

March 16, 2022



A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

As we move into the final weeks of the semester, we have a great deal to celebrate. Last week marked the conclusion of our faculty searches for the year, which included a search for our University of Utah Asia Campus, five departmental searches, and consideration of a partner hire. In all, we interviewed 17 potential colleagues. An absolutely incredible number that truly was a Departmental effort. An especially big thanks to Brie, Becky, and Jessica for the monumental amount of work they put into these searches and to all of the search committee members and chairs. By the end of this week, we will likely be able to say we have seven new colleagues across our UAC and local campus. And while we await word on our partner search, let us just consider that for a moment. Seven. New. Colleagues. The investments we collectively made in these searches expand our department tremendously, open new opportunities for collaboration and collegiality, and give us the chance to support and engage colleagues who are in the midst of growing and strengthening their careers and others who are just beginning theirs.

-Avery

DR. HELENE SHUGART AWARDED DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD

Dr. Helene Shugart was recently awarded The Graduate School's Distinguished Mentor Award. Established in 2006, The Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Distinguished Mentor Award honors and encourages the considerable efforts and accomplishments of faculty who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the mentorship of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

Dr. Natasha Seegert wins Early Career Teaching Award



Dr. Natasha Seegert has been awarded the University Teaching Committee's 2022 Early Career Teaching Award. The Early Career Teaching Award is given to outstanding young faculty members who have made significant contributions to teaching at the University of Utah.

Dr. Jakob Jensen named New Interim Associate Vice President of Research



Professor Jakob D. Jensen has been appointed Interim Associate Vice President of Research (AVPR), effective January 24, 2022. Dr. Jensen will assume the role from Dr. Erin Rothwell who is currently serving as the Interim Vice President for Research.

FACULTY IN THE NEWS



THE IPCC IS FINALLY USING THE RIGHT WORDS TO TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE INEQUALITY AND JUSTICE
featuring Danielle Endres



HOW DO I CONSUME NEWS ETHICALLY? UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ASKS EXPERTS
featuring Sean Lawson



RESEARCHER: VIDEO, INFO FROM RUSSIAN INVASION COULD BE USED AS PROPAGANDA, PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS
featuring Sean Lawson



SOCIAL MEDIA AND SCHOOL VIOLENCE ON WEDNESDAY'S ACCESS UTAH
featuring Avery Holton



EXPERT: RURAL ADULTS ARE 'MORE LIKELY TO DIE OF ALMOST EVERY SINGLE ILLNESS,' YET ACCESS DISPARITY CONTINUES TO RUN COUNTER TO INCIDENCE
featuring Jakob Jensen



EVENTS

17

Asia Center: CROCCA

CROCCA, the Consortium for Research on Contemporary China and Asia, provides a forum for graduate students and faculty to present, discuss, and explore collaboration in social science research on Asia.

17-18

27th Annual Wallace Stegner Center Symposium: The Colorado River Compact: Navigating the Future

The Colorado River Compact of 1922 is widely considered the cornerstone of the Law of the River, the collection of laws and policies that govern use of the Colorado River system. As fate would have it, the Compact's 100th anniversary coincides with a major milestone for the Law of the River. The current management framework for the Colorado River system—a regime that implements the Compact in modern times—is set to expire in 2026. Between now and then, domestic and international negotiations will take place to develop the next management framework for the river system.

17

Tanner Humanities Center Work In Progress Talk with Nkenna Onwuzuruoha

"Fighting Words with Fists: The Paradoxes of the 'Gater Incident' at San Francisco State College, 1967-1969."

21

Disability Studies Lecture: Dr. Nirmala Erevelles

Entitled "Disability, Eco(In)Justice, and Transnational Solidarity," the talk considers the intersections of disability, race, caste, and class through the eco(in)justices in two global cities, Bhopal, India and Flint, Michigan.

22

Tanner Humanities Center Work In Progress Talk with Helene Shugart

"Destigmata: Normalizing Narratives of Mental Illness."

22

Aniya Butler: Utah Award in the Environmental Humanities

The University of Utah's Environmental Humanities Graduate Program will award youth climate activist, poet and environmental justice organizer Aniya Butler with the 2022 Utah Award in the Environmental Humanities.

24

Tanner Humanities Center Work In Progress Talk with Cynthia Stark

'Misplaced Blame'

EVENTS

24

Ergativity and Extraction in Mayan Languages

There are about thirty Mayan languages spoken today, and all of these languages exhibit morphological ergativity: in terms of their verbal agreement, intransitive subjects pattern with transitive objects (=absolute), and differently from transitive subjects (=ergative). However, Mayan languages differ in whether this morphological pattern also has a syntactic effect. Mayan languages are verb-initial, and require elements to appear in a preverbal position for wh-questions, focus, and relativization (A'-extraction). While Mayan languages like Ch'ol freely permit the extraction of both ergative and absolute arguments, other Mayan languages, like Chuj, restrict extraction: absolute arguments freely extract, while ergative arguments may not. This pattern of syntactic ergativity is known as the Ergative Extraction Constraint (EEC; Aissen 2017).

24

Aileen H. Clyde Women and Gender History Book Talk Series

*Dr. Johnson will speak about her new book, *Writing Kit Carson: Fallen Heroes in a Changing West*, which won the Robert G. Athearn Award.*

27

Center for Latin American Studies: Last Friday Series: The Potentialities of The Travesti as an "In-between."

*In this talk I address the work of Peruvian performer Hector Acuña-Frau Diamanda and explain the post-hegemonic potential of the travesti and what I call their "in-between" language to destabilize and resist hegemonic discourses. This potentiality of the post-hegemonic in the travesti is specifically located in Acuña's performance *El estigma y la mártir* (The Stigma and the Martyr), which examines the violence and oppression inflicted against the LGBTQ+ population during Peru's internal armed conflict between the Peruvian State and the insurgent group Shining Path (1980-2000).*

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Asia Center: Transnational Asia Conference

The History Department at SLCC and the Asia Center at the University of Utah will host the "Transnational Asia Conference" at Salt Lake Community College. Transnationalism can be defined as a flow and exchange of ideas, people, religions, cultures, goods, diseases, technologies, and capital across various regions that leads to connections and conflicts across national boundaries.

CRASH COURSE

Indigenous Communication with Donald MacAngus

This course examines the communication/rhetorical narratives from the perspective of Indigenous peoples from around the world, including Native American, Australian, Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, and other traditional populations.

The first half of the course is based on history, including DNA, human migrations, and how these people come to be in the places they consider to be their traditional homes. The lectures move chronologically, discussing Indigenous traditions, foods, medicines, spiritual beliefs, and lifestyles. Next we discuss the time of contact, the formation of treaties, wars, conquest, subjugation, genocide and reservations.

Native American historical resistance movements are discussed, including Pontiac's Rebellion and the Siege at Fort Detroit (1763), Tecumseh's War (1813) and the influence of Native prophets, such as Neolin, Lalawethika and Wovoka.

The second half of the course is focused on activism, including civil rights struggles, militancy, and famous cases, from Supreme Court cases, such as Cherokee v Georgia (1831), the Trail of Tears (1838), Emancipation (1863).

Australian Indigenous massacres are also discussed. Wounded Knee (1890), the Allotment Act (1887), the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalanithea and the Hawaiian Kingdom (1893). The Indian Citizenship Act (1924), the Alcatraz occupation, the Pine Ridge Reign of Terror, the American Indian Movement, and Leonard Peltier.

Students get to look at history and the world from the Indigenous perspective. Many students are concerned that a course on racial issues and questions of ethnicity will be guilt oriented, and will focus on "the evil white man." This course does not do that. It presents history in a neutral and factual way, from the Indigenous perspective. For example, it would be incorrect to say, "White people stole the Indian's land." That is an opinion, and it is not neutral. Instead, we say, "In the opinion of Indians, white people stole their land." This is correct, because that is what they think, and we make no judgment about whether they are right or wrong.

I want students to learn about and ultimately fall in love with the Indigenous views of the world, of life, and of our collective humanity, just as I have. This course encourages students to open their minds, to be more accepting, and to welcome new and exciting ideas and perspectives into their lives.

Us Upfront

Sara Yeo

If I didn't work in education, I would be:

a data scientist

Quote I appreciate:

"Do or do not. There is no try."

-Yoda

Most memorable college classes I took:

Physical Chemistry and
Chemical Oceanography

Fictional character I am most like:

Rocket Raccoon

Last book I finished:

Woke Racism
by John McWhorter

Last movie I saw:

The Power of the Dog

