

COMMITTEE ON FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURE
Annual Report 2021-2022

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

The Committee on the Faculty Research Lecture (CFRL) enthusiastically nominates Anna Tsing, Professor of Anthropology, affiliate faculty of Feminist Studies and Environmental Studies, as the 56th Faculty Research Lecturer.

Professor Tsing's work addresses global interconnections in situated ways, using immersion in particular places or sets of social relations to see how the global is rooted in what happens in particular places. She emphasizes the art of noticing, to get beyond our familiar lenses such as the narrative of progress, to notice the many things we don't pay attention to.

For example, in studying the timber trade, she stated that it "was very much a multinational, globe-crossing trade. But it seemed to me that to understand what was going on, you really had to see how particular places and their dynamics *made* it happen; that everything that we saw as global is always *rooted*." Through her work, Professor Tsing underlines the interdependence of all beings, in the anthropocene, which leads to her calls for the importance of bringing social justice and environmental justice together.

Deftly bridging and expanding fields of the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, and the arts, Professor Tsing's research focuses on culture and politics, which includes feminist theory; globalization; multi-species anthropology; social landscapes and forest ethnologies; and both immersive and multi-sited ethnography, in Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and the U.S. Professor Tsing's fluid, interdisciplinary scholarship and research practice is internationally renowned for mapping and articulating the global in the local, and also identifying the frictions through which intercommunal histories are made. Her work explores the global dilemmas of diversity or, as she phrases it, the "emergent, 'contaminated' diversity of the present." This research helped her secure a 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship for her project, *On the Circulation of Species: The Persistence of Diversity*. She is also recognized as one of six international scholars to win a \$5 million Niels Bohr Professorship from the Danish National Research Foundation.

Among Professor Tsing's distinguished and definitive research are her explorations of the impact of the Anthropocene, the geologic epoch defined by human disturbance of the earth's ecosystems. She studies the global scientific, ecological and commercial impact of trade in matsutake mushrooms on communities from Oregon to Lapland to Yunnan. Typifying Professor Tsing's attention to articulating the global in the local, the study itself was the impetus of her establishing the collaborative Matsutake Worlds Research Group. In addition, from 2013 to 2018, Tsing was also named the director of a new transdisciplinary program at Aarhus University that encompasses the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, and the arts in an exploration of the Anthropocene, even more globally.

Professor Tsing is the author of *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen* (Princeton University Press, 1994), winner of the Henry J. Benda Prize in Southeast Asian Studies, and *Friction: An*

Ethnography of Global Connection (Princeton University Press, 2005), which the American Ethnological Society honored with its Senior Book Award.

In addition to over forty articles, published in such journals as *Cultural Anthropology* and *Southeast Asian Studies Bulletin* and in numerous anthologies, Professor Tsing has also co-edited five anthologies, including *Communities and Conservation: Histories and Politics of Community-Based Natural Resource Management* (with J. Peter Brosius and Charles Zerner) (Altamira Press, 2005) and, most recently, *Words in Motion: Towards a Global Lexicon* (with Carol Gluck) (Duke UP, 2009). Her work has also garnered many other prizes, including a Huxley Medal from the Royal Anthropological Institute, the Julian Steward Award from the Anthropology and Environment Society, and the Victor Turner Award from the Society for Humanistic Anthropology, among others.

Professor Tsing's work has been supported by numerous other esteemed fellowships over her stellar career, including those from the National Institute of Mental Health, SSRC, NEH, American Association of University Women, University of California Humanities Research Institute, and Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences; as well as funding from the University of California Pacific Rim Program and the Toyota Foundation

Professor Tsing was educated at Yale University (B.A., 1973) and Stanford University (M.A., 1976; Ph.D., 1984). On receiving her doctoral degree, she served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder (1984-86) and as an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (1986-89), before joining the faculty at UC Santa Cruz. She has also been a visiting professor at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and Aarhus University in Denmark. In 1994-95, she was a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

At UCSC, Professor Tsing is an integral part of our community, serving on several university-wide development and fundraising committees, curating several conferences and exhibitions in cultural anthropology, and beyond. Her contributions to general education at the undergraduate and graduate levels at our university are stellar, clearly indicated in her roles as either the advisor, co-advisor or committee member for over 50 PhD dissertations. Professor Tsing's outstanding and influential research, writing and teaching—a wide array of exciting, innovative and globally impactful work—clearly indicates the promise of a lively, powerful presentation.

We are proud to nominate Anna Tsing as the 56th Faculty Lecturer.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURE

Ronaldo Wilson, Chair

Luca de Alfaro

Carolyn Dean

Howard Haber

Barbara Rogoff

March 3, 2022