PAST FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURERS

- 2020 Terrie M. Williams
- 2019 Lise Getoor
- 2018 Carl Walsh
- 2017 Sandra Chung
- 2016 Susan Strome
- 2015 Craig Haney
- 2014 Howard Haber and Abraham Seiden
- 2013 Gail Hershatter
- 2012 Steve Vogt
- 2011 Paul Whitworth
- 2010 Daniel Friedman
- 2009 Patricia Zavella
- 2008 Stanford E. Woosley
- 2007 Geoffrey K. Pullum
- 2006 Nathaniel Mackey
- 2005 Mary Silver
- 2004 Barbara Rogoff
- 2002 David Haussler
- 2001 James Clifford
- 2000 David S. Kiger
- 1999 David Cope
- 1998 Adrienne Zihlman
- 1997 Donald E. Osterbrock
- 1996 Donna J. Haraway
- 1995 Harry F. Noller
- 1994 G. William Domhoff
- 1993 Jack Zajac
- 1992 Audrey Stanley
- 1991 Harry Berger, Jr
- 1990 Sandra M. Faber
- 1989 Thomas F. Pettigrew
- 1988 Gerhard Ringel
- 1987 Jean H. Langenhem
- 1986 Richard A. Waserstrom
- 1985 Kenneth S. Norris
- 1984 Hayden White
- 1983 Frank X. Barron
- 1982 Robert E. Garrison
- 1981 Robert P. Kraft
- 1980 John A. Marcum
- 1979 C. L. Barber
- 1978 Norman O. Brown
- 1977 Harry Beavers
- 1976 M. Brewster Smith
- 1975 Joseph F. Burnett
- 1974 Albert Hofstadter
- 1973 Aaron C. Walters
- 1972 Theodore R. Sarbin
- 1971 Joseph H. Silverman
- 1970 Kenneth V. Thimm
- 1969 Page Smith
- 1968 Albert Edward Whitford
- 1967 Maurice Alexander Natanson
Climate change, economic inequality and violence have caused over 280 million people to migrate from their country of origin in just the last few decades. This talk considers how the visual arts articulate the personal impact and the systemic conditions of this devastating human experience. In hauntingly poetic and pointedly activist works, contemporary artists explore the geopolitics of migration. Bodies become the surface for writing, gestures evolve into map making, language comes under erasure. Producing a kind of silent speech, artists track tensions of visibility and invisibility, displacement and transnational movement in the lives of everyday migrants.

This lecture draws from a larger research project exploring speech and silence in the history of art, with a special emphasis on the role of art as a form of political democracy.

Jennifer critically examines 20th and 21st century American visual arts, with a focus on histories of activism and social justice.


Jennifer A. González is Professor of History of Art and Visual Culture. She is also an affiliated faculty member in Latin American and Latino Studies, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Feminist Studies, and History of Consciousness. In addition to teaching at UCSC, she serves as visiting faculty at the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, New York. She also serves as an invited curator and Faculty Fellow at the UCSC Institute of the Arts and Sciences.

Professor Gonzalez’s research in art history and visual culture illuminates the work of many of the most vibrant artists of contemporary America, including Christian Marclay, Jimmie Durham, James Luna, Amalia Mesa-Bains, Pepón Osorio, Fred Wilson, and Guillermo Gómez-Peña. Her research examines installation art, digital art, feminism and arts activism, with particular attention to U.S. histories of inequality and power. In catalogs, exhibitions, articles, chapters, books, conferences, special events, and lectures, she promotes our understanding of contemporary art, highlighting how it operates in exhibition space, public space, and digital space. Her high caliber research has earned her national and international recognition, with invitations to speak at universities and museums worldwide. She has received fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the American Association of University Women, and the American Council of Learned Societies.