UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER'S LEADERSHIP

With the explosion of campus protests, legislation aimed at controlling what can be taught in college classrooms and shout-downs of speakers at prominent law schools, 2023 showcased the profound need for education and engagement about the First Amendment, expression and academic freedom.

Of course, the speech-related issues that dominated the headlines this year are not new. However, they have shined a light on the glaring deficits in understanding that exist across colleges and universities – and society at large – regarding expression. This is where the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement excels: leveraging opportunities for teaching, learning and partnering with campus stakeholders to examine long-standing questions related to rights, respect and responsibilities.

Our work over the past year took many forms including workshops focused on First Amendment fundamentals; programming that tackled threats to our democracy; and a monthly podcast featuring thought leaders in journalism, technology and law. No matter the medium, the Center brought its unique perspective – encouraging inquiry, emphasizing nuance and fostering an environment where dialogue and disagreement are foundational.

We are pleased to share this annual report and look forward to ongoing collaboration in the year ahead.





Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean, University of California Berkeley School of Law



Howard Gillman
Chancellor, University of California, Irvine



Michelle N. Deutchman
Executive Director



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OUR MISSION



To explore the intersection of expression, engagement and democratic learning and consider what can be done to restore trust in the value of free speech on college campuses and within society at large.

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

1256
attendees at Center workshops

289
attendees at the 1-Day #SpeechMatters Conference

261
attendees at Fellows in the Field Workshops

13
Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement (VOICE) Award Recipients

11
SpeechMatters Podcast Episodes

10
2023-2024 Fellows Selected

8
2022-2023 Fellows' Research Projects Completed



"I highly recommend partnering with the Center. Michelle's expertise, engaging presentation style, and practical insights enhanced our faculty and staff's capacity for open expression on campus. Furthermore, through tailored trainings and 1-on-1 conversations, the Center helped us to expand our offerings and strategically create structures that actualize Emory's commitment to open expression! We couldn't have done it without this invaluable collaboration!"

- Courtnay Oddman, Director of Open Expression Programs at Emory University

Class of 2022-2023

The Center's fifth class of Fellows included our inaugural Senior Fellow and first undergraduate Fellow.

This cohort researched complex topics such as threats to academic freedom from state legislatures, institutional responses to speech on social media and the racial and gender tropes Black women encounter while exercising free expression.



Leslie Garvin
Disrupting Mis & Dis-Information in the University Setting



Neal Hutchens & Brandi Hephner LaBanc
Social Media: The Real Campus Speech Zone



Amna Khalid & Jeff Snyder
Documenting and Analyzing Emerging Threats to Free Expression and Academic Freedom from State Legislatures



Krystal-Gayle O'Neill
Excuse me, I'm speaking': Reconceptualizing Freedom of Speech Through a Black Feminist Lens



Jacqueline Pedota
How Faculty Contend with Threats to Academic Freedom and Racial Inclusion



Danny Shaha
Universities' Response to Offensive and Bias-Related Speech and Behaviors



Emma Tolliver
Undergraduate Student Advocacy in the University of California System: a Handbook



Elizabeth Niehaus
Senior Fellow
Beyond the Moral Panic of 'Student Self-Censorship

"Through the Center I have found a community of folks, in and out of academia, who are willing and able to engage with the complexities of some of the thorniest issues facing higher education today: free speech and inclusion, political polarization, democratic engagement, declining trust in institutions and expertise, and much more."

- Elizabeth Niehaus, Associate Professor, Educational Administration, University of Nebraska - Lincoln; 2022-2023 Senior Fellow



CENTER FELLOWS MAKE AN IMPACT

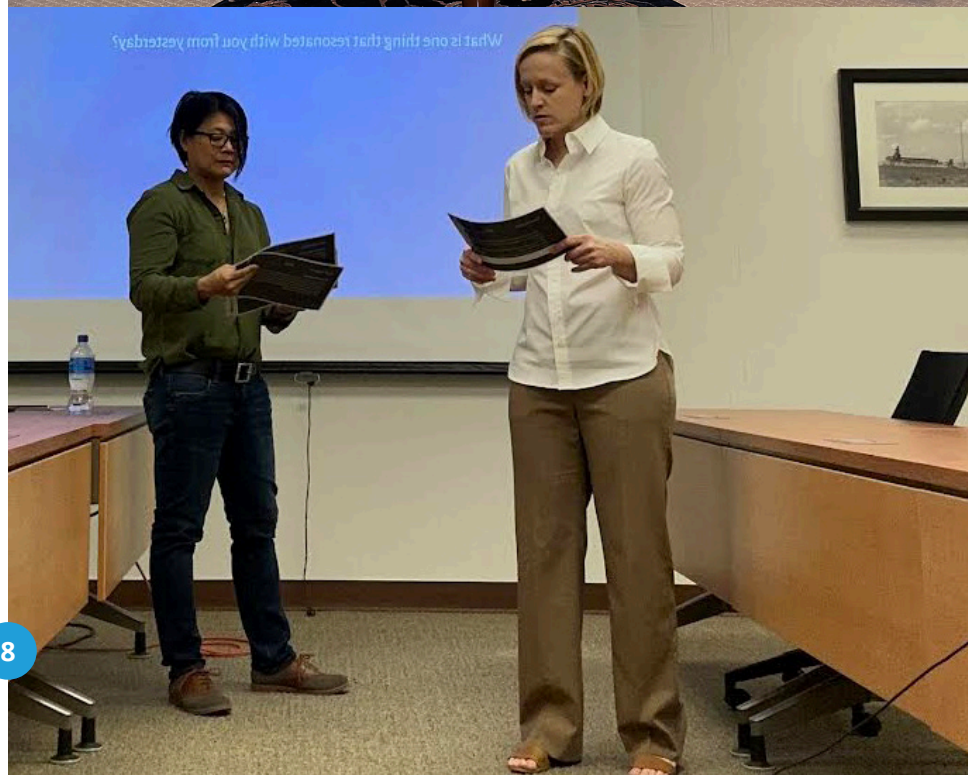
2022-23 Fellow Emma Tolliver and 2020-21 Fellow Brian Soucek

were among this year's winners of the UC Davis Chancellor's Achievement Awards for Diversity and Community. This award honors achievements that contribute to the development and well-being of the campus' diverse and evolving community.



2020-2021 Fellows Drs. Jill Dunlap and Alice Yau

completed three pilot workshops this year as part of their training curriculum, "Filling in the Free Speech Gaps: A Leadership Development Workshop for Campus Administrators," which builds on their Fellowship research.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement



UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

LEROY PERNELL, ET AL.,
Plaintiffs/Appellees,
v.
BRIAN LAMB, ET AL.,
Defendants/Appellants.

ADRIANA NOVOA, ET AL.,
Plaintiffs/Appellees,
v.
MANNY DIAZ, JR., ET AL.,
Defendants/Appellants.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida
Case Nos. 4:22-cv-304-MW-MAF & 4:22-cv-324-MW-MAF

BRIEF OF PROFESSORS AMNA KHALID & JEFFREY AARON SNYDER AS AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS/APPELLEES

Laurie Webb Daniel
Matthew Friedlander
Skyler McDonald
WEBB DANIEL FRIEDLANDER LLP

2021-2022 Fellow Amy Werbel
joined the Brooklyn Public Library podcast "Borrowed and Banned" for "Seen and Obscene," a conversation about the history of obscenity laws in the U.S.

2019-2020 Fellow Emerson Sykes
serves as an Attorney of record in the ACLU's case challenging Florida's Stop W.O.K.E. Act, a law that restricts Florida's higher education educators and students from discussing issues related to race and gender;

2021-22 Fellows Amna Khalid and Jeff Snyder filed an amicus brief in a similar case filed by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE).

The Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement (VOICE) Initiative provides funding for UC students, staff and faculty interested in conducting research or coordinating programs that further the mission of the Center.

As we returned to campus for a full academic year of in-person learning and exploration, the VOICE Initiative continued its theme of "Building Community."



Votechella
UC Berkeley



Creating Citizens Speaker Series
UC Berkeley



Ancora
UC Davis

Davis Journal of Legal Studies (DJLS)
UC Davis



The Dynamics of Information Cascades: Playing games, debating differences, and finding common ground
UCLA



Building Community Through Governance: A Video History of Civic Literacy and Engagement Models of UC Student Regents
UC Riverside



Decolonial Praxis Conference
UC Riverside



Latinas in Higher Education: Plática Series
UC San Diego



Civic Engagement Scholars Program
UC Santa Barbara

UCSC's Artist-in-Residence
UC Santa Cruz



The Book Club is Back!

The Center's Book Group – the brainchild of VOICE recipients – has been restarted and includes participants from the Center's community of **60** Fellows.

2023 VOICE PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS



"Art projects can be powerful ways to have voices heard and represented at the University of California. We are grateful for the support from the Center to sponsor an artist-in-residence at the Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas at UC Santa Cruz. From hosting listening sessions about what the campus community wanted to see represented in the mural to painting in community, this project provided us with a unique opportunity to have our hopes and visions represented artistically."

Sylvanna Falcón, Associate Professor, Latin American & Latino Studies and Director, Research Center for the Americas at UC Santa Cruz; 2023 VOICE Recipient



"My experience as a VOICE grantee was very fruitful! The funds for the 1st Decolonial Praxis Conference were critical to being able to organize a free 2-day event. Moreover, the VOICE meetings allowed us to share the project with other grantees. Thanks to the VOICE funds... we are currently working on the 2nd edition of the conference."

Fernando David Márquez Duarte, Graduate Student, Political Science, UC Riverside; 2023 VOICE Recipient









2023 saw our democracy weakened by political polarization and disinformation. Institutions of higher learning faced challenges to academic and personal freedom. As a result, much of the Center's work focused on addressing threats to our democratic values.

#SpeechMatters 2023

Fighting for our Democratic Freedoms

Our fifth annual #SpeechMatters conference explored threats to our democracy such as state legislation aimed at censoring curriculum, the impact of social media, and challenges to student press.







289 attendees at a 1-Day conference

163 academic institutions in attendance

35 civil society groups in attendance

6 sessions featuring **19** thought leaders





Panel 1: Social Media & Democracy

1. In your opinion, do you think social media has helped or hurt democracy? (single_choice)

answered

Hurt	17%
Helped	8%
Both	72%
Not Sure/I Don't Know	3%



"I have followed the Center as a guest and as a facilitator for its 2023 Lumina Institute. The Center has proved to be a leader in generating groundbreaking research that tackles the most pressing issues facing our multiracial democracy and for disseminating that knowledge to inform and shape the practice of education professionals nationally."

Liliana Garces, Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin;
2023 Lumina Institute Facilitator

Advancing the Mission of Higher Education in a Polarized Environment



Facilitators (left to right) Emerson Sykes, Senior Staff Attorney at the ACLU; Cecilia Orphan, Associate Professor at University of Denver; Elizabeth Niehaus, Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Brian Soucek, Professor of Law at UC Davis & Liliana Garces, Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

Lumina™ FOUNDATION

The Center partnered with the Lumina Foundation to host an interactive day-and-a-half institute with administrators, faculty and legal counsels from 17 states and Canada. Participants came together to explore political and legal threats to colleges and universities and to strategize about how to navigate the current climate.

STUDENTS LEADING THE FIGHT

Creating Citizens Speaker Series

This student-run UC Berkeley Speaker Series – funded by our VOICE Initiative – hosted over 800 students, faculty and community members in conversation over the course of three events including:

1) **"Your Vote, Your Voice,"** with CA Attorney General Rob Bonta, former CA Republican Party Chair Duf Sundheim and UC Berkeley Vice Provost of Graduate Studies Lisa García Bedolla.

2) **"Passing the Torch,"** featuring California Democratic Party Vice-Chair Betty Yee, former Mayor of Oakland Libby Schaaf and two incredible student activists, Issabella Romo and Owen Knapper Jr.

3) **"A Conversation with Justin Jones,"** a conversation between Tennessee State Representative Justin Jones of "The Tennessee Three" and PolicyLink Founder Angela Glover Blackwell.

Ánimo Pat Brown Charter High School

Center executive director Michelle Deutchman visited Ánimo Pat Brown Charter High School, a Green Dot school in Los Angeles, to speak with their 12th grade AP Government class. Twenty-five future leaders learned about the history of free speech and its importance in society today.





STUDENTS LEADING THE FIGHT

UCSB Student Engagement Class

The Civic Engagement Scholars Program at UC Santa Barbara – a longtime VOICE awardee – is a three-quarter-long course that fosters ideals of active citizenship and creates opportunities for students to engage with the Isla Vista community.

Our Center executive director joined the class to discuss the role of the First Amendment then and now. Fellow Emma Tolliver also presented on her fellowship research to the class.



ACLU Stanford Student Activist Training

For the second year, the Center partnered with the ACLU of Northern California to facilitate a five-hour program, "The First Amendment and Student Activists," with Stanford undergraduate students.



UC Irvine has designated this academic year as the "Year of Free Speech." This will include a wide-ranging series of programs and events designed to provide the campus community with a deeper understanding of the values of free expression and academic freedom. The Center is proud to co-sponsor this thematic year.



An Introduction to Free Speech and Academic Freedom

Center co-chair and UC Irvine Chancellor Howard Gillman and Michelle Deutchman developed an undergraduate asynchronous online course, "Introduction to Free Speech and Academic Freedom." In Fall quarter 2023, 247 students registered for the course.



UC Irvine, PEN America and Center Free Expression Student Summit

This inaugural Summit featured UC Irvine faculty-led workshops on topics ranging from international human rights to news media literacy.



"The arts serve as both a stage and a conduit for the dynamic process of civic engagement. Building a vibrant public culture requires intentionality, and the Center provides an extraordinary range of tools for that. Michelle Deutchman's brief primer on free speech, for example, is a compass for freely expressing ideas while also uplifting civic engagement. The Center offers resources that help us better bridge the distance between intentions and impact."

- Tiffany López, Dean and Professor, Claire Trevor School of the Arts and Co-chair, Steering Committee, UCI Year of Free Speech

SPEECH MATTERS PODCAST

The Center's monthly podcast tackled issues including consequential speech cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, the challenges artificial intelligence presents for elections and online expression and best practices for responding to hateful speech.

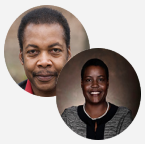
Check out our featured guests below:

JAN



Sigal Ben-Porath
Professor of Education, University of Pennslyvania

FEB



Ellis Cose & Teri Platt
Director of Renewing American Democracy; Associate Professor of Public Administration at Clark Atlanta University

MAR



David Kaye
Director of International Justice Clinic and Clinical Professor of Law at UC Irvine Law

APR



Dahlia Lithwick
Senior Editor at Slate and author of *Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America*

MAY



Danny Shaha & Radhika Gawde
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Penn State University, 2022-23 Center Fellow; Student Body President, UC Davis Associated Students

JUN



Matt Perault
Director, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill's Center on Technology Policy

JUL



Brian Soucek
Professor of Law and Chancellor's Fellow at UC Davis, '20-'21 Center Fellow

AUG



Dr. Jill Dunlap & Dr. Alice Yau
Senior Director for Research, Policy & Civic Engagement at NASPA, '20-'21 Center; Sergeant & Police-Officer-Instructor-Trainer at the Chicago Police Department, '20-'21 Center Fellows

SEPT



Michael V. Drake
University of California President and Center Chair

OCT



Ben Wizner
Director of the Speech, Privacy and Technology Project, ACLU

NOV



DEC



Katya Armistead & Genie Kim
Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Student Life, UC Santa Barbara; Director of Student Mental Health & Wellbeing, UC Office of the President

PARTNERSHIPS

This year, the Center had the opportunity to plan and participate in workshops and panel discussions with organizations and schools around the country. Center staff spoke to students, faculty and staff about the fundamentals of the First Amendment and how to navigate tensions between expression and diversity, equity and inclusion.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work closely with the following organizations, colleges and universities:

Organizations:

Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Northern California
American Bar Association (ABA)
Aspen Institute
Constructive Dialogue Institute (CDI)
Lumina Foundation
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)
PEN America

Schools:

California State University San Marcos
Emory University
Stanford University
State University of New York
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Santa Barbara



Michelle Deutchman presented alongside UC Santa Barbara Assistant Vice Chancellor & Dean of Student Life Katya Armistead at the NASPA Western Regional 2023 Conference.



Center staff with Delia S. Saenz, Ph.D, Vice-Chancellor & Chief Diversity Officer; Anna Song Ph.D, Professor of Health Psychology; and Annie Saetern, Case Manager and Academic Personnel Analyst at a workshop at UC Merced.

UC SYSTEMWIDE FREE EXPRESSION COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP)

In partnership with the University of California Office of the President, the Center was instrumental in creating a group of student affairs professionals from across the ten UC campuses whose work touches free expression.

Thirty COP members met in person for a full-day symposium focused on labor relations, protests, effective methods for utilizing law enforcement, and best practices for responding to bias incidents.





"The Free Expression Community of Practice has created a vital space for administrators across the UC system to come together to debrief, discuss best practices and to ask questions and learn from each other. As expression on campus becomes an increasingly complex and nuanced discussion, having this community has never been more important. Together, this group is doing the hard work of supporting and encouraging student expression on our UC campuses, which we at UCOP and alongside the Center feel is critical to support."

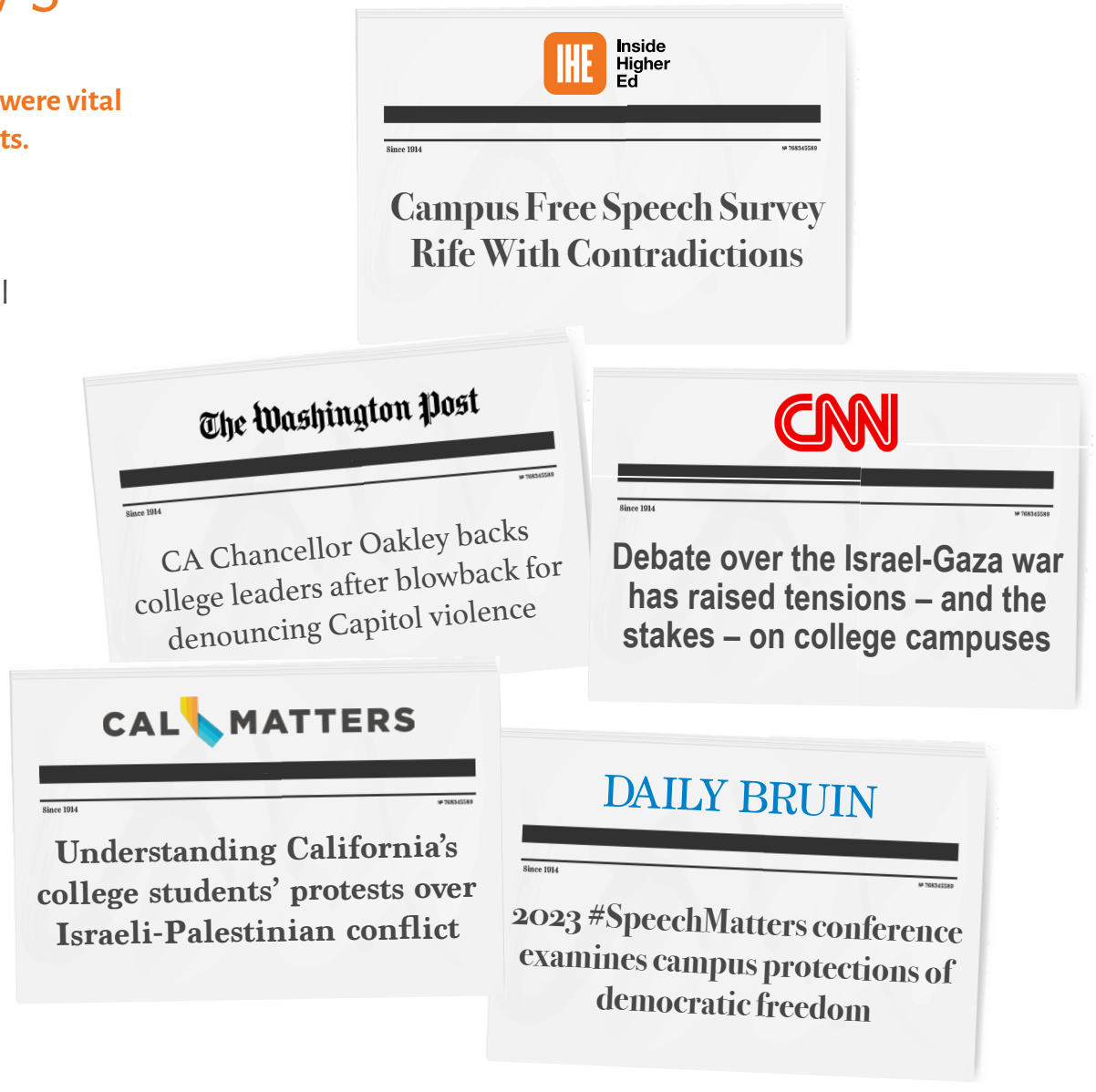
- Heather Belk, Policy & Program Analyst, Student Policies & Governance, University of California Office of the President

IN THE NEWS

Center leadership and our Fellows were vital resources for national media outlets.

Throughout 2023 these included:

American Bar Association Journal
CalMatters
The Chronicle of Higher Ed
CNN
Daily Bruin
France24
Inside Higher Ed
The New York Times
Persuasion
Sacramento Bee
The Washington Monthly
Washington Post



ABOUT THE CENTER

Chair



Michael V. Drake
President
University of California

Executive Director



Michelle Deutchman
Executive Director

National Advisory Board Co-chairs



Howard Gillman
Chancellor
UC Irvine



Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean
UC Berkeley School of Law

National Advisory Board



Margo Bennett
Former Chief, University of California Police Department, Berkeley



Ashley Chan
Undergraduate Student, Political Science, UC Davis



Valeria Dominguez
Ph.D. Candidate, Higher Education Administration and Policy, UC Riverside



Jessica Herrera-Flanigan
Partner, Monument Advocacy



Hannah-Beth Jackson
Founder and CEO, Hannah-Beth Jackson & Associates; Former California State Senator



Tamara Keith
White House Correspondent, NPR



Anne Kornblut
Director, New Initiatives for News Partnerships, Facebook



Renee Chapman Navarro, Pharm D, MD
Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity and Outreach Officer, UCSF



Geoffrey R. Stone
Professor, University of Chicago Law School



Nancy Thomas
Senior Advisor to the President for Democracy Initiatives and Executive Director of IDHE at AAC&U



Mark G. Yudof
President Emeritus, University of California

Staff



Brenda Pitcher
Executive Assistant



Melanie Ziment
Program Associate



Alex Edgar
Student Intern

CURRENT ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD



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UC San Diego - Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Human Developmental Sciences Program



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UC Davis - Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Law and the Boochever and Bird Endowed Chair for the Study and Teaching of Freedom and Equality



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Parya Saberi
UC San Francisco - Associate Professor in Residence



Hendry Ton
UC Davis - Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at UC Davis Health and a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science



France Winddance Twine
UC Santa Barbara - Professor of Sociology and Vice-Chair of Sociology Department; Co-PI for Race, Precarity and Privilege: Migration in a Global Context Mellon Sawyer Seminar (2021-22)

To learn more about the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement, visit:

freespeechcenter.universityofcalifornia.edu

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