, Income Inequality, and Self-Rated Health in 83 Countries.

**Evelyn Pruneda** (Sociology) | Navigating Multidimensional Borderlands: How Spatial Politics and Inequalities Shape the Working Conditions and Lived Experiences of Mexican Women Farmworkers in the San Joaquin Valley.

**Dylan Rohr** (Political Science) | Recognition of the Rural White Working Class.

**Lawrence Lan** (Ethnic Studies) | Organizing Without Guarantee: Building People Power in Los Angeles Chinatown and San Gabriel Valley.

4:30 Break

## Keynote Speaker

5:00 PM | Reception to follow



### Muhamad Ali

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
Director of Middle East and Islamic Studies Program

### Religious Difference and The Common Good

How and why have we become in some cases tolerant of religious difference and intolerant of it in other cases? How and why can we benefit from religious difference and work for the common good?

# Day 2: Faculty Research Presentations

8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 Welcome: Kiril Tomoff, Associate Dean, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

## 9:30 **Session 1: Economic Inequality**

**Steven Brint** (Sociology)

### **The Inversion of Class Conflict in the U.S?**

Using 42 years of data from the General Social Survey, the paper finds that U.S. professionals and managers are more liberal on social spending, social inclusion, and moral non-restrictiveness issues than other strata in American society, and it proposes a three-factor explanation for this partial inversion of the Marxist class conflict model.

Respondents: Alejandra Dubcovsky (History), Katja Guenther (Gender & Sexuality Studies)

10:45 Break

## 11:00 **Session 2: Religious Identity**

**Stephanie Wilms** (University Writing Program)

### **'Man's Reasonable Companion': Women's Primacy in the Formation of New Islamic Movements**

This paper examines the links between women and two New Islamic Movements, the Moorish Science Temple of America and the Nation of Islam, and argues that they, despite our current male dominated narratives, performed the work necessary for the organizations' success.

Respondents: David Brady (Public Policy), Carlos Cortés (History, *emeritus*), Victoria Reyes (Sociology)

12:00 Lunch [*Lunch will be provided for presenters & respondents in INTS 1111*]

## 1:30 **Session 3: Diversity in Higher Education**

**Jennifer Nájera** (Ethnic Studies)

### **Undocumented Education: Undocumented Students and the University**

This paper explores how undocumented young people challenge the university to create meaningful space for them on campus by tracing the community building and activism of undocumented students at UC Riverside during the early 2000s and the confluence of local, state, and national policies that led to the establishment of the office of Undocumented Student Programs at UCR in 2015.

Respondents: Covadanga Lamar Prieto (Hispanic Studies), Stephen Sohn (English), Stephanie Wilms (University Writing Program)

2:45 Break

**3:00 Session 4: Contested Histories**

**Margaret Nash** (Graduate School of Education)

**An Unacknowledged Legacy: Land Grant Colleges and Indian Dispossession**

This paper challenges the history of public land grant colleges as the great democratizer of higher education, arguing that the colleges also were instruments of settler colonialism as the Land Grant Act systematically dispossessed native people of their land.

Respondents: Katja Guenther (Gender & Sexuality Studies), Matthew Mahutga (Sociology), Jennifer Nájera (Ethnic Studies)

4:15 Summing up / Walk to Alumni Center

## Keynote Speaker

5:00 PM | UCR Alumni & Visitor Center

Reception to follow



## Thomas Frank

**Liberalism Minus Labor: The Democratic Party as an Agent of Professional Interests**

*Moderated by Steven Brint*

Thomas Frank is an American political analyst, historian, and journalist. He co-founded and edited The Baffler magazine. Frank has written several books, most notably *What's the Matter with Kansas?* and *Listen, Liberal*. From 2008 to 2010 he wrote "The Tilting Yard", a column in The Wall Street Journal.

# MELLON ADVANCING INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

The Mellon Advancing Intercultural Studies (Mellon AIS) project sponsored four academic seminars over two years comprised of faculty, graduate students and undergraduates. Each seminar focused on an aspect of intercultural engagement, connecting and contributing to the goals of the overarching project. In addition to academic seminars, the project hosted public lectures and free film screenings designed to engage public audiences in the project themes.

Sponsored by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



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