CoC:

[Heather Bortfeld](#) (SSHA, Psychology)
Professor Bortfeld is currently Professor and Chair of Psychological Sciences. She arrived to UC Merced in 2015 from the University of Connecticut. She earned tenure at Texas A&M University in 2008. She has been a pioneer in the development of functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) as a tool for measuring changes in brain activation in infants and toddlers while they actively engage with the world around them. She also introduced the use of fNIRS to otolaryngologists as a critical tool for assessing brain responsivity and plasticity in both pediatric and adult cochlear implant users. fNIRS is now considered a critical assessment tool for hearing researchers and clinicians alike. Professor Bortfeld received her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook (now Stony Brook University). Following her Ph.D, she trained as a postdoctoral fellow in Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences at Brown University, where she was supported by a National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health.

[Sarah Depaoli](#) (SSHA, Psychology)
Sarah Depaoli is an Associate Professor of Quantitative Methods, Measurement, and Statistics in the Department of Psychological Sciences, where she teaches undergraduate statistics and a variety of graduate courses in quantitative methods. She has been at UC Merced since 2011. She has contributed to campus in a variety of ways, values shared governance, and has previously served on the Senate Committee on Committees and Graduate Council. Dr. Depaoli's research focuses on the development of statistical tools, with a specialized focus on Bayesian estimation for latent variable, growth, and finite mixture models. This work led to her recent book *Bayesian Structural Equation Modeling* (Guilford Press, 2021). She is an associate editor for *Psychological Methods* and *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A (Statistics in Society)*, and she is a special editor for *Multivariate Behavioral Research*.

[Jennifer Lu](#) (SOE, Materials Science and Engineering)
Professor Lu is one of the first three faculty members who established the Materials Science and Engineering program at UC Merced. She is the PI, and also serves as the Center Director, for the Merced Nanomaterials Center for Energy and Sensing (MACES) sponsored by NASA since 2015. Prior to joining UC Merced, she acquired ten years industry experience at IBM and Agilent Technologies. She holds 18 patents related to device fabrication, and consistently publishes her work in high impact factor journals. She earned a B.S. degree in Materials Science and Engineering at Shanghai University, an M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering at Drexel University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Macromolecular Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan.

[Roummel Marcia](#) (SNS, Applied Mathematics)
Roummel Marcia is a Professor of Applied Mathematics. He has been at UC Merced since 2009. He was the Director of the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates Program in Applied Mathematics at UC Merced from 2014-2016 and is currently a Co-PI on the NSF Data Intensive Research and Computing Program on campus.   He has been the Chair of the Applied Mathematics Graduate Program since 2019. He served as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Research and as a member of the Periodic Review Oversight Committee. Most recently, he served as the chair of the School of Natural Sciences "Graduate Education and Reaching R1 Status" Strategic Initiative Task Force. His research focuses on data science, signal processing, machine learning, mathematical biology, and optimization.

[Ma Vang](#) (SSHA, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies)
Professor Vang is an associate professor of critical race and ethnic studies. She has been at UC Merced since 2014. She has taken on several important roles at the university including building the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies major and serving on the Senate Committee on Research and the SSHA Curriculum Committee. Dr. Vang's research focuses on the study of refugees and immigrants at the intersections of race, gender, and power. Her book, *History on the Run: Secrecy, Fugitivity, and Hmong Refugee Epistemologies* (Duke University Press, 2021), examines how refugee narratives provide a deeper understanding of empire and forced migration. She is coeditor of the Critical Refugee Studies Book Series with UC Press.

DivCo At-Large:

[Shilpa Khatri](#) (SNS, Applied Mathematics)
Shilpa received her Ph.D. in 2009 from the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences (NYU). After a postdoc in the Department of Mathematics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she joined the faculty in Applied Mathematics at UC Merced in 2014. The focus of her research is fluid dynamics arising in the context of marine phenomena. She designs numerical methods for mathematical models that she develops and analyzes while comparing with experimental data. At UC Merced, recent service contributions include serving as Vice Chair of the Applied Mathematics graduate group and as co-chair of the SNS JEDI Taskforce. Also, she served on the Senate Faculty Committee on Research from 2019-2020.

[Victor Muñoz](#) (SOE, Bioengineering)
Victor Muñoz received his B.S (1991) from the Autonomous University of Madrid, Ph.D. (1995) from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and postdoc at the US National Institutes of Health. He has held positions as Assistant and Associate

Professor at the University of Maryland (2001-2007), and as Professor at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) from 2007 to 2014. He has been a Professor of Bioengineering at the University of California Merced since 2014. He is Co-Director of the NSF Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Machines. He led the establishment of the Bioengineering Department in 2017, and led the establishment of the Bioengineering Graduate Group in 2018, and chaired it for its first 3 years.

[Jessica Trounstine](#) (SSHA, Political Science)
Jessica Trounstine earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from UC San Diego in 2004 and now serves as the Foundation Board of Trustees Presidential Chair of Political Science at UC Merced. Before joining UC Merced in 2009, Professor Trounstine served as an Assistant Professor of Politics and Public Policy at Princeton University. She is the author of two award winning books, *Segregation by Design: Local Politics and Inequality in American Cities* (Cambridge University Press) and *Political Monopolies in American Cities: The Rise and Fall of Bosses and Reformers* (University of Chicago Press) and dozens of peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Professor Trounstine's work studies the process and quality of representation in American democracy. She is focused on the ways in which formal and informal local political institutions generate inequalities. Professor Trounstine's scholarship is mixedmethod; reliant on historical analysis, case studies, experiments, and large-n quantitative analyses. She has served as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Justice, city and state governments, and various community organizations; and serves on numerous editorial and foundation boards.