uci anthropologists ask questions like:

✓ How does poverty literally make people sick?
✓ How does the Internet shape how we understand everything from space to the self?
✓ How has traditional Chinese medicine turned into a multibillion-dollar global industry?
✓ How do society and culture impact drug addiction?

their cutting-edge research on social issues takes place around the world

UCI anthropologists link emergent ways of thinking and living to histories of colonialism, economic interchange and mediated communication.

Innovative research has taken UCI anthropologists everywhere from markets in Egypt, design studios in Sweden, the borderlands of the U.S.–Mexico, and the transnational network of Hyderabidis, to virtual worlds in cyberspace to better understand global cultures and societal norms.

UCI anthropologists have discovered a link between poverty and diabetes, answers to how and why identities that at first appear “Western” take on new forms around the world, and new ways in which communications technology remakes money. The department ranks at the top of the field nationally, and fourth in the world in publishing findings in the top three anthropological journals.

More than 200 undergrads and 45 grads annually major in anthropology where they study alongside the department’s faculty experts in areas of gender issues; virtual worlds; immigration; science, medicine and technology; markets and finance; ethnomusicology; and transnationalism.
alumni & rankings:
Undergraduate and graduate alumni have gone on to pursue careers in academic and professional environments including:
- Cal State Long Beach
- Rice University
- Smith College
- Swiss Academy of Sciences
- Texas A&M
- Unesco
- UC Riverside
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Wisconsin

The Center for Public Anthropology ranks the anthropology graduate program 8th in the country.

faculty

Olufunmilayo Arewa (Ph.D., UC Berkeley; J.D., Harvard)
intellectual property, copyright, copyright and the entertainment industries, corporate and securities laws, private equity, entrepreneurship, africa

Victoria Bernal (Ph.D., Northwestern)
gender, war, cyberspace, transnationalism, africa

Susan Bibler Coutin (Ph.D., Stanford)
immigration, human rights, el salvador, central america

Tom Boellstorff (Ph.D., Stanford)
gay and lesbian studies, cyberspace, indonesia

Geoffrey Bowker (Ph.D., University of Melbourne)
information infrastructure, digital resources, web

Leo Chavez (Ph.D., Stanford)
immigration, media, medicine, chicano/latino studies

Julia Elyachar (Ph.D., Harvard)
markets, microcredit, neoliberalism, egypt

Robert Garfias (Ph.D., UCLA)
ethnomusicology, arts and expressive culture, turkey

David T. Goldberg (Ph.D., City University of New York)
race and racism, social and political theory, social-legal studies/law and society, south africa

Mizuko Ito (Ph.D., Stanford)
youth technology usage and media consumption

Anjela Jenks (Ph.D., Stanford)
youth technology usage and media consumption

Karen Leonard (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin)
south asians, muslim americans, migration, religion

Lilith Mahmud–Abdelwahab (Ph.D., Harvard)
secret societies, gender, nationalism, race, citizenship

George Marcus (Ph.D., Harvard)
elites, ethnography and cultural critique, pacific

Bill Maurer (Ph.D., Stanford)
money and finance, law and culture, caribbean

Michael Montoya (Ph.D., Stanford)
diabetes, medical anthro, health, chicano/latino studies

Keith Murphy (Ph.D., UCLA)
linguistics, design, aesthetics and morality, sweden

Valerie Olson (Ph.D., Rice)
environmental and medical anthro, u.s., mexico, europe

Kristin Peterson (Ph.D., Rice)
science and tech, feminism, pharmaceuticals, west africa

Roxanne Varzi (Ph.D., Columbia)
youth, memories of war, religion, film, iran

Roger Walsh (Ph.D. & M.D., University of Queensland, Australia)
psychological causes and consequences of sustainability issues

Mei Zhan (Ph.D., Stanford)
medical anthro, chinese medicine, globalization, china

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UC cultural anthropologist Mimi Ito studies how digital media are changing the way today’s plugged-in youth live and learn.