

International Education Week 2025



Dear Global Gaucho Community,

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is excited to celebrate International Education Week (IEW) from January 21–24, 2025! Join us for a fantastic lineup of events including language exchanges, trivia, meditation, an Interstride-Global Career Platform demo, housing workshops, and more.

This year's celebrations are made possible thanks to our amazing allies and partners at Health & Wellness, Education Abroad Programs, the Global Gaucho Commission, the Multicultural Center, Career Services, Rapid Rehousing, and the Linguistics and Geography Departments.

A huge thank you to our international student leaders for their dedication and energy in making IEW 2025 a success. Mark your calendars, spread the word, and join us in making this year's IEW unforgettable!

OISS has curated an International Education Week Toolkit with three calls to action — Support, Learn, and Advocate. Our hope is that you use this toolkit to show your support for the international community, learn about issues facing the international community, and help advocate for the international community. Feel free to use this toolkit before, during, or after IE Week!

[**Download OISS's IE Week Toolkit**](#)

IEW Events



Interstride

OISS, in partnership with Career Services, is thrilled to announce the launch of Interstride, a platform designed to enhance the career development journey of both international and domestic university students. Interstride offers a wealth of resources tailored to meet the unique needs of students navigating the global job market.

What does Interstride provide to International Students and Scholars?

- **Job Search Optimization:** Access a curated database of employers open to hiring international talent and tools to tailor your job search to specific countries and industries.
- **Cultural Adaptation Resources:** Gain insights into cultural nuances, communication styles, and workplace etiquette to better integrate into new environments.
- **Visa and Immigration Support:** Interstride provides up-to-date information on visa regulations, work authorization, and immigration policies, helping you understand and manage the complexities of working abroad.

Interstride Platform Demonstration

Thursday, January 23, 2025

12-1pm

This is an on-line event

Scan here to get the Zoom link



IEW Events

Tuesday Jan 21

- ✦ Trivia with All Languages Language Exchange!
4-5:30pm, Student Resource Building-3rd Floor Forum
- ✦ Global Peer Mentors Info Session
6-7pm, Health & Wellness and Women's Center

Wednesday Jan 22

- ✦ English Conversation Club
12-1pm, Student Resource Building, Room 3153
- ✦ SATSANG~ Sing, Meditate, Connect!
4-5pm, Multicultural Center Lounge



Thursday Jan 23

- ✦ English Conversation Club
10:30 am -12 pm, Student Resource Building, Room 1103
- ✦ Interstride, Global Career Platform Demo for Int'l Students
12-1pm, Online
- ✦ Home Away From Home: Housing Resources, Int'l Students
3:30-6:30 pm, San Miguel Hall

Friday Jan 24

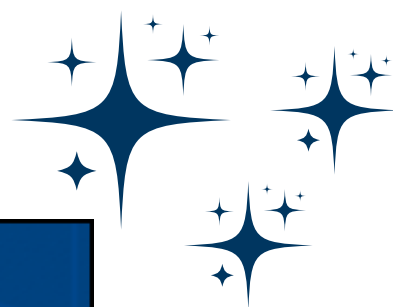
- ✦ Teaching English in Japan with AEON: Job Workshops
12:30-1pm, On-line
- ✦ International Makerspace: Gratitude Journals
1-2pm, UCSB Library Makers Space
- ✦ Mandarin Meditation for the Mind - Silent Meditation and Mindful Walking, 3-4pm, Health & Wellness and Women's Center

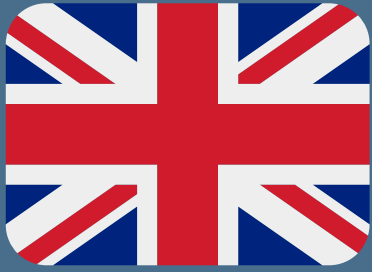
International Scholar Spotlights

Some of the most unsung heroes on our campus are the remarkable visiting scholars and researchers who bring not only a wealth of expertise in their fields while also serve as bridges to their home countries, cultures, and languages. These individuals enrich our academic community in ways that go far beyond the classroom or laboratory—they inspire cross-cultural understanding, foster global connections, and open doors to exciting new collaborations.

This year, as we celebrate International Education Week, OISS wants to shine a spotlight on three extraordinary scholars who have joined us from England, China and France, representing three unique fields of study. Their presence on our campus is a testament to the power of international exchange and the mutual enrichment it brings.

OISS extends our heartfelt gratitude to the UCSB Library, UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science & Management and UCSB Psychological and Brain Sciences for welcoming these scholars and helping make their impactful work here possible. Your commitment to fostering global engagement and academic exploration creates opportunities not just for today, but for the future of international collaboration and discovery.





Cathy Williams, MSc

UCSB Academic Department: Special
Research Collections, UCSB Library

Field of Expertise: Special, Research and Cultural Heritage
Collections, Archives and Records Management

Current activity at UCSB: I'm joining UCSB from King's College London as Director, Special Research Collections in January 2025. I'm looking forward to identifying and exploring potential areas of research with my new team, Library and wider UCSB colleagues - but revisiting collections to expose hidden voices, and revising descriptive information guided by communities invested in those collections, are central to my professional ambitions.

What inspired/motivated you to become specialized in your field? The immeasurable impact of cultural heritage and archive collections on individuals, local, national and global communities - through the stories they tell, the lessons they teach and the research they inspire.

Are there professional organizations or networks that you recommend to others interested in your field? There are myriad organizations and networks across the cultural heritage, archives and records management sectors. In the US, the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and in the UK, the Archives & Records Association (ARA) and The National Archives (TNA) are equivalent professional and national bodies which offer a gateway to both collections and collections management practices.

What attracted you to UCSB and specifically to the activity you conduct at UCSB?

UCSB Library's Special Research Collections are amazing - vast and various! - and I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead on their development, management, access and preservation. It's a huge responsibility but I'm looking forward to working with my UCSB colleagues to promote the collections for teaching, learning, research and engagement both inside and outside the university.

Prior to deciding on UCSB, what professional connections with faculty, researcher and/or staff did you make to help you determine that UCSB was the place for you?

I am an active member of the global cultural heritage community and have enjoyed connecting with colleagues from across the US through online networks and other fora, research projects and partnerships - so when I saw the advertisement for the post of Director, Special Research Collections at UCSB, I had to apply.

What have been some of your greatest challenges in moving to a new country? In a word? Tax! It's a challenge sifting through the often contradictory official guidance to establish your residency status - but I'm sure it will become clear with help from my new HR colleagues.

What advice do you have for someone considering to move to a new country?

Just do it ...

What have been some of your fondest memories or experiences during your time in California? I shall let you know in a few months' time!

Feel free to contact me directly





Xiaozhe Peng, Ph.D.

UCSB Academic Department:
Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences



Field of Expertise: Psychology, Social and Affective Neuroscience

Describe your current activity at UCSB: I am conducting research on "How social reward, morality, emotions, and altruism affect information sharing on social media" at UCSB.

What inspired/motivated you to become specialized in your field? I have always been interested in how information on social media influences human decision-making. My PhD research focused on how gossip shapes our perception of others. Since then, due to the proliferation of misinformation and its detrimental effects on both individual well-being and social cohesion, I have shifted to studying the factors driving people's decisions to share misinformation and exploring ways to reduce its spread.

Are there professional organizations or networks that you recommend to others interested in your field? The Society for Social and Personality Psychology (SPSP) offers insights into psychological aspects relevant to this field.

What attracted you to UCSB and specifically to the activity you conduct at UCSB? I was drawn to UCSB for its strong emphasis on interdisciplinary research. In particular, the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and the Department of Communication's focus on understanding human behavior in digital environments aligns perfectly with my research on misinformation and decision-making. The supportive environment and access to excellent resources make UCSB an ideal place to advance my work.

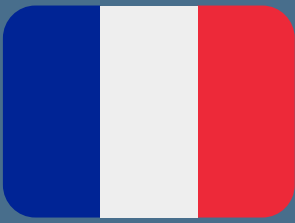
Prior to deciding on UCSB, what professional connections with faculty, researcher and/or staff did you make to help you determine that UCSB was the place for you? My collaborator, Professor Hongbo Yu from UCSB's Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, specializes in the psychological and neural mechanisms of moral and social emotions, and their impact on human behavior, particularly from a cross-cultural perspective. Our present research highlighted the role of emotions like moral outrage and empathy in driving social media information sharing. This collaboration enriches my exploration of how such emotions affect the spread of misinformation.

What have been some of your greatest challenges in moving to a new country? One of my greatest challenges has been switching between languages, which can sometimes be mentally taxing. Additionally, adjusting to a different pace of life and adapting to new routines has required time and effort.

What advice do you have for someone considering to move to a new country? My advice is to actively participate in social events and take the opportunity to learn about the local culture and traditions from residents. For example, I attend English Conversation Class offered by UCSB, which is a great opportunity to meet other international scholars and practice English in a supportive environment. I also often attend swing dance events in Santa Barbara, which has been a great way to connect with the community and explore its unique charm.

What have been some of your fondest memories or experiences during your time in California? I've been here for almost three months, and I've had some amazing experiences. I visited the Getty Center and the Norton Simon Museum in LA, went skydiving in Oceanside, and enjoyed fantastic swing dance nights with live bands at UCSB and downtown Santa Barbara. These experiences have left me with wonderful memories of California.

Feel free to contact me directly.



Vincent Martinet, Ph.D.

UCSB Academic Department:
Bren School of Environmental Science & Management



Field of Expertise: Environmental and Resource Economics

Describe the current activity (research, teaching, or other) that you are conducting at UCSB. During my stay at UCSB, I conduct research on the sustainable management of common goods, such as biodiversity and natural resources.

What inspired/motivated you to become specialized in your field? Studying ecology and natural sciences, I realized that the best way to protect natural resources and ecosystems was to influence the drivers of their overexploitation. Economics provides the tools to understand the decisions that lead to environmental degradation and offers ways to change the outcomes by modifying the incentives people face.

Are there professional organizations or networks that you recommend to others interested in your field? Apart from academic institutions, such as the Bren School at UCSB, the Environmental Defense Fund offers a good example of how to use the insights of environmental economics to protect the environment and the people who rely on it.

What attracted you to UCSB and specifically to the activity you conduct at UCSB?

The Bren School of Environmental Science & Management is a unique place that combines life and environmental sciences, data science, and social sciences (including economics) to address sustainable development goals and biodiversity conservation issues. Environmental economists at UCSB are inspiring, internationally acknowledged figures.

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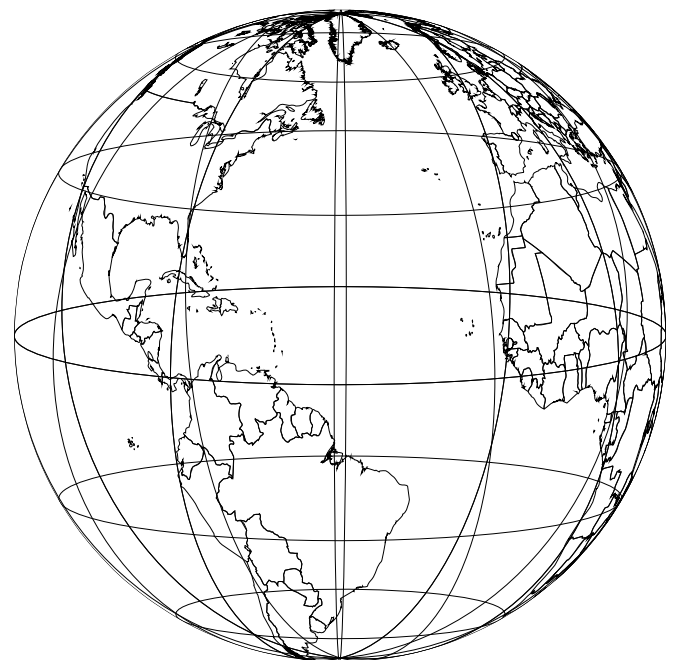
Prior to deciding on UCSB, what professional connections with faculty, researcher and/or staff did you make to help you determine that UCSB was the place for you? I visited UCSB for a two-week stay in 2011 and maintained connections with Chris Costello, whom I invited to Paris in 2023. This is when the idea of a visit emerged.

What have been some of your greatest challenges in moving to a new country? Moving with my family for almost a year, with young children, was a challenge. UCSB helped a lot with the administrative aspects, but there were so many things to arrange... it was time- and energy-consuming.

What advice do you have for someone considering to move to a new country? If you move alone, go for it! If it's with your family, there are many additional elements to consider. For us, as we stayed for almost a year, it was worth it, though.

What have been some of your fondest memories or experiences during your time in California? The weather and the wildlife! And, of course, the chance to be surrounded by incredibly smart people.

Feel free to contact me directly.



Thanks for Reading! —



We hope you enjoyed this issue of the OISS Newsletter. Past newsletters can be viewed on the OISS [website](#).

Questions?

If you are a current international student with questions regarding immigration, advising and other requests, email oiss@sa.ucsb.edu.

J-1 Scholars should reach out to j1scholar@sa.ucsb.edu. For those with questions related to employment-based visas; please contact longtermvisa@sa.ucsb.edu.

For any inquiries regarding upcoming OISS events, or collaboration opportunities, contact oissprograms@sa.ucsb.edu.

If you are a UCSB department or organization and would like to publicize any information or upcoming events to international Gauchos, contact ashleyrifkin@ucsb.edu.

Let's stay in touch!

Follow our social media accounts to stay up-to-date with everything happening at OISS.

