**ANA MARÍA ÁLVAREZ**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
THEATRE AND DANCE

**EDUCATION**  
MFA | UCLA

**RESEARCH**  
Blending concert, social and traditional dance forms with activism and theater to address timely and enduring issues surrounding identity, immigration, migration, race and transformative justice.

I hope to live this life fully and courageously and that those who I share this journey with and have the privilege of impacting feel more free and fully self expressed.

---

**MYSIA ANDERSON**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
THEATRE AND DANCE

**EDUCATION**  
Ph.D. | Brown University

**RESEARCH**  
Blending Black feminism, performance theory and environmental justice, exploring how African Diasporic people respond to a historical continuum of environmental crises through art, community activism and world-making.

As an artist-scholar, I have found an intellectual and creative home within performance studies.

---

**RYAN BESSETT**  
ASSOCIATE TEACHING PROFESSOR  
LITERATURE

**EDUCATION**  
Ph.D. | University of Arizona

**RESEARCH**  
Examining language variation in different domains such as phonology, lexis and grammar across several monolingual and bilingual contexts.

Sigan su pasión, lean mucho y, sobre todo, desarrollen su habilidad de pensar criticamente.

---

**AYSAN CELIK**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
THEATRE AND DANCE

**EDUCATION**  
B.A. | UCLA  
Cont. | ART Institute at Harvard University

**RESEARCH**  
New scripted plays, comedy, classical texts, documentary theater, devised theater and evolution of form.

My hope is that my students and I can work on forms that empower them to free their artistic voice and engage with their communities through theater and performance in such a way that honors their intentions and dreams.

---

**JESSICA D’ELENA-TWEED**  
ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR  
VISUAL ARTS

**EDUCATION**  
MFA | California Institute of the Arts

**RESEARCH**  
A multi-disciplinary artist, designer and educator, who has worked professionally as a graphic designer, art director and creative director. She is the founder and creative director of Morre, an educational non-profit promoting youth arts engagement and is independent creative director and designer at PostDesign.

---

**BRIGHT GYAMFI**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
HISTORY

**EDUCATION**  
Ph.D. | Northwestern University

**RESEARCH**  
Focus on exploring unacknowledged contributions of West African scholars and pressing debates about institutional racism and inequality within African Studies.

I want to share my research work ... and collaborate on projects that would enrich our local communities. Our scholarly contributions should extend beyond the walls of the academy.
**SARA KOZAMEH**
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**
**HISTORY**

**EDUCATION**
Ph.D. | New York University

**RESEARCH**
Blends the study of popular mobilization, race, the working class and social change. Her dissertation focused on agrarian reform and its role in shaping revolutionary Cuba between 1958 and 1970.

I look forward to designing courses that are embedded in the local history and Latino community.

---

**JULIA LEWANDOSKI**
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**
**HISTORY**

**EDUCATION**
Ph.D. | UC Berkeley

**RESEARCH**
Indigenous nations as they engaged with European empires and emerging nation-states in the 18th and 19th century United States.

I believe that non-Native scholars like myself have a responsibility to combat myths that support Indigenous erasure and ongoing settler occupation. Historians can make a meaningful difference in the present by telling the truth about the past.

---

**RISHIKA MEHRISHI**
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**
**THEATRE AND DANCE**

**EDUCATION**
Ph.D. | Stanford University

**RESEARCH**

---

**SILPA MUKHERJEE**
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**
**LITERATURE**

**EDUCATION**
Ph.D. | University of Pittsburgh

**RESEARCH**
Feminist media histories, re-conceptualizing the history of Hindi cinema in the 1970s and 80s, and connecting the dots between film and organized crime in "contraband film culture."

I'm fascinated by the possibility of learning from the people whose everyday lives are moderated by the border. I look forward to organizing events with amateur filmmakers from across the border.

---

**KAROLA OBERMUELLER**
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**
**MUSIC**

**EDUCATION**
Ph.D. | Harvard University

**RESEARCH**
Deeply rooted in a compositional language that convenes with music of other times while meaningfully engaging with current topics around social justice and political activism.

The arts and humanities are excellent ways to explore the most important questions, and to grow strong and brave while doing so.

---

**MATANA ROBERTS**
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**
**MUSIC**

**EDUCATION**
M.M. | New England Conservatory of Music

**RESEARCH**
Performer, composer and artist, they are regarded as one of the most important musicians working in jazz and improvisation-based music today with a practice that integrates jazz, creative music, contemporary music and sound art fields.

---

**CHRISTOPHER SHIELDS**
**PROFESSOR**
**PHILOSOPHY**

**EDUCATION**
Ph.D. | Cornell University

**RESEARCH**
History of philosophy (ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, especially Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics), with secondary concentrations devoted to the scholastic philosophers (especially St. Thomas Aquinas and Francisco Suarez) and contemporary issues in metaphysics, epistemology and philosophy of mind.

I take myself to be a cog in a wonderful machine, a world-class university, without which the world could not be as wonderful as it is.

---

**READ MORE ONLINE**
**ARTSANDHUMANITIES.ucsd.edu**