

26th Annual
**BUILDING
BRIDGES**
RESEARCH CONFERENCE
proudly presented by the
Honors Transfer Council of California

University of California, Riverside
March 28, 2026

2026 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Emily Liu, Irvine Valley College	HTCC Conference Chair
Joachin Arias, LA Harbor College	HTCC President
Nathan Lopez, Compton College	HTCC Treasurer
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Christina Axtell, Santa Ana College	Conference Registration Chair
Carol Damgen, San Bernardino Valley College	Moderator Coordinator
Tim Adell, Victor Valley College	Program & <i>Building Bridges</i> Editor

Welcome

Welcome to the 26th annual Building Bridges Research Conference! The Honors Transfer Council of California, in partnership with the University of California, Riverside, is honored to host this conference, which highlights the research produced by community college honors students from across the state of California. This conference started over two decades ago with a small number of presentations by students from a handful of colleges. It has grown over the years in size and quality, and today we welcome hundreds of students, faculty, administrators, and guests to participate in a community of learning and to celebrate the academic accomplishments of our presenters. We are thrilled to continue our partnership with UC Riverside, especially University Honors, and are grateful to our hosts for this opportunity to showcase the research of honors community college students from across the state of California.

Today you will hear about innovative research from a wide array of disciplines. This conference is a unique opportunity to attend presentations and participate in discussions not only in your own area of specialization, but also in academic fields with which you are less familiar. In the spirit of honors education that embraces intellectual discovery and supporting interdisciplinary approaches to research, learning, and problem solving, we invite you to attend a diversity of sessions that are listed in this program. We hope you will come away from the conference enriched with knowledge you may not have otherwise obtained. Also, please be sure to attend the closing plenary session of the conference, where prizes will be awarded to students with outstanding abstracts and posters and to students who have demonstrated outstanding growth and academic success through their involvement in their community college's honors program.

As honors students, you represent some of the best qualities of your respective colleges, reflecting not only your own hard work and academic excellence but also the teaching and mentoring of those who have made a difference in your life. We hope you will embrace your role as an unofficial ambassador of your school, network with honors students from other institutions, and take a few minutes to walk around and experience the UCR campus once the conference is over as you consider your future transfer options.

From all the members of the Honors Transfer Council of California, we wish you an educational and enjoyable conference.

Dr. Joachin Arias

President, Honors Transfer Council of California

Professor of Chemistry and Honors Transfer Program Director, Los Angeles Harbor College

Dr. Emily Liu

Vice President and Conference Chair, Honors Transfer Council of California

Professor of English and Honors Program Coordinator, Irvine Valley College



Gratitude and Thanks

The Honors Transfer Council of California sincerely thanks the administration and staff of the **University of California, Riverside University Honors Program** for their invaluable support of this annual research conference. UC Riverside's commitment to our organization and this event reflects its strong dedication to California community colleges and transfer students.

To learn more about UC Riverside University Honors, please visit honors.ucr.edu.

We extend our deepest appreciation to **Dr. Begoña Echeverria**, Faculty Director of UC Riverside University Honors; **Aaron Bushong**, Administrative Director of UC Riverside University Honors; and **Maria Rosa**, University Honors Counselor, for their tremendous assistance in making this conference possible.

We owe special thanks to the faculty who read and scored hundreds of abstracts:

Tim Adell , Victor Valley College	Emily Liu , Irvine Valley College
Jochin Arias , Los Angeles Harbor College	Delores Loedel , MiraCosta College
Christina Axtell , Santa Ana College	Allison Murray , Long Beach City College
Jennifer Baney , Mt. San Jacinto College	Anne Negus , Fullerton College
Brian Bartelt , LA City College	Erik Ozolins , Mt. San Jacinto College
Aynun Begum , Mt. San Jacinto College	Michael Plotkin , Mt. San Jacinto College
Michael Bobo , Norco College	Arej Qasqas , Citrus College
Chase Dimock , College of the Canyons	Lucia Riderer , Citrus College
Christian Duran , Fullerton College	Stella Setka , West Los Angeles College
Kanya Godde Chrisco , Moreno Valley College	Sheilah Stokes Dobyns , Fullerton College
Erin Hayes , LA Pierce College	Amy Sweetman , LA City College
Lisa Hernandez , Norco College	Joanna Werner-Fraczek , Moreno Valley College
Lauren Johnson , Moreno Valley College	Jeff Wheeler , Long Beach City College
Evan Kendall , Los Angeles City College	Christina Yamanaka-Vu , Mt. San Jacinto College
Melissa King , San Bernardino Valley College	

To the faculty who read and scored submissions for HTCC scholarships and abstract awards:

Elizabeth Applegate , Santa Ana College	Emily Liu , Irvine Valley College
Carol Damgen , San Bernardino Valley College	Anne Negus , Fullerton College
Christian Duran , Fullerton College	Arej Qasqas , Citrus College
Marianna Jagodina , Fullerton College	Stella Setka , West Los Angeles College
Brian Kennedy , Pasadena City College	Rikki Tremblay , Moreno Valley College
Melissa King , San Bernardino Valley College	

And to the faculty judges who scored submissions for outstanding posters:

Elizabeth Applegate , Santa Ana College	Amy Mills , San Bernardino Valley College
Judy Cannon , Crafton Hills College	Brittany Mondragon , Mt. San Jacinto College
Richard Cardullo , UC Riverside	Guck Ooi , Cerro Coso College
Steven Chang , LA Harbor College	Karen Ortiz , LA Harbor College
Carol Damgen , San Bernardino Valley College	Toni Parsons , Crafton Hills College
Christian Duran , Fullerton College	Michael Plotkin , Mt. San Jacinto College
Laura Greathouse , Riverside Community College	Nick Reeves , Mt. San Jacinto College
Natalye Harpin , Grossmont College	Israel Santana , LA Harbor College
Ryan Henderson , Mt. San Jacinto College	

Gratitude and Thanks

Finally, special thanks goes to

Joachin Arias, whose leadership of HTCC enhances the quality of honors programs across the state.

Emily Liu for coordinating all the moving pieces of this conference and for creating the conference program.

Erik Ozolins for his ongoing support of the conference.

Nathan Lopez for managing the HTCC Conference budget.

Delores Loedel for facilitating review of submitted abstracts.

Ruth Blandón and **Evan Kendall**, who sent important communications to student researchers.

Judy Cannon for coordinating review of posters.

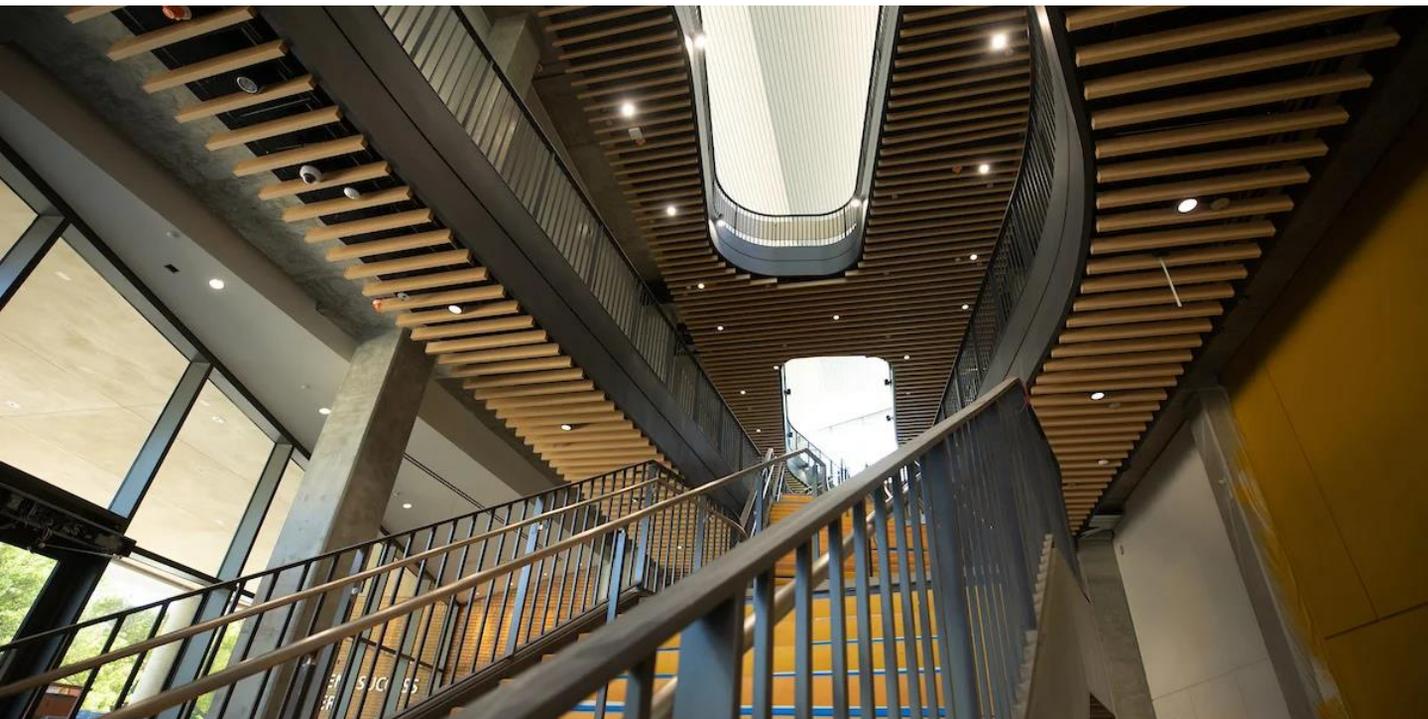
Stella Setka for facilitating review of scholarship and award applications.

Carol Damgen for coordinating our student moderators and volunteers.

Andrew Perkins and **Clayton McEvoy** for managing the moderator assignments.

Christina Axtell for managing conference registration.

Tim Adell for creating the oral presentation groupings and editing the 2026 edition of *Building Bridges* so that our students can share their research with the wider world.



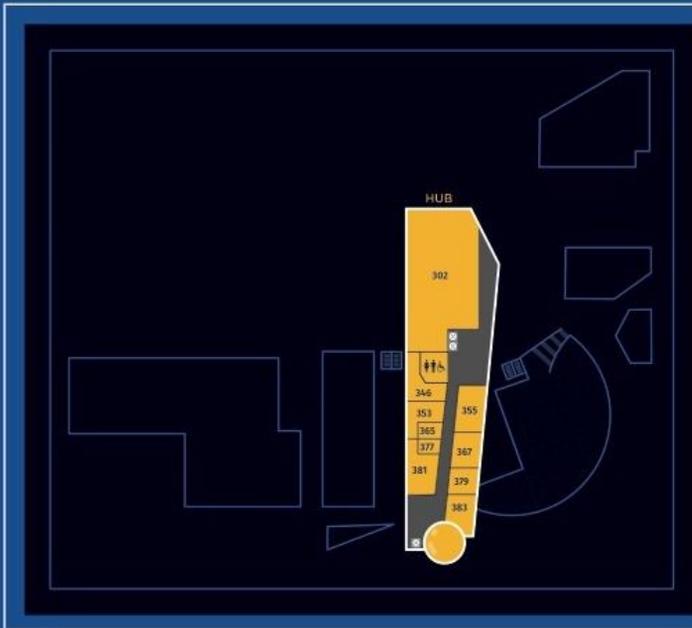
26th Annual Building Bridges Research Conference

PROGRAM

7:15-8:00	Registration & Breakfast	HUB 1 st floor entryway
8:00-8:40	Opening Plenary	HUB 302
8:50-9:30	Session 1A: Poster Presentations A	SSC 1 st & 2 nd floors
9:40-10:20	Session 1B: Poster Presentations B	SSC 1 st & 2 nd floors
10:30-11:45	Session 2: Oral Presentations	HUB & SSC classrooms
11:45-12:45	Lunch	HUB Plaza
	UC Riverside Campus Resources	
	Student networking	
12:45-2:00	Session 3: Oral Presentations	HUB & SSC classrooms
2:15-3:30	Session 4: Oral Presentations	HUB & SSC classrooms
3:45-4:30	Closing Plenary / Awards	HUB 302



UC Riverside Highlander Union Building (HUB)



LEVEL 3

HUB

- 302, 355, 367, 379 PROGRAMMING/CONFERENCE ROOM
- 346 R'PANTRY
- 353 HUB ADMINISTRATION
- 365 UC IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES
- 377 CAMPUS ADVOCACY, RESOURCES & EDUCATION (CARE)
- 383 GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE



LEVEL 2

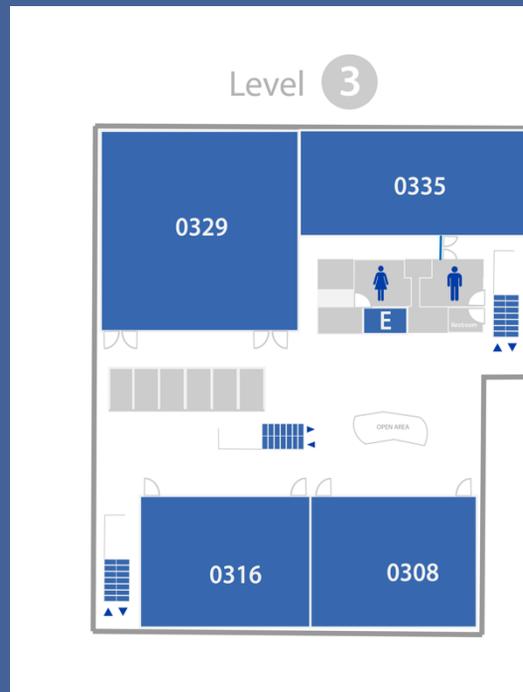
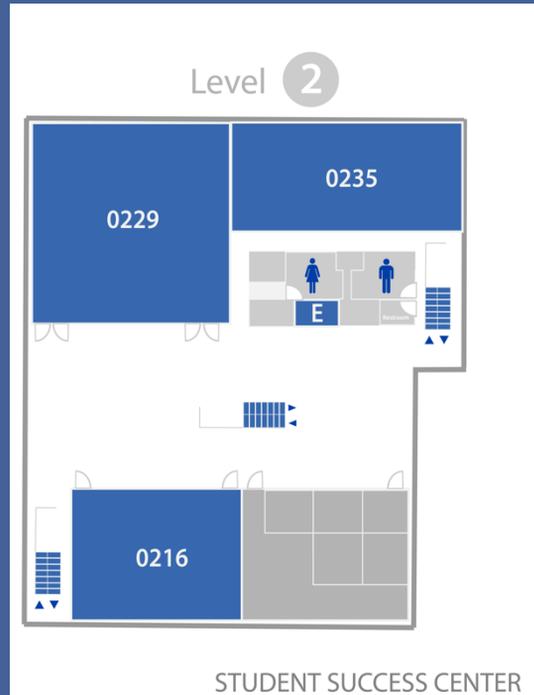
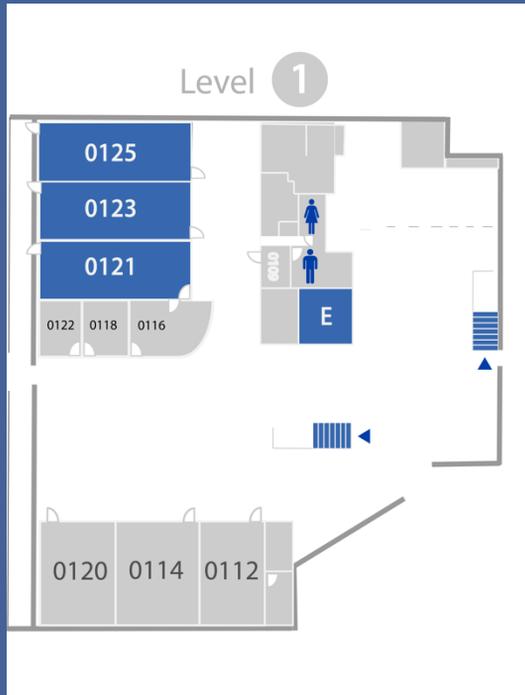
HUB

- 202 ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
- 203 GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- 221 SENATE CHAMBER
- 228 STUDENT ORGANIZATION WORK ROOM
- 229 STUDENT LIFE
- 248 THE WELL
- 260, 265, 268, 269 CONFERENCE ROOMS
- 261 TRIO SCHOLARS
- 272 COMMUTER & TRANSFER LOUNGE

COSTO HALL

- 224 UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT PROGRAMS (USP)
- 228 MEDITATION ROOM
- 229 NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT PROGRAMS (NASP)
- 241 HILLEL
- 244 ASIAN PACIFIC STUDENT PROGRAMS (APSP)
- 245 LGBT RESOURCE CENTER (LGBTRC)
- 260 WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER (WRC)

UC Riverside Student Success Center (SSC)





Opening Plenary 8:00-8:40 am

HUB 302

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Joachin Arias

President, Honors Transfer Council of California
Chemistry Professor, Los Angeles Harbor College

Dr. Louie F. Rodriguez

Vice Provost and Dean of the Division of Undergraduate
Education, University of California, Riverside

Dr. Begoña Echeverria

Associate Dean and Faculty Director of University Honors,
University of California, Riverside

Falon Butcher

Current University Honors Transfer Student, University of
California, Riverside

Dr. Emily Liu

Vice President, Honors Transfer Council of California
English Professor, Irvine Valley College

Session 1A: Poster Presentations A

8:50-9:30 am

SSC 1 st Floor		
A1	Ronan Wong Mt. San Antonio College Mentor: Carol Impara	Driving into the Digital Age: Understanding Communal Knowledge and Cybersecurity in Modern Vehicles This project analyzes Orange County Resident's gaps in consumer awareness and proposes practical, accessible security measures to help prevent digital forms of car theft.
A2	Aaron Sutedja and Tyler Lim Pasadena City College Mentor: Rebecca Johannsen	The Devaluation of Existing Human Capital: AI and the Skills Crisis in the Modern Labor Market AI is transforming Labor market demands, devaluing the current skills and education of workers, redefining Becker's Human Capital Theory.
A3	Rodin Behravan Irvine Valley College Mentor: Daniel Scott	Beyond the Buy Button: A Corporate Audit of PayPal Holdings Conducted a compliance audit of PayPal Holdings, analyzing global regulatory frameworks, assessing operational risks, and benchmarking competitors to formulate strategic recommendations for enhanced legal adherence.
A4	Max Chou and Aiden Miller Irvine Valley College Mentor: Adam Ghuloum	The Hidden Cost of Capitalism: Endocrine Disruptors and the Economics of Chemical Exposure This research project will examine the role that the United States capitalist economy plays in the widespread prevalence of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in today's world.
A5	Raaga Mahesh, Jessica Fisher, and Yen Kim Duong Irvine Valley College Mentor: Kari Tucker	Silent Roots, Enduring Branches: How Childhood Social Support Circles Influence Adult Romantic Participation This project investigates how interparental emotional security and satisfaction in childhood friendships provide an integrative framework to shape young adults' participation in romantic relationships.
A6	Natalie Sarkisyan LA Pierce College Mentor: Erin Hayes	Screen Time and Stress Levels: Analyzing Emotional Responses to Phone Use This study examines whether increased screen time correlates with higher self-reported agitation in students, potentially linking smartphone use our generation's declining patience.

Poster presenters should drop off their posters in SSC GM 2 after their poster session.
 Posters can be picked up during the closing session in HUB 302.

Session 1A: Poster Presentations A

8:50-9:30 am

SSC 1 st Floor		
A7	Phillip Lee Fullerton College Mentor: Jodi Balma	Bridging Psychology and Data Science: An NLP Framework for Early Risk Detection of Major Depressive Disorder from Social Media Language This research applies natural language processing to Reddit data to build a model that identifies linguistic markers of depression, aiding in early mental health screening.
A8	Noor Raad and Fatima Raad East Los Angeles College Mentor: Marina Juarez	Hunger on Campus: Neurobiological, Physiological, and Policy Consequences of Food Insecurity in Community Colleges This project analyzes how food insecurity impairs cognitive functioning and academic success in community colleges, arguing that hunger requires neuroscience-informed policy reform towards real change.
A9	Keightlin Reyes Mt. San Jacinto College Mentors: Ryan Sullivan and Chet Glaze	Contracted Vision: A Socioeconomic Analysis of Hikaru Iwasaki's Photographic Labor and the Political Economy of Mid-Century Japanese-American Representation A socioeconomic analysis of Hikaru "Carl" Iwasaki's photography, revealing how institutional control, labor structures, and racialized power shaped mid-century Japanese American representation and visual culture.
A10	Alec Santillan and Nick Danyang Fullerton College Mentor: Alexander Scott	Artificial Intelligence in Medicine How AI will change healthcare by automating data tasks, but doctors stay essential because empathy, ethics, judgment, safety, and trust need human care and oversight.
A11	Solomon Jussim West Los Angeles College Mentor: Katherine LaTourrette	Money and Self-Image: How Socioeconomic Circumstances Affect Body Image and Self-Esteem in Certain Groups This research aims to explore how both economic and social circumstances can be detrimental to body image and self-esteem, with a focus on specific demographics.
A12	Theodore Grimm, Pauline Perea, and Jordan Ahn Fullerton College Mentor: Ahrazad Encinias	Two-Spirit Identity: An Introduction An exploration of whether the more widespread adoption of the term "two-spirit" contributes to anti-imperialist praxis in the contemporary LGBTQ+ movement and Indigenous communities?

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Session 1A: Poster Presentations A

8:50-9:30 am

SSC 1 st Floor		
A13	<p>Sandy Jabbour El Camino College Mentor: Stephanie Burnham</p>	<p>Healing Through Data: The Future of AI in Healthcare This presentation explores how AI is transforming the healthcare system by providing core applications, benefits, challenges, and case studies to propose strategies for responsible integration.</p>
A14	<p>Fanni Nagy Pasadena City College Mentor: Derek Milne</p>	<p>When Walls Became Law Alcatraz’s architecture enforces obedience, structures behavior, and perpetuates institutional power, revealing how built environments function as systemic tools of social control and surveillance.</p>
A15	<p>Megan Matthews Mt. San Antonio College Mentor: Ivan Sanchez</p>	<p>Moving to the Extremes: The Process of Political Polarization in Women This research aims to answer how political polarization occurs, specifically in women. We will be using 2024 ANES data to reach our conclusion.</p>
A16	<p>Sumbra Ravi Long Beach City College Mentor: Allison Murray</p>	<p>The Unspoken Hazards of “Do Not Eat” Packets: Re-engineering Silica Desiccant Technology for Sustainable Packaging Reinventing Desiccants: Reformulating silica gel to biodegradable Benoxide clay challenges profit-centered industry norms while delivering moisture control that mitigates waste, environmental, and consumer health risks.</p>
A17	<p>Arya Khirwadkar Las Positas College Mentor: Theresa Murray</p>	<p>Shades of Speech: Cognitive Nuances in Language Background Examines multilingualism’s impact on cognitive control in Indian-origin Bay Area students using Stroop test, highlighting reduced interference among multilinguals and cultural context shaping reaction time.</p>
A18	<p>Ebony Guerrero Fullerton College Mentor: Jodi Balma</p>	<p>How Baldwin Park’s Freeway Communities Highlight A Flaw Within Local Politics The obstacles that city governments face when tackling air pollution in communities residing near freeways reinforces a system that prohibits equitable environments for disadvantaged communities.</p>

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Session 1A: Poster Presentations A

8:50-9:30 am

SSC 1 st Floor		
A19	<p>Diane Baek MiraCosta College Mentor: Sara Sparks</p>	<p>Invisible Ink: Stigma, Secrecy, and Body Art in Asian American Communities Survey reveals Asian American youth internalize parental stigma toward body art, clashing with U.S. creativity norms, developing resentment that drives risk-prone tattoo coping in adulthood.</p>
A20	<p>Kate Lay Irvine Valley College Mentor: Spencer Robins</p>	<p>Pink Donut Boxes and Genocide: Cambodian Americans' Narrative Through Art Analyzes California-based Cambodian-American artworks to decide why cultural hybridity and dual identity are effective for healing trauma within Cambodian trauma theory.</p>
A21	<p>Joshua De Jesus College of the Canyons Mentor: Chase Dimock</p>	<p>Hero, Trader, Invader: The Evolution of Christopher Columbus in U.S. Textbooks American attitudes towards Columbus have shifted due to changes in societal narratives, reflected in U.S. textbooks from over a century.</p>
A22	<p>Anthony Melik Irvine Valley College Mentor: Eric Garcia</p>	<p>Analysis for Correlation between Immigrant Background and Major Selection The project aims to determine how gender roles, economic status, and the political history of a home country among many other factors influences career paths.</p>

Session 1A: Poster Presentations A

8:50-9:30 am

SSC 2nd Floor

A23	Loretta Deranja Glendale Community College Mentors: Shelley Thai and Michael Harnett	Transposon mutagenesis in <i>Paraburkholderia unamae</i>: Identifying lon protease gene mutations Tn5 mutagenesis identified a <i>Paraburkholderia unamae</i> lon protease mutant with altered motility and exopolysaccharide production, revealing Lon's role in bacterial gene regulation.
A24	Sophia Raja Irvine Valley College Mentor: Emily Liu	Misdiagnosed and Marginalized: Cardiovascular Health Inequities Among Women Despite being a leading cause of death, cardiovascular disease in women is often mistreated or overlooked due to sex-based disparities in awareness and care.
A25	Izabella Contreras Citrus College Mentor: Rosalee Hellberg	Preventing Seafood Fraud: A DNA Barcoding Primer Analysis of Rockfish Products This research explores the accuracy of a DNA barcoding primer, targeting COI region of mtDNA, in identifying the species of commercially sold rockfish products.
A26	Laura Balagot Cypress College Mentor: Kathryn Sonne	The effects of Simple Green All-purpose Cleaner on Duckweed (<i>Lemna minor</i>) Growth Rates Effects of the "eco-friendly" cleaner Simple Green on duckweed growth and stress responses, revealing increased peroxidase activity without significant impacts on growth rate.
A27	Melissa Murillo Moreno Valley College Mentor: Joanna Werner-Fraczek	Bugs, Barcodes, and Bacteria: Tracking Wolbachia in Local Arthropods Wolbachia are intracellular bacteria that manipulate insect reproduction. This research looks at the prevalence of Wolbachia among insect populations in Moreno Valley.
A28	Jia Dang Irvine Valley College Mentor: David Fretz	Long-Term Neurological Consequences for Survivors of Pediatric Cancer Who Received Radiation or Chemotherapy This study examines how chemotherapy and radiation treatments during childhood influence long term neurocognitive functioning and emotional well being in pediatric cancer survivors.

Session 1A: Poster Presentations A

8:50-9:30 am

SSC 2 nd Floor		
A29	Andrew Kwang Mt. San Antonio College Mentor: Mandy Hsia	Soil Microbes: Microbiological Investigations for a Healthy Soil Food Web / Samples of soil under varying nutritional conditions are analyzed under a light microscope for microbial life.
A30	Hayden Rector College of the Canyons Mentor: Teresa Ciardi	Cost-Effective PCB Design Optimized for Signal Integrity Under Radiation Exposure This low-cost, custom PCB-based Geiger array prioritizes signal integrity, cross-talk mitigation, and environmental variability to analyze reliability challenges in radiation conditions relevant to space missions
A31	Derek Lee East Los Angeles College Mentor: Dat Quoc Dang	Low-Cost Air Quality Sensor for LA Communities This research designs a low-cost ESP32-based air quality system to analyze PM _{2.5} and CO ₂ variations across urban neighborhoods and traffic-influenced environments.
A32	Reynard Adhitthanajaya Irvine Valley College Mentor: Lan Pham	The Emotional Stock Market: Stress-Testing with ARIMA and LSTM Across Volatility Regimes Comparing multiple forecasting methods across multiple sectors' stocks to identify which model performs best under different market conditions and volatility patterns.
A33	Arpita Shanbhag Las Positas College Mentor: Carrie Frates	Investigating ROC AUC Calculation Integration Methods on Binary Classification Models While trapezoidal integration is the standard for ROC AUC, midpoint and Simpson's rule can be implemented to evaluate accuracy and efficiency across binary classification models.
A34	Amy Xie and Diana Yang Irvine Valley College Mentor: Lan Pham	Optimizing Collatz: A Novel Reordering Using Orbital Overlaps This project reorders Collatz seeds to reduce redundant computation, revealing right-skewed orbit lengths and providing a systematic framework to study orbit interactions.

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Posters can be picked up during the closing session in HUB 302.

Session 1A: Poster Presentations A

8:50-9:30 am

SSC 2nd Floor

A35	Daniel Lucas Dailo Los Angeles City College Mentor: Jayesh Bhakta	Constructing and Analyzing an Analog Computer for Matrix Convolutions and Image Processing An analog computer was constructed with commercially available circuit components to perform matrix convolution operations and process images. Its performance and accuracy are evaluated.
A36	Javier Gonzalez Irvine Valley College Mentors: Alec Sim and Cesar Montenegro	Obstacle Avoidance and Body Recognition Using AI Models AI focused research on a ground rover for detection of human bodies and objects pertaining to any applicable purpose.
A37	Neth Sagara Irvine Valley College Mentor: Amir Ahsan	Modeling Light Transport in fNIRS: Comparing Homogeneous and Layered Approaches Quantifies impact of photon transport model selection on accuracy of cerebral hemodynamic activity measurements from functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy.
A38	Miles Martinez, Micah Hauser, and Mark Germanovich Irvine Valley College Mentor: Benjamin Vargas	Maximizing the Photovoltaic Systems of a House using Different Angles of Light Reflection Testing reflective film at various angles on a model rooftop to identify which angle yields the highest average increase for monocrystalline solar panel power output.

Session 1B: Poster Presentations B

9:40-10:20 am

SSC 1 st Floor		
B1	<p>Rachel Wang Irvine Valley College Mentor: Nicholaus Yee</p>	<p>How Does the Equilibrium Tax Rate Required to Minimize Free-Riding Vary with Group Size in a Public Goods Game? This project analyzes how equilibrium tax rates shift with group size in public goods games, identifying minimal taxation thresholds that eliminate free-riding and sustain cooperation.</p>
B2	<p>Harneet Kaur Cypress College Mentor: Ashton Politanoff</p>	<p>Healthcare Reimagined: Access, Affordability, and Choice This research seeks to answer how the U.S. can provide universal healthcare access without relying solely on government or corporate control.</p>
B3	<p>Amir Harati Irvine Valley College Mentor: Carrie Goulding</p>	<p>Financialization: A Catalyst For Income Inequality This project investigates how U.S. government policies and corporate practices have reshaped wages, household financial stress, and perceptions of inequality using macroeconomic and survey evidence.</p>
B4	<p>Desire Anderson Los Angeles City College Mentor: Lauren Hofschneider</p>	<p>Perceptions of Violence: The Influence of Sound This study replicated Elizabeth Loftus's eyewitness research by examining whether hearing crash sounds increased perceived violence ratings compared to viewing the same crash silently.</p>
B5	<p>Sahar Shaikh Irvine Valley College Mentor: Tina Jenkins</p>	<p>The Power of the Placebo: The Extent of the Psychological and Physiological Effects of the Placebo This study examines how treatment methods, sensory cues, and study designs affect placebo effectiveness, highlighting key factors and suggesting future research to optimize placebo benefits.</p>
B6	<p>Isaac Hernandez Pasadena City College Mentor: Derek Milne</p>	<p>Pandemic Pressure: Stress and Mood Disorder Vulnerability in the Developing Brain During COVID-19 This study reviews evidence that COVID-19-related stress accelerated adolescent brain maturation, including frontal lobe thinning, contributing to increased depression and greater vulnerability to mood disorders.</p>

Poster presenters should drop off their posters in SSC GM 2 after their poster session.
Posters can be picked up during the closing session in HUB 302.

Session 1B: Poster Presentations B

9:40-10:20 am

SSC 1 st Floor		
B7	<p>Audrey Romo Citrus College Mentor: Erin Tate</p>	<p>Kangaroo Mother Care: Free Innovative Healthcare Practices for Premature Babies Kangaroo Mother Care improves premature infant's overall health, enhances maternal bonding and well-being, and reduces healthcare stress through an accessible, no-cost, easy skin-to-skin contact treatment.</p>
B8	<p>Valerie Cortes Mt. San Jacinto College Mentor: Briana Ovbude</p>	<p>Seeing the Invisible: A Micro to Macro Visual Model for Improving Early Dental Disease Understanding in Underserved Communities A universal micro-to-macro visual model examining how visual sequencing improves early dental disease understanding and encourages timely care in underserved, multilingual, and low-literacy communities.</p>
B9	<p>Zachariah McCarty and Mona Sayedsalim Fullerton College Mentor: Christian Duràn</p>	<p>Bread, Blood, and Belief: The Trope of Terroristic Labels A mixed-methods analysis of Hamas' complex identity as a revolution, governing authority, and social guardian within settler-colonial and critical terrorism frameworks.</p>
B10	<p>Kamryn Berry Citrus College Mentor: Jennifer MillerThayer</p>	<p>Fatal Fetishization: Slaughtered Sapphics and Loveless Lesbians in the Media The fatal fetishization of slaughtered sapphics and loveless lesbians in the media perpetuate harmful stereotypes of women-loving-women and tainting contemporary perspectives on the lesbian community.</p>
B11	<p>Nicholas Mandala Citrus College Mentor: Jennifer MillerThayer</p>	<p>Mitigating the Negative Effects of Online Data Extraction from Adolescents on Social Media in the United States This presentation highlights social media data collection on minors, how this data is manipulated for corporate profits, and what can be done about it.</p>
B12	<p>Christopher Ting El Camino College Mentor: Mora Mattern</p>	<p>The Neutrality Illusion: How "Neutral" Algorithms Bias Hiring Outcomes This research investigates how "neutral" AI recruitment systems create racial and gender bias across hiring stages, highlighting the importance of transparency and human oversight.</p>

Poster presenters should drop off their posters in SSC GM 2 after their poster session.
Posters can be picked up during the closing session in HUB 302.

Session 1B: Poster Presentations B

9:40-10:20 am

SSC 1 st Floor		
B13	Manuel Pernilla Pasadena City College Mentor: John Davis	Left Behind in Emergencies: Evaluating and Redesigning School Evacuation Plans for Students with Disabilities in San Fernando Valley This research evaluates whether San Fernando Valley Schools maintain inclusive evacuation plans that address the needs of students with disabilities, ensuring equitable safety for all.
B14	Rothney Panha Santa Ana College Mentor: Daniela Barajas	Urban Landscape Expedition Journal Incorporating census data and personal observation, this poster enhances the understanding of the unique relationship between people and their environment.
B15	Kiki Tu Mt. San Antonio College Mentor: Sarah Sabet	Lyrical Interference: How Background Music Affects Short-Term Memory Recall This study tested whether lyrical background music disrupts short-term memory recall. Results showed no significant performance differences.
B16	Tyler Li Long Beach City College Mentor: William Dewan	Shifting Fears: Evolution of the Vampire through Capitalism This abstract analyzes the evolution of the vampire and their allegorical portrayal of capitalism as a human fear over time, from fear to assimilation.
B17	Roshana Akhtari Irvine Valley College Mentor: Moises Machuca	Symbolic Healing in a Scientific Age: Why Young Adults Engage With Crystal Healing and Energy Medicine Investigating why young adults use crystal healing and energy medicine despite a lack of scientific evidence, integrating survey data with psychological, sociological, and media-influence theories.
B18	Christopher Yokoyama-Cons Fullerton College Mentor: Jodi Balma	Love Against Neoliberalism: Reclaiming Relationality and Otherness in the Face of Hyper-Individualism Neoliberalism erodes "otherness", and love. To restore human capacity for love and otherness, practices rooted in community must be adopted.

Poster presenters should drop off their posters in SSC GM 2 after their poster session.
 Posters can be picked up during the closing session in HUB 302.

Session 1B: Poster Presentations B

9:40-10:20 am

SSC 1st Floor

B19	<p>Aqsa Asghar El Camino College Mentor: Stephanie Burnham</p>	<p>Liberation or Oppression? Western Media Representations of Hijab and Muslim Women's Identity This project explores Western media's portrayal of hijab as oppressive; however, it is a symbol of strength, self-definition, and defiance against imposed narratives of oppression.</p>
B20	<p>Darren Espinosa Irvine Valley College Mentor: Cheryl Bailey</p>	<p>Governing Speech: Analyzing Social Media Censorship Analyzed the role of governmental censorship regarding social media platforms, dove deep in US policy, identified driving factors for censorship across different governmental regimes.</p>
B21	<p>Elisa Yasmin Figueroa Estrada Los Angeles City College Mentor: Can Aksoy</p>	<p>Shut Me Up Harder: An Argumentative Analysis of The Stepford Wives' Thematic Portrayal of Misogynistic Appropriation of BDSM Practices This presentation analyzes the gender dynamics, fetishization of domestic labor, and misappropriation of BDSM practices in Ira Levin's The Stepford Wives using a psycho-sociological approach.</p>
B22	<p>Camila Zanki Irvine Valley College Mentor: Jacob Eagleton</p>	<p>Understanding Emotional Effects Between Different Cultures through Sound Frequencies The findings of whether or not Native Spanish and English speakers are emotionally impacted similarly based on the frequency of a song.</p>

Session 1B: Poster Presentations B

9:40-10:20 am

SSC 2nd Floor

B23	Yazhen Shi Pasadena City College Mentor: Jillian Blatti	TMPyP₄ Usage of Unwinding DNAzymes-Catalyzed G₄ Peroxidation The secret of aging may lie in the unwinding of G ₄ peroxidation, with use of porphyrin TMPyP ₄ as a telomerase inhibitor.
B24	Anait Atkozyan and Kaela Longboy LA Pierce College Mentor: Erin Hayes	Investigating the Potential Link of Nanoplastics to Dementia With human consumption of microplastics averaging 68,000 particles daily, emerging evidence suggests a correlation to dementia through blood-brain barrier disruption, microglial activation, and neuronal damage.
B25	Natalie Vera and Josue Garcia Los Angeles Harbor College Mentors: Tissa Munasinghe and Joachin Arias	Long-Term Weekly Phytoplankton Risk Assessment of Domoic Acid–Producing Blooms at Cabrillo Beach Seal lions are a keystone species upholding California’s ecological diversity. Threatened by harmful algal blooms, plankton monitoring detects early warning signs and helps conserve ecosystems.
B26	Edith Ung East Los Angeles College Mentor: Bryant Horowitz	The Increasing Concern of Air Pollution: PM 2.5 and its Effects on Women with Ovarian Cancer With the rise of cancer cases and an increase in air pollution, this project will reveal the connection between PM _{2.5} and women with ovarian cancer.
B27	Carley Kubler El Camino College Mentor: Karla Villatoro	A Worm’s Warning About E-cigarettes: The C. Elegans Model For Human Immune Response This experiment investigates immune disruptions caused by vaping chemicals. Using C. elegans as a human-model, the outcomes inform how similar exposures affect our immunity.
B28	Harold Romero, Amanda Warmbir, and Jasmine Duckett Mt. San Jacinto College Mentor: Nick Reeves	Genomic Analysis and Gene Annotation of Insulin-like Peptide 4 (IIP₄) in D. elegans, D. hydei, and D. rhopaloa We annotated the Insulin-like peptide 4 (IIP ₄) gene in three newly sequenced Drosophila genomes. We discovered the orthologous IIP ₄ genes and surprising differences.

Poster presenters should drop off their posters in SSC GM 2 after their poster session.
Posters can be picked up during the closing session in HUB 302.

Session 1B: Poster Presentations B

9:40-10:20 am

SSC 2 nd Floor		
B29	Ratanak Taing and S Zohari Pasadena City College Mentor: Joy Balta	Computational Identification of Biomarkers: The Early Diagnosis of Myocardial Infarction Integrated bioinformatics and machine learning identify molecular biomarkers for early myocardial infarction diagnosis, revealing gene and miRNA signatures that advance personalized, precision cardiovascular care.
B30	Hamed Rahimi Irvine Valley College Mentor: Keith Donovan	Home-Based Exercises for Individuals with Mild Cognitive Impairment or Mild Dementia as an Early Treatment for Older Population Exercises that can be done at the comfort of your own home as an early treatment for Mild Cognitive Impairment and Mild Dementia.
B31	Se Min Kim Fullerton College Mentor: Dana Clahane	The Mathematics of Consciousness: Synchronization Thresholds in Cortical Networks Can consciousness be quantified? This research models cortical networks as coupled oscillators to determine synchronization thresholds that distinguish conscious from unconscious states.
B32	Byron Tonthat, Ethan Arakaki, and Kai Friedrich Irvine Valley College Mentor: Emily Liu	Evaluating Morphing Wing Designs: Optimizing Aerodynamic Efficiency and Drag Reduction This paper highlights some common airfoils, noting significant drawbacks and benefits, arguing that a morphing wing design can be more efficient than traditional airfoil designs.
B33	Pavan Siddharth Kosuru Las Positas College Mentor: Noorullah Wardak	Reconstructing Functions from Contour Plots using Convolutional Neural Networks Using contour plots, this project trains a CNN to reconstruct the parameters of underlying 3D functions, offering an efficient approach to reconstruct missing numerical data.
B34	German Leon Irvine Valley College Mentor: Alec Sim	Optimizing Wing Designs and Aerodynamic Evaluation of Elliptical vs. Bell Lift Distribution Wings This research compares Elliptical and Bell spanloads using NASA's OpenVSP software, showing the Bell design reduces induced drag and improves aircraft wing efficiency.

Poster presenters should drop off their posters in SSC GM 2 after their poster session.
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Session 1B: Poster Presentations B

9:40-10:20 am

SSC 2nd Floor

B35	<p>Paola Ramirez, Dichill Tomarong, and Fahat Yousuf Los Angeles City College Mentor: Jayesh Bhakta</p>	<p>Hybrid Computer Vision and Radio Positioning System for Precision Autonomous Quadcopter Landing Quadcopter with an ArUco marker-based landing system enhanced with radio time-of-flight modules composed of ground beacons and a drone-mounted receiver.</p>
B36	<p>Sheng Huang Pasadena City College Mentor: Derek Milne</p>	<p>Early Wildfire Detection using Low-Cost Embedded Modular Sensors This project showcases a low-cost embedded sensor module that actively monitors environmental signals and utilizes machine learning to provide wildfire alerts for high-risk communities.</p>
B37	<p>Alicia Sulaiman Irvine Valley College Mentor: Emily Liu</p>	<p>What Is This For? A Look Into the Lack of Physics Interest and the Influence of Relevancy By investigating physics educators' opinions and methods to convey relevancy, this study proposes relevancy as a solution to enhance student engagement and situational interest.</p>
B38	<p>Ethan Le and Jason Lam Pasadena City College Mentor: Theodore Donnell</p>	<p>The Effect of Electrolyte pH on the Electrochemical Performance and Degradation Mechanisms of Aqueous Zn-MnO₂ Batteries Investigating HEPES-buffered neutral electrolytes (pH 7-9) to suppress hydrogen evolution and enhance cyclability in aqueous Zn-MnO₂ batteries for grid-scale energy storage.</p>
B39	<p>Fernanda Robyn Zognou Femda Los Angeles City College Mentor: Melinda Capes</p>	<p>The Effects of Chemical Treatment and Varying Surface Area Of Tangerine Peels On Adsorbance Of Pollutant Methylene Blue We investigated the effects of chemical treatment and varying surface area of tangerine peels on the adsorption and removal efficiency of Methylene blue dye.</p>

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

HUB 260

Evan J. Conkling

Long Beach City College

Mentor: Geetha Rajaram

The Impact of Corporate Financial Structure on Firm Performance in the S&P 500

A study examines how liquidity and leverage affect S&P 500 firm performance. Finding liquidity consistently improves returns while leverage boosts ROE, but not stock performance.

Ryan Min Shin Loo

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Mark Collinson

Interdependent Levers of Inequality: Rethinking Immigration and Redistribution in the U.S. and Singapore

Comparative study of how U.S. and Singapore immigration and redistribution systems influence inequality, social mobility, and corporate decision-making across different cultural, demographic, and policy structures.

Nafia Najmi

West Los Angeles College

Mentor: William Vega

Micro-Decisions and the Making of Opportunity: A Conceptual Model for Early Entrepreneurial Behavior

An original model that serves as a tool for understanding how micro-level decisions create clarity and opportunity in business-strategy, ideation, and everyday entrepreneurial behavior.

Mighty Tran

Long Beach City College

Mentor: Geetha Rajaram

Factors that Contribute to Small Business Employment Rates

A study analyzes the connection that the cost-of-living index and the minimum wage have to the percentage of small business employment.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

HUB 265

Alyssa Noorani
Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Lewis Long

The Deciding Factor: The Influence of Age in the Debate Over Surgical Versus Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement

An examination of open heart surgery versus less invasive transcatheter procedure for valvular heart disease patients across different populations

Corbin Smith
MiraCosta College
Mentor: Kathleen Pickham

Breaking the Balance: A Proposed GPCR-Mediated Mechanism for SSRI-Induced Euvolemic Hypotonic Hyponatremia

This research synthesizes current literature to propose that SSRIs act as partial agonists at V₂Rs, increasing cAMP-driven AQP-2/UT-A₁ expression, causing euvolemic hypotonic hyponatremia.

Mimi Sanguinetti
Saddleback College
Mentor: Alex Nguyen

Modeling Zr-MOF-808 Modifications to Optimize Adsorption of Bilirubin

Models of MOF-808 built using crystalline simulation software will undergo theoretical PSM and/or in situ modifications that would increase the adsorption rates of Bilirubin.

Roshana Akhtari
Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Rayya Bourche

Determining Acetic Acid Concentration in Vinegar and Evaluating Buffering Capacity Using Sodium Bicarbonate

The vinegar's acetic acid concentration was determined by titrating with baking soda, producing an acetic acid-acetate buffer that mimics SFCA's pH-stabilizing behavior in the gut.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

HUB 268

Artem Serdiuk

Glendale Community College
Mentor: Michael Harnett

Broken Minds, Broken Worlds: Historical Trauma and Psychological Fragmentation in T.S Eliot's *The Waste Land* and Anna Akhmatova's *Requiem*

This project compares Eliot and Akhmatova to examine how historical trauma influences poetic narration, memory, and voice under different political and cultural conditions.

Maddie Bui

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Emily Liu

Nostalgia

Analyzing nostalgia's arc from a pathological homesickness to a contemporary pseudo-memory culture, where faux historical spaces can manufacture our affective histories without true biological experience.

Zayne Belle

Saddleback College
Mentor: Moises Machuca

Accuracy of Bipolar Disorder In American Films From The 2010's

Research on how accurately the films *Silver Linings Playbook*, *Infinitely Polar Bear*, and *Touched with Fire* represent bipolar disorder by comparing them to DSM-5 criteria.

Julia Gonzalez Castro

San Bernardino Valley College
Mentor: Amy Mills

Normalizing the "High-Functioning" Autism Stereotype

Social cultural normalization of (ASD) in mainstream screen media have overwhelmingly normalized autism through the specific lens of "high-functioning," almost exclusively portrayed by neurotypical actors.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

HUB 269

Javeria Kashif

Norco College
Mentor: Cameron Young

Uniformity or Inequality? Mandatory Minimum Sentencing in Drug-Related Cases

This study examines how judicial discretion of sentencing offenders has been limited by minimum sentences in drug cases and impacts the low-income and minority communities.

Linda Parker

Los Angeles City College
Mentor: Sarah Crachiolo-Garcia

Locked Away: An Examination of Solitary Confinement in America's Prisons

The unseen realities of solitary confinement through data, lived experience, and government failures. Why policy change is essential for safer prisons and healthier communities.

Samantha Meili

Fullerton College
Mentor: Jodi Balma

From Ban to Settlement: The Fight for Homeless Rights in Norwalk

Norwalk's overturned shelter ban reveals housing policy failures and service fragmentation, urging Permanent Supportive Housing with services, engagement, and accountability to balance safety and compassion.

Mani Beigi

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Carrie Goulding

Reducing Development Delays to Improve Housing Access in Orange County

Analysis of Orange County's housing shortage through examining residents' experiences, state policy requirements, and construction delays, along with relevant conclusions and recommendations.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

HUB 355

Yunhan Wang

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Lan Pham

Synchronization Dynamics in the Kuramoto Model

Numerically investigate how structured versus random initial phase configurations in the Kuramoto model alter synchronization onset, trajectories, and timescales.

Sizhong Cao

Pasadena City College
Mentor: Jamal Ashraf

Bi-Level Preference Optimization for Retrieval-Augmented Generation

A bi-level preference-learning framework that jointly optimizes retrieval and generation using pairwise preferences, achieving substantial gains in answer accuracy, retrieval recall across open-domain QA benchmarks.

Boula Etans

Riverside City College
Mentor: Mary Legner

Numerical Methods for Differential Equations in Model Rocket Simulation

Student-built 3D rocket simulator using RK4/RK45, Barrowman aerodynamics, ISA atmosphere, quaternion orientation, validated against OpenRocket and flight data; reproducible Python framework for student research.

Amy Xie and Diana Yang

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Lan Pham

Numerically Probing Neuronal Excitability: Exploring Ion-Channel Dynamics with a C++ Hodgkin–Huxley Model

This study discretizes and numerically solves the Hodgkin–Huxley model, exploring how variations in ion-channel properties alter action-potential shape, amplitude, duration, and neuronal firing patterns.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

HUB 367

Jasleen Grewal

Norco College
Mentors: Michael Bobo and
Cameron Young

Khalistan and Islamophobia: Examining the Interconnection Between Sikh and Muslim Communities under Majoritarian Power in India

This research analyzes Khalistan in conjunction with Islamophobia in India to uncover Sikh and Muslim shared experiences of governmental control, marginalization, and contested belonging.

Adishvar Kahlon

Norco College
Mentor: Michael Bobo

Reframing Righteous War: Bhindranwale and the Hermeneutics of Sikh Militancy

Radical preacher Bhindranwale transformed Sikh ethics of restraint into a mandate for holy war, shifting discriminate warfare to communal violence through rhetoric of crisis.

Giovanni Lopez

West Los Angeles College
Mentors: Payal Jain and Carrie
Canales

Human Transcendancy: How Psychological Metaethics Can Point to the God of Classical Theism (A Roman Catholic's Perspective)

This project investigates philosophical arguments for the God of classical theism by engaging biological, psychological, and existential forms of evidence.

Elijah Ghousein

Pasadena City College
Mentor: Shane Underwood

The Āla Project: Military Robotics, Ethics, and Morality

Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) controlled humanoid robots, or ālas, preserve moral agency in combat more effectively than remote-controlled systems or autonomous weapons by restoring embodied presence.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

HUB 379

Marlon Cuaya Moreno Valley College Mentor: Kanya Godde-Chrisco	Who the Plague Chose: Exploring Intersecting Social Risk in Black Death Mortality This project examines how age and sex together shaped mortality during the Black Death, showing the protective effects of being middle aged and male.
Jacob Le Santiago Canyon College Mentor: Sara Gonzalez	Beyond Annoyance: The Environmental and Health Costs of Noise Pollution This research examines how noise pollution harms children, adults, and ecosystems, arguing that it is an overlooked environmental threat requiring urgent community and governmental action.
Yen Tze Chia Pasadena City College Mentor: Shane Underwood	Beyond the Metrics: The Failure of the Technocratic Model to Address Birth Trauma Among Black Mothers in South Los Angeles In South LA's maternity care desert, technocratic childbirth and obstetric racism heighten Black birth trauma; integrating artistic, hermeneutic supports can restore agency amid hospital-centered care.
Hadia Zakir and Ahhyun Lee Irvine Valley College Mentor: Robert Hollenbaugh	Health Without Equity isn't Health: Understanding the Global Barriers Affecting Women's Access to Maternal Healthcare This study investigates social, cultural, socioeconomic, geographic, and systemic barriers to maternal health globally to identify inequities and patterns for improving equitable health access worldwide.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

SSC MPR 1

<p>Jesslie Vega and May Sapal Shoon Lae Pasadena City College Mentors: Ali Madanipour and Derek Milne</p>	<p>Cognitive Inequality in Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students: The Importance of Effective U.S Government Policies Cognitive inequality limits academic success for socioeconomically disadvantaged college students. This study examines cognitive disparities and how U.S government policies can improve educational outcomes.</p>
<p>Candice Bartolo Crafton Hills College Mentor: Steve Hellerman</p>	<p>From Termination to Negotiation: How Elite Universities Are Navigating Federal Research Funding Threats and Demands under the Current Administration An examination of the impact of federal spending reductions on scientific and technological research under the current presidential administration.</p>
<p>Shela Esquivelzeta El Camino College Mentor: Amy Himsel</p>	<p>Less is More: Is a Tech-Free Learning Environment for Children the New Way to Define the Have and Have Nots? This project investigates the relationship between socioeconomic status and unregulated electronic media use in children, as well as the implications of this correlation.</p>
<p>Ryuga Madokoro Fullerton College Mentor: Alexander Scott</p>	<p>The Detrimental De Facto Discrimination in Higher Education: How Socioeconomic Status Shapes Access, Identity, and Opportunity This paper examines how socioeconomic status shapes access, identity, gendered pathways, and psychological outcomes in higher education, systematic issues that reproduce inequality across generations.</p>

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

SSC MPR 2

Milena Dovgal
Las Positas College
Mentor: Brad Bettridge

U.S.-Soviet/Russian Arms Control Agreements, 1970-Present

The evolution of arms control reflects changing balances of power and international norms. Offering lessons from Cold War and post period for preventing nuclear escalation.

Jackson Beudjekian
Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Joon Kil

U.S. and U.K. Discrepancies in Homicide: Investigating Political Factors

Differences in legislature can help explain the difference in homicide rate per capita between the U.S. and the U.K.

Rodin Behravan
Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Joon Kil

School or Death: A Comparison of the United States and Canada

A study delves into differences of school shootings between the US and Canada using three independent variables to justify the disparity.

Elise Halewijn
Fullerton College
Mentor: Jodi Balma

The Hemisphere's Worst Group Project: U.S. Deportations and Colombia's Struggle to Hold the Humanitarian Line

This project explores how increasing U.S. deportations causes cascading southward instability, destabilizing Colombia's EPTV as arrivals surge, resources shift, and domestic pressures rise.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

SSC MPR 3

<p>Brian Baraty and Ella Shahnazarian Glendale Community College Mentor: Michael Harnett</p>	<p>Using Structural Metrics of Trees as Predictors of Urban Public Health Risk This project evaluates how urban tree-structure metrics can predict air quality, cardiovascular and respiratory health risks, reframing trees as health infrastructure worth studying.</p>
<p>John Assadi and Kateryna Skorokhod Mt. San Jacinto College Mentor: Nick Reeves</p>	<p>Targeted Deletion of the lacZ Gene in E. coli Reveals CRISPR-Resistant Mutants In a CRISPR-Cas9 experiment targeting the lacZ gene in E. coli, eighteen mutant colonies resistant to CRISPR-Cas9 lacZ gene editing were identified.</p>
<p>Zara Deen El Camino College Mentor: Karla Villatoro</p>	<p>Metabolic Rescue: Bypassing Glucose Hypometabolism in Alzheimer's Disease using a Ketogenic Diet As the Alzheimer's brain starves due to the impairment of glucose metabolism, a ketogenic diet offers an alternative energy source, serving as a metabolic rescue.</p>
<p>Khalil Robinson LA Pierce College Mentor: Aron Kamajaya</p>	<p>From Feces to Pharmaceuticals: Investigating Livestock Microbiomes for Antibiotic Discovery Using next generation sequencing, this project compares ruminant and equine fecal microbiomes to identify gut-adapted microbes with potential for developing novel antibiotics.</p>

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

SSC 216

Ruby Yesenia Rojas
Compton College
Mentor: Nathan Lopez

Police Surveillance in the Communities of Watts and East LA, 1964-1971

Police surveillance repressed communities of color in LA during the 1960s. Social movements from these communities challenged the legitimacy of police surveillance through collective resistance.

Kimberly Hernandez
Compton College
Mentor: Nathan Lopez

Loud, Brown, and Defiant: 1970's Punk as a Voice for Chicano Youth

Chicanos in East Los Angeles developed DIY cultural spaces that challenged white supremacy, cultural erasure, and systemic oppression to resist policing, discrimination, and economic inequality.

Cristal Lopez
San Bernardino Valley College
Mentor: Ed Gomez

The Politics of Birth: Sterilization, Identity, and the Survival of Native Existence

In 1970, the 'Family Planning Act' allowed for the sterilization of Native American women, which greatly affected reproduction within Native communities.

Jazmyn Tonumaip'e'a
San Bernardino Valley College
Mentor: Ed Gomez

Lies Behind the Lens: The Misrepresentation of Native Americans in U.S. Media

Native Americans resist erasure by challenging stereotypes in film and television, reframing narratives through activism and Native-led media that assert resilience, sovereignty, and visibility.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

SSC 229

Arufa Rana

Chaffey College

Mentor: Maria Fitzpatrick

Stress, Epilepsy, and Cognitive Outcomes in Children

This review examines how psychological stress amplifies cognitive vulnerabilities in pediatric epilepsy and argues for integrating stress-reduction and learning supports into standard epilepsy care.

Ahmad Haidari

Cypress College

Mentor: Kathryn Sonne

The Effect of Sleep Deprivation on Short-Term Memory in College Students

Examination of how a single night of severe sleep restriction in college students affects short-term memory, showing slower response times and reduced recall accuracy overall.

Aditya Sridhar

El Camino College

Mentor: Roberto Garcia

Implementation Intentions: A Social Psychology Study on the Pursuit of Goals and Task Initiation

How many of your goals have vanished through procrastination, burnout, or lost momentum? This study delves into implementation intention and its effectiveness in goal pursuit.

Mobowofoluwa Fasehun

LA Pierce College

Mentor: Christine Ersig Marcus

The Communication and Consequences of the Golem Effect

A study on how the Golem Effect is perpetuated in a person's life and how it can be the major cause behind said person's downfall.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

SSC 235

Khanh (Catherine) Bui
Fullerton College
Mentor: Rosie Kar

Beyond Appearance: Patriarchal Beauty, Asian Womanhood, and the Feminist Fight to Exist as We Are
This project examines how patriarchal beauty standards in East Asia and their transformation within Western contexts, produce gender-specific harms that uniquely target Asian women.

John Egurrola
Pasadena City College
Mentor: Genesis Montalvo

Gender Discrimination in the UFC
The UFC perpetuates gender discrimination through unequal marketing, unsafe fan culture, and tolerated misogyny, undermining claims of supporting women and demanding greater accountability in MMA.

Ruby Calderon
Crafton Hills College
Mentor: Nancy Wang Yuen

QTBIPOC Actors and Intersectional Discrimination in Hollywood
This paper investigates how overlapping identities shape the careers, opportunities and public representation of QTBIPOC actors in Hollywood.

Caleb Smalley
Crafton Hills College
Mentor: Nancy Wang Yuen

South Asian Hollywood
An analysis of how people of South Asian descent are represented by and treated in Hollywood and recommendations for changes promoting greater acceptance.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

SSC 308

<p>Stephanie Cortissos El Camino College Mentor: Karen Whitney</p>	<p>Evolving Perspectives towards Mental Illness in Art and Social Reform This presentation examines changing attitudes towards mental illness as depicted in 18th and 19th century European art, focusing on asylum reform and emerging humanitarian actions</p>
<p>Jakob Tagliaferro Moreno Valley College Mentor: Rikki Tremblay</p>	<p>Altering Approaches: Writing & Performance As Research Exploring the differences and similarities within the creative writing process of adapting different mediums into a performance while ensuring the intent and themes.</p>
<p>Melanie McFarland El Camino College Mentor: Lucy Alamillo</p>	<p>Sewing Machines Stitch Women's Liberation into Power The sewing machine, an uncomplicated tool often designated for women only, wields as much, if not more power as an electric drill.</p>
<p>Eileen Copeland San Bernardino Valley College Mentor: Carol Damgen</p>	<p>Strangers on a Train and the Allegory of the Cave: Moral Illusion, Choice, and Awakening in Hitchcock's Psychological Cinema Alfred Hitchcock's Strangers on a Train explores the psychological tension between moral responsibility and illusion with references to Plato's Allegory of the Cave.</p>

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

SSC 316

Joseph Han

Cypress College
Mentor: Kathryn Sonne

The Hidden Metric in Political Campaigning

Attention retention, a metric used in social media engagement models, remains heavily overlooked in political campaigning. Integrating engagement strategies into campaigns significantly increases voter persuasion.

Benjamin Trull

Mt. San Antonio College
Mentor: Lori Walker

Dying Democracy: How Political Action Committees Violate Democratic Principles and Threaten Political Stability

Political Action Committees undermine democracy by giving wealthy donors disproportionate political power, eroding public trust, and pushing citizens toward authoritarian alternatives. They must be banned.

Vanessa Nunez

East Los Angeles College
Mentor: Myhanh Anderson

The US Supreme Court: Restoring Trust to the Highest Court in the Land

This presentation examines Supreme Court reforms, including term limits and enforceable ethics rules, arguing that they're necessary to curb unchecked power and restore public trust.

Sam Pastrano

Norco College
Mentors: Sandra Popiden and
Cameron Young

Freedom to Conform: The Ramifications of the Republican Party's Targeting of Transgender Rights

The Republican Party has repeatedly targeted transgender rights in recent years. This legislation directly creates poorer life outcomes for the transgender community, especially transgender youth.

Session 2: Oral Presentations

10:30-11:45 am

SSC 335

<p>Jasmine Caballero Long Beach City College Mentor: Christina Moorhead</p>	<p>Fading Light, Endless Love: How Alzheimer's Dims the Mind but Not the Heart Motivated by my late grandmother's battle with Alzheimer's, this research explores its impact on families and how they find strength, resilience, and adaptation amid loss.</p>
<p>Lucy Zhou East Los Angeles College Mentor: Bryant Horowitz</p>	<p>Comparative Evaluation of TMS abs DBS for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder This paper analyzes TMS and DBS to treat OCD, comparing safety, suitability, and performance for patients, while including comorbidities like psoriasis and other clinical applications.</p>
<p>Serena Buckley El Camino College Mentor: Arianna Yates</p>	<p>"Brewing a Better Brain": Coffee's Neuroprotection Against Depression and Alzheimer's Drinking coffee may protect the brain from developing depression and Alzheimer's, brewing happiness and mental protection.</p>
<p>Brenda Lopez Chaffey College Mentor: Selene Pineda</p>	<p>Emergency Medicine in Remote Marine Environments: Lessons from a Near-Drowning at Honolua Bay This project analyzes a near-drowning in a remote snorkeling site, highlighting airway management, bystander errors, and public-health strategies to improve safety in under-monitored marine environments.</p>

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

HUB 260

Jennilyn Badua

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Deanna Scherger

Beyond the Label: Luxury's Hidden Costs

Unveiling the human cost of luxury, this research examines labor abuses behind the "Made in Italy" label and global policies for corporate accountability.

Caleb Chang and Rayan Bkayrat

Fullerton College

Mentor: Sheilah Dobyms

Beyond the Price Tag: How Consumer Values of Individuality, Social Responsibility, and Cultural Connection Affect Demand in the Fashion Industry

The cut-throat fashion industry tests and explains who we are and what we value as a culture.

Alecia Jensen

Long Beach City College

Mentor: Geetha Rajaram

Looking Green, Breathing Dirty: How Wealthy Nations Outsource Pollution to Meet Net-Zero Goals

The UN aims for net-zero carbon, yet pledged countries only appear green. They export pollution to developing nations for profit, revealing a glaring ethical gap.

Frantisek Divis

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Emily Liu

Ethics for Sale: How Corporate Social Responsibility Became the Chocolate Industry's Reputational Shield

While CSR pledges ethical reform, major chocolate companies use it symbolically, as analysis reveals partial traceability, positivity bias, and downplayed violations across reported cocoa practices.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

HUB 265

Phuthachath Forges

Los Angeles Harbor College

Mentor: Joachin Arias

Metal-Organic Frameworks Application in Breast Cancer Treatment Therapy

Metal-organic frameworks can act as nanocarriers for liquids. UiO-66 has become a promising nanocarrier for breast cancer due to its porosity, stability, and release capabilities.

Baharr Mehraeen

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Leonard Lamp

Wireless Power Transfer for Lunar Application

Evaluating comparable methods of transmitting energy, including laser and microwave beaming, to power robots and remote sites in shadowed lunar locations.

Preston Vuu

MiraCosta College

Mentor: Kathleen Pickham

Synthesizing a Thiol Precursor for Utilization in the Eventual Synthesis of Metal Complexes

This project covers the synthesis of a thiol precursor to be used in synthesis of dimetal complexes with theoretical applications in analysis of biochemical processes.

Aidan Yoo and Khue Huynh

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: My Vo Luong

From Flask to Field: Testing How Small-Scale Alkalinity Additions and Simulations Predict Large-Scale OAE Performance for CO₂ Removal

Evaluating the limitations of Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement by integrating computational and field alkalinity-addition data to evaluate how reliably small-scale results convert to real-world CO₂ removal.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

HUB 268

Katie Ortega

Long Beach City College

Mentor: Allison Murray

Fatalism Revealed Through Kant's Categorical Imperative

Using Immanuel Kant's Categorical Imperative as an interpretive framework to analyze Gaelic folklore, revealing the culturally embedded fatalism within the Gaelic worldview.

Sophia Barrera

LA Pierce College

Mentor: Darren Borg

Exploring Identity in Julia Alvarez's "Bilingual Sestina"

Julia Alvarez's poem "Bilingual Sestina" demonstrates how the unusual and cyclical poetic form of the sestina allows for self-exploration of gender, sexuality, and cultural identity.

Aaron Reingold

MiraCosta College

Mentor: Jacob Strona

Discipline Dies in Darkness: An Examination of Misogyny in a Disciplinary Society

An examination of misogyny as a tool to reinforce societal hierarchies and power relations during the rise of second wave feminism using a Foucauldian lens.

Alexxess Irene Chavez

West Los Angeles College

Mentor: Stella Setka

From Chola to Scholar: Crossing Borders, Reclaiming The American Dream Deferred

This project explores how literary fiction shaped a formerly incarcerated transgender woman's self-understanding and pursuit of the American Dream through an interdisciplinary autoethnographic lens.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

HUB 269

Raz Mor

Los Angeles City College

Mentor: David Sedghi

Chronic Fear and Stress: Neurobiological Mechanisms and Health Consequences

This presentation explores how chronic fear and stress dysregulate brain systems, increase vulnerability to anxiety and disease, and examines evidence-based mechanisms that support emotional regulation.

Lesli Hernandez Rodriguez

San Bernardino Valley College

Mentor: Carol Damgen

Bullying and Mental Health

Bullying is a global crisis with detrimental effects on victims, perpetrators, and witnesses. Severely impacting mental health, increasing the risk of anxiety, depression and suicide.

Sumbra Ravi

Long Beach City College

Mentor: Christina Moorhead

Sending Off Persistent Isolation: Utilizing Letter-Writing to Reduce Chronic Loneliness in Older Adults

Re-Stimulating Human Warmth: Handwriting letters to retirement-home residents experiencing loneliness fosters meaningful connection and simultaneously mitigates anxiety and stress in senders through compassionate, purpose-driven engagement.

Raihan Fazalbhoy

El Camino College

Mentor: Arianna Yates

Man Up and Cry: The Need to Facilitate Men's Mental Health Dialogues

This project investigates factors impacting the low utilization of mental health treatment among men and explores targeted approaches to increase treatment uptake and efficacy.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

HUB 355

Lucas Trinh

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Michael Salviani

The MrBeast Effect: A Computational Analysis of YouTube Thumbnail Evolution from 2014–2025

A computational study analyzing how MrBeast's thumbnail style reshaped YouTube, using visual feature extraction and clustering across historical and modern thumbnails.

Jackson Reeve and Tyler Nguyenbui

Fullerton College
Mentor: Jodi Balma

Detecting Lucid Dreams and Nightmares from EEG Data with Machine Learning

By training a machine learning model to read and interpret EEG data, it is possible to identify lucid dreams and nightmares autonomously, with AI.

Nina Elmoyan

Glendale Community College
Mentor: Michael Harnett

Fake or Nah? A Linguistic Approach to Detecting Misinformation Using Machine Learning and Linguistic Features

A linguistically informed machine-learning model that detects fake news by combining stylistic features with lexical analysis to improve accuracy, interpretability, and media literacy.

Andy Chou and Luoqi Wang

Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College
Mentors: Ho Jin Lee and Michael Salviani

AI × Capitalism = Creative Amnesia: How Automation and Shareholder Economics Are Measurably Eroding the Soul of Storytelling in Modern Games

This study examines how AI automation and shareholder economics undermine storytelling and emotional resonance in modern games through text-mining, sentiment analysis, and interpretive industry research.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

HUB 367

<p>James McGivern San Bernardino Valley College Mentor: Carol Damgen</p>	<p>Light Pollution: Bringing Back Our Night Skies - A Right For All Beings Light pollution is a detriment to modern society and surrounding wildlife which can easily be solved with ethical and practical solutions.</p>
<p>Alex Algan and Ben Parker Citrus College Mentors: Areej Qasqas and Peter Rodriguez</p>	<p>“The Resilience Chronicles”: Bringing Representation to the Incarcerated This study aims to explore how the power of representation reframes the authenticity of incarcerated people’s identity by legitimizing their marginalized stories.</p>
<p>Christopher Yokoyama-Cons Fullerton College Mentor: Jodi Balma</p>	<p>Contemporary Alienation as a Crisis of Consciousness: An Erosion of Phenomenological Consciousness in the Modern Day Contemporary alienation appears as fractured consciousness. Self-division, exhausted inwardness, and erosion of contemplative capacity eliminates relationality, reflection, and meaningful engagement</p>
<p>Walda Lemus San Bernardino Valley College Mentor: Melissa King</p>	<p>Human Trafficking as Structural Violence: An Anthropological Perspective Human trafficking, understood through the lens of conflict theory, is less about individual perpetrators and victims and more about systemic exploitation deeply rooted in society.</p>

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

HUB 379

Jiayun Chen

Saddleback College

Mentor: Moises Machuca

Michel Foucault's The Birth of Biopolitics and The Birth of the Clinic: Analysis of Life, Medicine, and Consciousness

This presentation examines how Michel Foucault's theory of medical biopower shapes ethical consciousness, with dialogue from Giorgio Agamben's political philosophy.

Crystal Lopez

Compton College

Mentor: Nathan Lopez

Surveillance, Drug Policy, and Racial Hierarchy: Punishment over Public Health in the U.S. War on Drugs

The U.S. War on Drugs prioritizes punishment and surveillance rather than public health, producing racialized enforcement that drives mass incarceration and structural inequality.

Madison Wong

Pasadena City College

Mentor: Shane Underwood

Pharmacy to Friendship: Social Approaches to Reshape Medicalized Weight-Loss Strategies

Bridging dialogue and community in weight loss interventions can encourage healthy habit development through shared experiences where diet and exercise become meaningful, social activities.

Arianna Dawson

San Bernardino Valley College

Mentor: Ed Gomez

Defeating the Silent Epidemic: Nurses on the Front Line

Historical trauma created by health disparities in Native American communities, today are being addressed by culturally grounded nursing practices.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

SSC MPR 1

Sergey Pak

Pasadena City College

Mentor: Michelle Lee

Economic Feasibility of Using Solar Power to Supply Electricity: A Case of a Typical Household in Pasadena, California

This study evaluates Pasadena household solar adoption using NPV, IRR, and payback modeling, finding solar installation financially superior to grid electricity with substantial long-term savings.

Casey Hoang and Daniel Cosme

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Christian Teeter

What Broke in 2008?: How the Housing Crisis Reshaped the Modern Economy

Analyzes lingering effects of the 2008 Financial Crisis, and compares current economic trends to 2008's, to predict the possibility of future recessions and systemic vulnerabilities.

Amal Dini

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Mark Collinson

Oil Traders and Manufactured Political Instability

A project analyzes how fuel-commodity trade exposes humanitarian effects of profit-driven markets, emphasizing how trade practices exacerbate resource extraction and undermine sustainable development.

Carolina Gutierrez

MiraCosta College

Mentor: Delores Loedel

Playing with the Past: Mattel and the Power of Selling Nostalgia

Analyzing Mattel's financial performance and industry standing in relation to adult consumers to demonstrate the benefits of catering to an older demographic.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

SSC MPR 2

<p>Maryana Paredes Campos Fullerton College Mentor: Alexander Scott</p>	<p>Antes de Que Nos Olviden, Haremos Historia Examining the factors behind the 1968 Tlatelolco Massacre; how state repression, Cold War influences, and the contested politics of collective memory in Mexico.</p>
<p>Tan Dung Nguyen Irvine Valley College Mentor: Joon Kil</p>	<p>Bars vs. Bridges: A Comparative Analysis of Drug Recidivism in Norway and the United States This comparative study analyzes drug recidivism in the U.S. and Norway while examining how sentencing policies, rehabilitation access, and social welfare systems impact reoffending rates.</p>
<p>Alexander Aurich MiraCosta College Mentor: Kristen Gonzales</p>	<p>Beyond Deterrence: Japan's Resilience-Building Strategy for Indo-Pacific Security This project analyzes Japan's use of development aid and security assistance to build strategic resilience in the Indo-Pacific, offering an alternative to traditional deterrence.</p>
<p>Robert Nasr Norco College Mentors: Michael Bobo and Cameron Young</p>	<p>David in Exile: The Absence of Judaic Values in Zionist Ideology Analyzing Zionism's claim to the Jewish identity and highlighting methods in which a government may distort religious teaching and community to further its political aspirations</p>

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

SSC MPR 3

Nisreen Bardan

Los Angeles Harbor College

Mentor: Joachin Arias

Maternal Health Outcomes for Middle Eastern and North African Populations in the United States

Analyzing maternal health outcomes among MENA populations in the U.S. uncovers systemic disparities and proposes actionable solutions to enhance equitable healthcare access.

Natalie Hairapatian

Glendale Community College

Mentor: Michael Harnett

Beneath "Skin Deep": Assessing Malignant Growth in Lymphocytes Associated with Complications from Breast Augmentations Among Females

An investigation into the potential connection between silicone breast implants in the female sex and the development of B-cell and T-cell lymphomas, using meta-analysis.

Roice De Castro

Mt. San Jacinto College

Mentor: Michael Plotkin

Breaking on Cue: A Carbonate-Activated Alginate System for Programmable Delayed Release

Carbonate-activated alginate capsule that converts acidic environments into a programmable rupture signal, enabling mechanically controlled delayed release across therapeutic and environmental applications.

Azaan Asad

Las Positas College

Mentor: Kai Blaisdell

EDTA Enhances Vancomycin Killing of Staphylococcus aureus Biofilms in Device-Associated Infections

This project evaluates EDTA-assisted antibiotic therapy for improved killing of Staphylococcus aureus biofilms, with implications for managing persistent infections involving implanted and indwelling medical devices.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

SSC 216

Richard Tang

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Shirin Sahani

Kathréftis Péra Apó Ti Thálassa - or, Comparing the Democratic Traditions of Ancient Athens and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy

Intersectional analysis of democratic governance between Iroquois and Ancient Athens. Explores emergence and correlation of democracy and aristocracy, rejecting Eurocentrism in democracy studies.

Tonatiuh Ottmar Villegas

Long Beach City College
Mentor: Matthew Hacholski

Legality, Treason, and Conquest: Cortes's Manipulation of Spanish Law

A historical and legal analysis of how Hernan Cortes uses Spanish law to justify his actions in Mexico and conquest of the Aztec empire.

Joseph Wilson

MiraCosta College
Mentor: Christopher Sleeper

The Empire Strikes First: The Expropriation of the English Commons and the Rise of the Resistance

Radical groups of the English Civil War inspired a resistance movement that moved across the Atlantic World.

Aurora Sallemi

Los Angeles City College
Mentor: Christina Heisser

Thalassemia and the Racialization of a Disorder

This research examines how United States immigration policy and eugenic science racialized thalassemia, transforming hereditary difference into evidence of national fitness and social exclusion.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

SSC 229

Brianna Portaluppi

College of the Canyons

Mentor: Kathryn McGill-Gartner

The Effect of Diagnosis on Likeability of Autistic Individuals

An experiment to gauge whether Autistic individuals are seen as less likeable if they don't disclose their diagnosis.

Diana Midyan

LA Pierce College

Mentor: Christine Ersig-Marcus

Attachment, Perception, and Conflict: Understanding Relationship Dynamics Through a Literature Review

Explores how attachment styles drive romantic conflict to reveal how internal working models shape communication, emotional responses, and relationship satisfaction across various couples.

Alilah Mora De Jesus

Chaffey College

Mentor: Nicole Barbari

The Psychological Foundation of the Human-Animal Bond: Attachment, Empathy, Stress Regulation, and Evolutionary Roots

This paper analyzes the human–animal bond, showing how attachment, empathy, and evolution shape meaningful interspecies relationships that enhance mental health, emotional regulation, and overall well-being.

Justin Tzu-Hung Tsai

College of the Canyons

Mentor: Nadia Monosov

Identifying Psychological Characteristics and Team Dynamics that Distinguish Championship-Caliber Sports Teams from Average and Underperforming Teams And What They Reveal About Success in the Workforce

This examines how conscientiousness, collective efficacy, and team cohesion relate to championship-level team success and evaluates whether these psychological factors outweigh structural advantages including payroll.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

SSC 235

Zoey Spicer

Fullerton College

Mentor: Alexander Scott

Racial Capitalism: Dominance, Inequality, and Abolitionist Resistance

Racial capitalism roots U.S. inequality in racial hierarchy and profit, evolving from Europe through slavery, reconstruction, and mass incarceration, demanding collective resistance and abolitionist transformation.

Zachariah McCarty

Fullerton College

Mentor: Christian Duran

An Inspection of the Empty Plate Policy

Examines sustained harm (2019-2025) of Trump administration's 2019 public charge rule on food security and healthcare access for Latinos seeking permanent residency.

Caesar Jimenez

MiraCosta College

Mentor: Alexis Tucker Sade

Left Behind in Quarantine: How Race, Poverty, and Policy Shaped Unequal Vaccine Access in the US

How these inequalities are affecting communities as a way to minimize and reduce them in a way/ unequal treatment due to race.

Da'Non Elliott

Compton College

Mentors: Bradfield Conn and Nathan Lopez

From the Wretched of the Earth: Interpreting Fanon's White Masks in Black Conservatism

This research seeks to deconstruct the formation and misinterpretations of Black conservatism in U.S politics through the lens of Frantz Fanon's Black Skin, White Masks.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

SSC 308

Mireia Martin Declara

El Camino College

Mentor: Orion Teal

Beyond the Barbed Wire: Post-Internment Exploitation and the Forgotten Struggles of Japanese Americans

While Japanese Internment camps closed in 1945, the overlooked aftermath remained: decades of labor exploitation, cultural erasure, and intergenerational trauma.

Zaynah Robb

El Camino College

Mentor: Brittany Hubble

From Slur to Aesthetic: The Commodification of Black Vernacular Speech in Pop Culture

Explore how Black vernacular speech changes from cultural expression to commercial aesthetic in pop culture, revealing who profits when Black language becomes a marketable trend.

Yanitzy Alatorre

LA Pierce College

Mentor: Christine Ersig-Marcus

The Impact of Cultural Differences in Mixed Status Latino Family Communication

The negative impacts on family communication caused by the cultural differences between Latino-American immigrant parents keeping tradition and their 2nd-generation children adapting to American ideals.

Pamela Mancilla

Moreno Valley College

Mentor: James Bany

“He Would Wake Up From Nightmares About His Father”: Immigration Enforcement and the Mental Health Crisis Amongst Hispanic Children of Immigrants

This paper analyzes the connection between immigration enforcement, general discrimination, and their effects on the mental health of children of immigrants.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

SSC 316

Mona Sayedsalim
Fullerton College
Mentor: Christian Duràn

Israeli Suppression of Palestinian Writers and Cultural Memory
Presentation examines how Israeli policies suppress and target Palestinian authors, showing literature as a tool of resistance, maintaining identity, and the struggle over historical narrative.

Michael Davis
Moreno Valley College
Mentor: Larisa Broyles

Culture Shock: Cross-Cultural Learning in Kenya
A reflective anthropological analysis of how culture shock in Kenya reshaped my understanding of identity, privilege, global inequality, and the transformative power of cross-cultural learning.

Elena Zamani
Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Kay Ryals

The Unseen Burden: Cultural Expectations and First-Gen Psychological Strain
Examines how cultural expectations drive stress, anxiety, and identity conflict in first-generation adults by synthesizing U.S. research on intergenerational pressure, mental health, stigma, and underuse.

Alisha Singh
LA Pierce College
Mentor: Erin Hayes

Neuroscience of Brand Loyalty: Why Consumers Stick to Certain Brands
As brands enter the competitive market, businesses utilize neuroscience to understand consumer emotions and behaviors, strengthening attachment and influencing purchasing decisions through targeted marketing strategies.

Session 3: Oral Presentations

12:45-2:00 pm

SSC 335

Kloe Situ

Las Positas College

Mentor: Jeremiah Bodnar

Using W.D. Ross' Ethical Pluralism to Solve the Existential Threats from Superintelligence

This presentation explores the numerous threats posed by super intelligent artificial intelligence and aims to provide an alternate solution to these ethical and moral questions.

Alvira Salman and Wendy Dinh

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Michael Salviani

Lost in Translation: Using Diverse Training Data to Combat Gender Bias in AI Voice Recognition Systems

Automatic speech recognition systems interpret male voices with higher accuracy than female voices, but this bias can be mitigated by using more diverse training data.

Stephen Reid and Jonathan Darling

Santiago Canyon College

Mentor: Tiffany Gause

Selling the Bet: Marketing Strategies Behind Destructive Online Prediction Platforms

This research examines how online predictive betting apps exploit young men through the use of marketing tactics.

Wenli Wang

San Bernardino Valley College

Mentor: Melissa King

Applying Practice Theory to AI-Human Relationality in Visual Art

AI-human collaboration in visual art reveals how creative intelligence emerges from relational practices where algorithms, materials, and human intentions dynamically intertwine to shape artistic production.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

HUB 260

Tingyu Lee and Anna Pak

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Jeffrey Johnson

Is US Healthcare a Scam? Exploring the Commercialization of Healthcare's Impacts on Middle Class Americans

This study examines how the United States' commercialization of healthcare leaves middle class Americans struggling to pay medical bills despite high spending on each individual.

Sam Baek and Maesun Chi

Fullerton College
Mentor: Kathryn Turley-Sonne

The Pulse Progress

AI's rapid growth is transforming healthcare, improving access, efficiency, and diagnosis while raising economic, legal, and ethical challenges analyzed through healthcare, economic, and regulatory perspectives.

Lorry Nam

Mt. San Antonio College
Mentor: Cathy Stute

Rethinking Large-Scale AI Data Collection: Technology, Ethics, and Law in Artificial Intelligence

This paper examines AI data collection through legal and ethical lenses, exploring how methodologies undermine intellectual property and privacy rights under existing regulatory gaps.

Rachel Wang

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Michael Salviani

Which Ways of Feeding PTaaS Findings into SIEM/SOAR/UEBA Can Produce Reductions in False Positives and Exploitation in Banking?

This research shows integrating PTaaS with SIEM, UEBA, and SOAR strengthens detection, reduces false positives, lowers financial losses, and enhances proactive cybersecurity for financial institutions.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

HUB 265

Malachi Williams
Crafton Hills College
Mentor: T.L. Brink

Political Orientation and Public Support for Global Warming Mitigation

A study examining demographic and political predictors of climate mitigation support, highlighting expected and unexpected findings revealed through correlation and Bayesian sequential analysis.

Hassan Mekky
Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Shirin Sahani

Climate Change Logging and Governments: Why the Solomon Islands has a Higher Rate of Logging and Deforestation compared to Papua New Guinea

Qualitative analysis evaluating three interlocking drivers; governance quality, institutional capacity, and economic diversification. Moreover, implications for globalization and fighting climate change in the tropics region.

Andrew McKinnell
MiraCosta College
Mentor: Kristen Gonzales

Climate Change and Conditionality: How the IMF's Policies Reinforce Global Inequality

This statistical analysis examines how the International Monetary Fund's conditionalities reinforce the Global South's economic dependence on extractive industries through the lens of dependency theory.

Michelle Ibanez
Long Beach City College
Mentor: Kimberly Davis

Embedded Technologies: Ethical Implications of the Tech Sector's Role in Governance and Society

This research explores how deeply the tech sector has become embedded into systems of governance and its impact on society and environmental scale.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

HUB 268

Ixchel Valiente

Los Angeles City College

Mentor: Sara Mortimer-Boyd

Discussing Emily Dickinson's Irregular Spelling and the Significance of Linguistic Varieties and Diversity

Dickinson's unique spelling choices are analyzed and compared to contemporary geographical discrepancies regarding Spanish words to advocate for linguistic varieties and diversity in literature.

Aleyda Roman

West Los Angeles College

Mentor: Stella Setka

Gothic Mansions and the Women They Shape: A Study of Rebecca (1940) and Dragonwyck (1946)

I analyze Rebecca (1940) and Dragonwyck (1946) to show how Gothic mansions shape each heroine's emotions and identity through atmosphere, visual framing, and inherited expectations.

Roselynd Lopez-Ortega

Victor Valley College

Mentor: Tim Adell

Disregarding Corruption in Animal Farm

Donkey's dismissive role in Animal Farm only helps develop the corruption within the storyline. His lack of action represents who we have developed throughout time.

Tania Chiovato Rambaldo

Pasadena City College

Mentor: Keith Williams

Shop Till You Disappear: Predatory Consumerism in Machado's "Real Women Have Bodies"

Capitalist patriarchy physically consumes women in Machado's horror story "Real Women Have Bodies," in which women become incorporeal and are sewn into commercially successful dresses.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

HUB 269

Camila Pardini

LA Plerce College

Mentor: Erin Hayes

Social Media and Its Effect On Social Development in Children

The shift of entertainment in the 2000s to now taking a toll on social development of children influencing how they communicate, form identifies, behave socially.

Alexandra Areces

Fullerton College

Mentor: Alexander Scott

The Impact of Social Media on Modern Dating: A Review of the Sociological Research Literature on Young Adults

A review of the sociological research literature on young adults.

Krisan Doshi

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Emily Liu

“You Look Lonely...I Can Fix That”: How the Normalization of Relationships with Artificial Intelligence Will Make Humans Take a Dark Social Turn in the Future

AI chatbots for social relationships were analyzed to understand what it is that attracts users who use it to cope with their social situation.

E.F. Watson

Los Angeles City College

Mentor: Jill Biondo

The Rise of AIPV: Artificial Intimate Partner Violence

Romantic relationships with Artificial Intelligence programs are on the rise; the darker side is already showing in reports of intimate partner violence against “AI girlfriends”.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

HUB 355

Zachary Petlin

College of the Canyons

Mentor: Patricia Foley

Optimizing Energy Capture Through Magnet Orientation in an Electric Generator

This project demonstrates how simply manipulating the magnets inside generators can improve their energy outputs, revealing a simple yet powerful way to enhance energy efficiency.

Luka Krezovic

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Zahra Noroozi

Taming Vietnam's Iron Spine: Designing and Optimizing Operations for the Hanoi–Ho Chi Minh City High-Speed Railway

Operating Vietnam's proposed high-speed railway, an optimized model accounting for geometric improvement, speed modeling, traffic simulation and logistical capabilities visualize the impact of the project.

Aagneya Shrivastav

Chaffey College

Mentor: Julie Song

Analogies Between Quantum Uncertainty and Timing Noise in Pulsar Timing Arrays

This paper introduces an uncertainty-based measurement limit for pulsar timing arrays, showing how timing noise constrains gravitational-wave sensitivity and offering a framework for PTA precision.

Sydney Hoang

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Lan Pham

Using Recombination Markov Chains to Examine Locality Splitting in 2025 Redistricting Policies

While proposed redistricting policies may appear geographically compact when examined under a geometric lens, demographic analysis reveals smaller-scale packing and cracking accomplished via locality splits.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

HUB 367

Perah Ralin

Pasadena City College

Mentor: Shane Underwood

From Consumerism to Cultivation: The Insufficiency of Cultivated Meat as a Remedy to Overconsumption and an Alternative Proposal

Lab-grown meat perpetuates consumption culture; raising and slaughtering chickens broadens consumers' view of chicken beyond simply product.

Jeremiah Herrera

El Camino College

Mentor: Mora Mattern

The Relationship Between Athletic Pressure in Sports and Emotional Resilience Outside Athletic Environments

Athletic pressure can help athletes deal with real-world problems by strengthening their ability to overcome tension within their sport, proving its positive impact beyond sports.

Cristobal Duran

Long Beach City College

Mentor: Jeff Wheeler

From Lattes to Community: Inside the Third-Space Coffee Movement

The study's purpose is to understand how certain coffee shops thrive in certain environments and provide a third space rather than a one stop shop.

Emily Munoz

Norco College

Mentors: Jude Whitton and Cameron Young

CMM in Animal Care Systems: Exploring Meaning-Making and Tensions in Narratives of Care

Through CMM: This project traces tensions in animal care systems where division between coherence and coordination from lived occurrences reshapes public meaning and institutional accountability.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

HUB 379

Nichelle Spencer
Compton College
Mentor: David Chavez

Cries From Our Mothers: Unpacking Slave Narratives to Heal the Wounds of Black Women in the U.S. Healthcare System

Analyzing the narratives of enslaved women reveal a legacy of trauma affecting Black maternal health outcomes in the U.S. healthcare system.

Lety Lozano
San Bernardino Valley College
Mentor: Melissa King

Maternal Health and Evolution

Maternal health is affected by evolutionary tradeoffs and lifestyle mismatches often overlooked in medical practice, and education about this can promote women's greater well-being.

Melody Hernandez
LA Pierce College
Mentor: Christine Ersig-Marcus

Doctor-Patient Communication in Schizophrenia Care: Transparency, Bedside Manners, and Negotiation

How can doctors effectively communicate with patients with schizophrenia? This research paper highlights the importance of transparency, strong bedside manners, and the opportunity for negotiation.

Fahima Karim
Saddleback College
Mentor: Anthony Szczurek

Mandatory Time Outdoors for Early Onset Myopia Prevention

A statewide initiative requiring outdoor learning to utilize natural light's protective effects on children's vision, reducing early-onset myopia while enhancing academic engagement and overall well-being.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

SSC MPR 1

Inika Joshi

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Kristen Skjonsby

From Chalkboards to Chatbots: The Direction of Technology and AI in Undergraduate STEM Education

This research explores how technology has shaped undergraduate STEM education, addressing student learning, accessibility, ethical concerns, and the necessity of integrating AI literacy curricula.

Asra Jafri

Moreno Valley College

Mentor: Lauren Johnson

Student Loan Debt: Impacts and Solutions

This paper considers the negative impact of student loan debt on college-going individuals and advocates for financial literacy programs as a viable solution.

Ryan Sutedja and Mamudul Rashid

Pasadena City College

Mentor: Jeffrey Cole

The Price of Pragmatism: Implicit Academic Identity Dissonance and Satisfaction in Community College Students

Our pilot study examines whether misalignment between community college students' implicit identity and major is associated with reduced satisfaction, integrating subconscious measures with social-psychological frameworks.

Nemo Engersbach

Mt. San Antonio College

Mentor: Misty Kolchakian

The Relationship Between Sense of Belonging and Ethnocultural Identity and Campus Engagement in College Students

This research determined significant relationships between strength of personal ethnocultural identity and sense of belonging with implications as to institutional responsibility and individual academic success.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

SSC MPR 2

Beck Clark

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Joon Kil

Why Does Bangladesh Have More Child Brides Compared to Indonesia?

The research investigates why Bangladesh's child marriage rates remain higher than Indonesia comparing 5-year cross data on national poverty rates, compulsory education, and birth-registration enforcement.

Amber Joy Flores

MiraCosta College

Mentor: Alexis Tucker Sade

Western Democracy and Postcolonial Governance in Ghana

Failed NGO projects in Ghana-- exploring cultural context, collaboration, funding, technology, and coordination.

Fanni Nagy

Pasadena City College

Mentor: Azniv Mekhitarian

State Propaganda and Narrative Control in Orbán's Hungary

The Silent Machine: How Hungary's propaganda crafts reality, shapes minds, and cloaks power in democracy's disguise.

Dineth Gonapoladeniyage

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Joon Kil

South Korea and Sri Lanka: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Factors Leading to Differences in GDP per Capita from 1970 to 2010

Due to several factors, South Korea has had a higher gross domestic product per capita than Sri Lanka from 1970 to the present.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

SSC MPR 3

Julia Terzian

Glendale Community College
Mentor: Michael Harnett

The Biology of Beats: The Physiological Impact of Music on Autonomic and Cardiovascular Function

This research studies the impact of listening to upbeat and calming music on blood pressure and heart rate, highlighting ANS activation and cardiovascular stimulation.

Jake Olson

Mt. San Jacinto College
Mentors: Nick Reeves and Alexander Michkov

Can Using the Sauna Extend your Life?

A molecular analysis of the effects of heat shock on the expression of longevity-associated gene NAMPT.

Ryka Rohith

Irvine Valley College
Mentor: Marni Fisher

Genetic Engineering: Rewriting the Way Life is Defined

This research investigates how genetic engineering impacts modern medicine by contrasting new and traditional methods, exploring ethical concerns, access disparities, and shifts in public health.

Elvis Chen

Los Angeles Harbor College
Mentor: Joachin Arias

Exploring the Anti-Cancer Properties of Curcumin and Its Potential for Developing Cancer Treatment

Cancer is the leading cause of death in most countries. While current medicines come with intense side effects, plant-based treatment might be a solution.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

SSC 216

Jayden Shields

Norco College

Mentor: Timothy Russell

Chained to the Binary: Colonialism and Transphobia in the United States

An exploration of colonial involvement in enforcing the Eurocentric gender binary and its influence on modern transphobia.

Ashley Rivera

Compton College

Mentor: Nathan Lopez

Policing Poverty: Vagrancy Laws and Early Roots of Mass Incarceration in Los Angeles, 1877-1900

This study shows how vagrancy laws in nineteenth-century Los Angeles built a system that punished poverty to protect wealth, influencing modern policing of unhoused populations.

Elias Funez

San Bernardino Valley College

Mentor: Ed Gomez

Burning Down the House: The Consequences of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Erasure

U.S. Forest Service land management policies following the Great Fire of 1910 erased Native American ecological knowledge, a history with implications for future land management.

Terrance Floyd

Compton College

Mentor: Nathan Lopez

Olympic Security, Police Terror: Militarized Policing in Black South Los Angeles, 1985-1992

Deindustrialization, the crack epidemic, and the 1984 Olympic security fueled a hyper-militarization of the police that criminalized Black South Los Angeles through brutally repressive raids.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

SSC 229

Kelsey Allison

Santiago Canyon College

Mentor: Lynnette Beers-McCormick

“I Like This Font Best”: How Typeface Influences Our Decisions

Typeface shapes decisions, consumer behavior, and brand perception by influencing people, revealing how design choices influence judgment and thus calls for greater need for awareness.

Desmond Strobel

West Los Angeles College

Mentor: Shantel Thornton

The Invisible Currents of Thought: How Emotion Guides Our Decisions and Perceptions

This project explores how emotion-driven cognitive biases, including the affect heuristic and halo effect, shape judgment and perception, explaining why people misjudge and act irrationally.

Elisa Yasmin Figueroa Estrada

Los Angeles City College

Mentor: Brian Bartelt

Together Alone: An Analysis of the Red Pill’s Digital Cult Indoctrination System

This presentation anthropologically analyzes the Red Pill movement’s digital cult indoctrination system and thought reform using behavioral neuroscience research and unethical social media marketing strategies.

Sophia Gwin

Pasadena City College

Mentor: Monica Coto

Examining the Post-COVID-19 Neurocognitive Decline in Adolescents: Rising Depression, Anxiety, and Brain Aging

Review of COVID-19’s cognitive toll on children and adolescents, highlighting post-pandemic rises in depression, anxiety, and developmental decline among teens and effects on learning, behavior.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

SSC 235

Pearl Hsieh

Pasadena City College

Mentor: Shane Underwood

Scripted Consent: The Limits of Online Consent Training Modules in Addressing the Complexity of Sexual Communication Among UC Undergraduates

This project proposes a cost-effective, performance-based sexual violence and harassment workshop as an immersive, performance-art-based alternative to online modules for UC student orientation.

Theodore Grimm

Fullerton College

Mentor: Alexander Scott

Understanding Unhoused Transgender Populations

This project examines unhoused transgender people's experiences, analyzing housing barriers, discrimination, transmisogyny, and reentry strategies, comparing them with cisgender unhoused populations to improve housing support.

Celicia Sandoval

Citrus College

Mentors: Jennifer MillerThayer and

Rosemarie Salaiz

Power and Perception: Exploring Gender Dynamics, Structural Violence, and Intersectionality in Adult Entertainment

Through an anthropological lens, this study examines intersectionality, structural violence, and gender dynamics in adult entertainment, highlighting cultural attitudes and strategies for inclusivity and empowerment.

Ninja Friberg

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Joon Kil

Understanding Gender Inequality: A Comparative Analysis of Denmark and the United States

This paper analyzes why Denmark consistently outperforms the U.S. on the Gender Inequality Index by examining healthcare systems, parental leave policy, and women's workforce integration.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

SSC 308

Kayley Nam

Pasadena City College

Mentors: Sergio Barron and Derek Milne

Behind the Phenomenon of Sephora Kids: The Impacts of Social Media's Production of Young Beauty Consumers

The beauty industry uses social media to target Gen Alpha "Sephora Kids," promoting overconsumption and causing skin damage through misinformation and unethical marketing tactics.

Riley Hahn

Saddleback College

Mentor: Moises Machuca

Digital Witnessing: How Social Media Exposure to Mass School Shootings Impacts Depression in U.S. College Students

This project investigates how algorithm-driven exposure to school shooting content on social media affects college students' mental health, emotional processing, and perceptions of safety.

Yize Yu

Pasadena City College

Mentor: Teejay Brown

Playing Someone Else, Seeing Yourself: Narrative Role-Play Game as a Catalyst for Self-Understanding and Relationship Reflection

Narrative meaning-making of Jubensha uses emotional scaffolding and personalized arcs to elicit empathy, prompting participants to form personal meaning valuable for emotional reflection and self-understanding.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

SSC 316

Alex Sacramento and Nicole Rinaldi

Mt. San Antonio College

Mentor: Carol Impara

Scroll, Click, Repeat: How Social Media Shapes (and Shrinks) Our Attention Spans

Short-form platforms serve as a hub of misinformation because they are manipulated by users and the algorithm to elicit an emotional reaction and encourage sharing.

Ethan Shao

Fullerton College

Mentor: Alexander Scott

Does an Individual's Search for Purpose Lead to Radical Tribal Thinking in the Digital Era?

Synthesizing scholarship to determine how the human drive for purpose is warped by social media and tribalism, leading to the adoption of radical ideological beliefs.

Patrick Lenzotti

Pasadena City College

Mentors: Azniv Mekhitarian and Derek Milne

How Social Media Shaped Protest Mobilization in Nepal, September 2025

This study examines how Nepali protesters used social media to resist censorship, coordinate collective action, reshape state responses, and inspire uprisings across regions.

Session 4: Oral Presentations

2:15-3:30 pm

SSC 335

Paul Pham

Irvine Valley College

Mentor: Michael Salviani

Private Tutors Anytime Anywhere: Personalizing NLP Models to Support Uniqueness and Individuality in Higher Education Through Retrieval Augmented and Agentic Systems

With growing Large Language Model use in education, agentic frameworks that utilize multi-model coordination are superior in creating more personalized, effective support systems for students.

Skylar Alksnis

Mt. San Jacinto College

Mentor: Julie Pegg

Is AI Changing the Meaning of Higher Education?

This presentation delves into how AI has changed the foundation of higher education institutions through impacting the meaning that students place on their education.

Gabriel Graves

Riverside City College

Mentor: James Bany

Rights, Risks, and Personhood: The Socio-Political Implications of Artificial Life

Discussion regarding artificial life, Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), and rapid social and political changes in the wake of AI innovations.

Closing Plenary / Awards

3:45-4:30 pm

HUB 302

HTCC Director's Award

Every year, HTCC recognizes a former honors program leader for their contributions to community college honors education. The recipient of the Director's Award announces the first-place winner among the Outstanding Abstract Awards. This year's Director's Award goes to Christopher Sleeper.

Christopher Sleeper, MiraCosta College

Returning to UC Riverside to give the Director's award is a special reunion for Christopher Sleeper. After earning his undergraduate history degree at UC Santa Barbara, Christopher was part of the first class of students to participate in UC Riverside's Early Modern World graduate history program. The coursework and teaching opportunities provided by the history department provided exciting moments to work with amazing faculty like Randy Head, Sharon Salinger, and Ray Kea and developed the skills that resonate in his teaching today. At UC Riverside, Christopher specialized in the early modern world, colonial America, and Atlantic world maritime histories. During his matriculation at UC Riverside, Christopher also worked as a teaching assistant and lecturer. After teaching his first world history courses at Mount San Jacinto College in 2001, he knew that he wanted to pursue a career as a community college professor.

Joining MSJC full-time in 2003, Christopher's favorite committee assignment was the Honors faculty committee. He loved the camaraderie and uniqueness of the program and the special faculty that worked on the committee. Christopher had many mentors that shaped his committee leadership, including Tom Donovan, Erik Ozolins, Michele Stewart, Robin Steinback, Christina Yamanaka, and Ted Blake. In 2008, Christopher took an opportunity to move to MiraCosta College and became its honors coordinator in 2009. Christopher was honors coordinator of the program for 14 years and made the program much larger and more inclusive as part of the 'Honors is for everyone' initiative. Some of his other signature achievements were a new honors contract system, the MiraCosta OMNI student research conference, the Summer Passport bridge program for incoming honors students, and the Honors Navigator student mentor program. Christopher also provided leadership for the Honors Transfer Committee of California (HTCC), serving as vice president, conference program chair, and program editor numerous times. Attending the monthly HTCC meetings was a vital part of his coordinator development, as he learned and grew from working with so many special HTCC directors, including Erik Ozolins and Christina Yamanaka, Alison Primoza, John Oakes, Jodi Balma, Joaquin Arias, Jennifer Saito, Linda Diaz, Kathleen Sell, and Joe Holliday. He also served two years as HTCC treasurer and on many task forces. The HTCC remains his favorite committee that Professor Sleeper has ever served on.

Honors education has been one of Christopher's great passions since he participated in his first honors class in Ms. Durnford's honors English course at Esperanza High School in Anaheim. He is grateful to all the mentors, faculty, and students he has worked with over 30 years in higher education.



Closing Plenary / Awards

3:45-4:30 pm

HUB 302

Outstanding Poster Awards

Posters are judged on visual presentation, creativity, originality and reflection of sound scholarship. First, second, and third-place awards will be given for research posters in two categories, based on discipline.

HTCC Director's Award

The Honors Transfer Council of California confers its Directors Award annually to the student who has submitted the finest presentation abstract and has been judged as exemplifying the qualities of an outstanding honors student. The Director's Award is presented by a former honors program leader who HTCC recognizes for their contributions to community college honors education.

Outstanding Abstract Awards

Outstanding abstract awards are presented to oral presenters who have submitted top-rated abstracts describing their research projects. The abstracts are judged on organization, quality of writing, and originality and importance of the research. The most highly ranked Outstanding Abstract earns the HTCC Director's Award.

Exemplary Achievement Scholarships

The Honors Transfer Council of California gives awards to students graduating this year who show extraordinary achievement in scholarship, especially related to performance in an honors program. Students must be nominated by their honors director. These students display exceptional perseverance in overcoming obstacles to success in college or in an honors program. They have given outstanding service to their college or community or distinguished themselves as leaders in cultural or athletic activities. Finally, their application essays reveal a high quality of thought and expression.

Juan Lara Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Juan Lara created a scholarship to give special honor to a student who has overcome great financial, personal, cultural, or other obstacles to achieve significant success as an honors student. Candidates have been nominated by their honors directors for the Exemplary Achievement Scholarship. With this award, we also honor the memory of Juan Lara, former Assistant Vice Chancellor of UC Irvine, who was always a generous supporter of this conference and of our efforts to serve community college honors students. As an energetic and inspirational Director for the UCI Center for Educational Partnerships, Dr. Lara created opportunities for countless non-traditional students, leading them to seek – and attain – the highest success in their academic lives and career.

Conference Publication: *Building Bridges*

Every year, the HTCC publishes its award-winning abstracts as well as others submitted for publication. Contact Tim Adell at Tim.Adell@vc.edu for information.

Final Thanks

We thank all of you who shared your research with us today! Thank you to our intrepid moderators, who made each session more welcoming and well managed. Thank you also to all students, faculty, and administrators who came to hear the best in community college research.

Faculty Mentors

Finally, join us in thanking the faculty who mentored all this research! The individuals below are some of the hardest-working, most dedicated faculty at the California community colleges.

Tim Adell, Victor Valley College
Selene Aguirre, Compton College
Amir Ahsan, Irvine Valley College
Can Aksoy, Los Angeles City College
Lucy Alamillo, El Camino College
Myhanh Anderson, East Los Angeles College
Daniel Ante-Contreras, MiraCosta College
Jochin Arias, Los Angeles Harbor College
Jamal Ashraf, Pasadena City College
Cheryl Bailey, Irvine Valley College
Jodi Balma, Fullerton College
Joy Balta, Pasadena City College
James Bany, Moreno Valley College
Daniela Barajas, Santa Ana College
Nicole Barbari, Chaffey College
Sergio Barron, Pasadena City College
Brian Bartelt, Los Angeles City College
Lynnette Beers-McCormick, Santiago Canyon College
Brad Bettridge, Las Positas College
Jayesh Bhakta, Los Angeles City College
Jill Biondo, Los Angeles City College
Kai Blaisdell, Las Positas College
Jillian Blatti, Pasadena City College
Michael Bobo, Norco College
Jeremiah Bodnar, Las Positas College
Darren Borg, LA Pierce COLLEGE
Rayya Bourche, Irvine Valley College
T.L. Brink, Crafton Hills College
Teejay Brown, Pasadena City College
Larisa Broyles, Moreno Valley College
Stephanie Burnham, El Camino College
Carrie Canales, West Los Angeles College
Melinda Capes, Los Angeles City College
David Chavez, Compton College
Teresa Ciardi, College of the Canyons
Dana Clahane, Fullerton College
Jeffrey Cole, Pasadena City College
Mark Collinson, Irvine Valley College
Bradfield Conn, Compton College
Monica Coto, Pasadena City College
Sarah Crachiolo-Garcia, Los Angeles City College
Carol Damgen, San Bernardino Valley College
Dat Quoc Dang, East Los Angeles College
John Davis, Pasadena City College
Kimberly Davis, Long Beach City College
William Dewan, Long Beach City College
Chase Dimock, College of the Canyons
Sheilah Dobyons, Fullerton College
Keith Donavan, Irvine Valley College
Theodore Donnell, Pasadena City College
Christian Duràn, Fullerton College
Jacob Eagleton, Irvine Valley College
Ahrazad Encinias, Fullerton College
Christine Ersig-Marcus, LA Pierce College
Marni Fisher, Irvine Valley College
Maria Fitzpatrick, Chaffey College
Patricia Foley, College of the Canyons
Carrie Frates, Las Positas College
David Fretz, Irvine Valley College
Eric Garcia, Irvine Valley College
Roberto Garcia, El Camino College
Tiffany Gause, Santiago Canyon College

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Finally, join us in thanking the faculty who mentored all this research! The individuals below are some of the hardest-working, most dedicated faculty at the California community colleges.

Adam Ghuloum, Irvine Valley College
Chet Glaze, Mt. San Jacinto College
Kanya Godde-Chrisco, Moreno Valley College
Ed Gomez, San Bernardino Valley College
Kristen Gonzales, MiraCosta College
Sara Gonzalez, Santiago Canyon College
Carrie Goulding, Irvine Valley College
Matthew Hacholski, Long Beach City College
Michael Harnett, Glendale Community College
Erin Hayes, LA Pierce College
Christina Heisser, Los Angeles City College
Rosalee Hellberg, Citrus College
Steve Hellerman, Crafton Hills College
Sashur Henninger, Pasadena City College
Amy Himself, El Camino College
Lauren Hofschneider, Los Angeles City College
Robert Hollenbaugh, Irvine Valley College
Bryant Horowitz, East Los Angeles College
Mandy Hsia, Mt. San Antonio College
Brittany Hubble, El Camino College
Carol Impara, Mt. San Antonio College
Payal Jain, West Los Angeles College
Tina Jenkins, Saddleback College
Rebecca Johannsen, Pasadena City College
Jeffrey Johnson, Irvine Valley College
Lauren Johnson, Moreno Valley College
Marina Juarez, East Los Angeles College
Aron Kamajaya, LA Pierce College
Rosie Kar, Fullerton College
Joon Kil, Irvine Valley College
Melissa King, San Bernardino Valley College

Misty Kolchakian, Mt. San Antonio College
Leonard Lamp, Irvine Valley College
Katherine LaTourrette, West Los Angeles College
Ho Jin Lee, Irvine Valley College
Michelle Lee, Pasadena City College
Mary Legner, Riverside City College
Emily Liu, Irvine Valley College
Delores Loedel, MiraCosta College
Lewis Long, Irvine Valley College
Nathan Lopez, Compton College
My Vo Luong, Irvine Valley College
Moises Machuca, Irvine Valley College
Ali Madanipour, Pasadena City College
Mora Mattern, El Camino College
Kathryn McGill-Gartner, College of the Canyons
Azniv Mekhitarian, Pasadena City College
Alexander Michkov, Mt. San Jacinto College
Jennifer MillerThayer, Citrus College
Amy Mills, San Bernardino Valley College
Derek Milne, Pasadena City College
Nadia Monosov, College of the Canyons
Genesis Montalvo, Pasadena City College
Cesar Montenegro, Irvine Valley College
Christina Moorhead, Long Beach City College
Sara Mortimer-Boyd, Los Angeles City College
Tissa Munasinghe, Los Angeles Harbor College
Allison Murray, Long Beach City College
Theresa Murray, Las Positas College
Alex Nguyen, Saddleback College
Zahra Noroozi, Irvine Valley College
Briana Ovbude, Mt. San Jacinto College

Faculty Mentors

Finally, join us in thanking the faculty who mentored all this research! The individuals below are some of the hardest-working, most dedicated faculty at the California community colleges.

Julie Peggar, Mt. San Jacinto College

Lan Pham, Irvine Valley College

Kathleen Pickham, MiraCosta College

Selene Pineda, Chaffey College

Michael Plotkin, Mt. San Jacinto College

Ashton Politanoff, Cypress College

Sandra Popiden, Norco College

Areej Qasqas, Citrus College

Geetha Rajaram, Long Beach City College

Marco Randazzo, Irvine Valley College

Nick Reeves, Mt. San Jacinto College

Spencer Robins, Saddleback College

Peter Rodriguez, Citrus College

Timothy Russell, Norco College

Kay Ryals, Irvine Valley College

Sarah Sabet, Mt. San Antonio College

Shirin Sahani, Irvine Valley College

Rosemarie Salaiz, Citrus College

Michael Salviani, Irvine Valley College

Ivan Sanchez, Mt. San Antonio College

Deanna Scherger, Irvine Valley College

Alexander Scott, Fullerton College

Daniel Scott, Irvine Valley College

David Sedghi, Los Angeles City College

Stella Setka, West Los Angeles College

Alec Sim, Irvine Valley College

Kristen Skjonsby, Irvine Valley College

Christopher Sleeper, MiraCosta College

Julie Song, Chaffey College

Kathryn Sonne, Cypress College

Sara Sparks, MiraCosta College

Jacob Strona, MiraCosta College

Cathy Stute, Mt. San Antonio College

Ryan Sullivan, Mt. San Jacinto College

Anthony Szczurek, Saddleback College

Erin Tate, Citrus College

Orion Teal, El Camino College

Christian Teeter, Irvine Valley College

Shelley Thai, Glendale Community College

Shantel Thornton, West Los Angeles College

Rikki Tremblay, Moreno Valley College

Kari Tucker, Irvine Valley College

Alexis Tucker Sade, MiraCosta College

Shane Underwood, Pasadena City College

Benjamin Vargas, Irvine Valley College

William Vega, West Los Angeles College

Karla Villatoro, El Camino College

Lori Walker, Mt. San Antonio College

Nancy Wang Yuen, Crafton Hills College

Noorullah Wardak, Las Positas College

Joanna Werner-Fraczek, Moreno Valley College

Jeff Wheeler, Long Beach City College

Karen Whitney, El Camino College

Jude Whitton, Norco College

Keith Williams, Pasadena City College

Arianna Yates, El Camino College

Nicholaus Yee, Irvine Valley College

Cameron Young, Norco College