

CoC:

Laura Beaster-Jones (NS, Molecular Cell Biology)

Laura Beaster-Jones is an associate teaching professor in the Molecular and Cell Biology Department at the University of California, Merced (UC Merced). She earned a BA in Biology from Whitman College and a PhD in Biology from the University of Illinois in Chicago studying developmental biology and the formation of organs in *C. elegans*. She worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego researching gene regulation and evolution in the invertebrate chordate amphioxus. Before joining the faculty at UC Merced in 2014, Professor Beaster-Jones taught at Augustana College and Texas A&M University. At UC Merced, Professor Beaster-Jones teaches introductory biology, upper division courses in evolution and development and a graduate orientation workshop in pedagogy. Her current research investigates college STEM teaching and learning, including student affective factors impacting learning and the role faculty can play as change agents for equity and inclusion. She has served on the Life Sciences Curriculum Committee in SNS and the Senate Undergraduate Council (UGC).

Kyle Dodson (SSHA, Sociology)

Kyle Dodson is a political sociologist who studies public opinion, social movements, and electoral behavior. His research examines how features of the political, economic, and social environment influence cross-national and over-time patterns of political engagement. Some of his past research investigates the importance of globalization for fostering widespread protest, how gender attitudes shape gender disparities in protest activity, and the influence of economic decline on increasing support for taxing the rich. On the teaching front, most of his efforts have been directed at showing students the promise of sociology in his "Introduction to Sociology" class and convincing them that numbers can tell captivating stories (in his undergraduate and graduate statistics courses).

Yanbao Ma (SoE, Mechanical Engineering)

Dr. Yanbao Ma received a PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2004. He joined UC Merced in 2009 as an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering Program in 2009, and was promoted to Associate and Full Professor in 2015 and 2021, respectively. Dr. Ma is willing to serve for Committee on Committees.

Tyler Marghetis (SSHA, Cognitive and Information Sciences)

Tyler Marghetis is an assistant professor of Cognitive Science. He studies cognition and communication as they occur within multiscale, complex systems — brains, bodies, small groups, and large sociocultural systems. Current projects include "aha!" moments in mathematics, creative breakthroughs in the arts, and improvisation by musicians. He received his Ph.D. in cognitive science from the University of California, San Diego, followed by postdoctoral training at Indiana University Bloomington in both Psychological and Brain Sciences and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He joined UC Merced in 2020 from the Santa Fe Institute. At UC Merced, he has contributed to EDI efforts as part of CACQI (Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Queer Issues) and the Senate Committee on EDI. As an

educator, he is passionate about centering student agency and growth — values that guide his interdisciplinary courses on culture, cognition, and research methods.

Lisa Yeo (SoE, Management of Complex Systems)

Lisa Yeo an Assistant Professor in Management of Complex Systems. Joining UC Merced in 2017, she has contributed to development of the MM and MCS PhD programs and served campus as a member of the CITRIS@UCMerced Faculty Advisory Board, the Information Privacy and Security Committee and the Research Data Protection Workgroup. Dr. Yeo's research focuses on decision making as it relates to technology, innovation, and information security and privacy. Prior to academia, she worked in information security for 15 years as both a technical specialist and a business adviser where she authored the book *_Personal Firewalls_*, protected provincial infrastructure, and consulted for public libraries as part of the Alberta SuperNet project. Dr. Yeo holds a B. Math in Applied Math from the University of Waterloo and MBA and PhD (Operations & Information Systems) from the University of Alberta.

Maria-Elena Young (SSHA, Public Health)

Maria-Elena De Trinidad Young is an Assistant Professor of Public Health. She received her MPH from the University of California, Berkeley and PhD in Community Health Sciences from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is a scholar of immigrant health. Her research seeks to understand the impact of the US immigration system on the well-being of immigrants and their families. Her work contributes to the growing evidence that immigrants who lack citizenship or legal status face unique barriers to health care and well-being and that immigration policy can create conditions that influence health. At UC Merced she teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on immigrant and Latino health.

DivCo At-Large:

Jeffrey Butler (SSHA, Economics and Business Management)

I am an associate professor of economics (SSHA division) and a faculty affiliate with the graduate program in cognitive science. Prior to arriving at UC Merced in 2017, I was an assistant professor at Louisiana State University, a visiting lecturer at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and an assistant professor at the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance in Rome, Italy. My research interests lie at the intersection of economics, sociology and psychology. My current research investigates the interactions between identity, culture, social environment, preferences and outcomes with a particular focus on how experienced inequality affects beliefs, values, trust, aspirations and behavior.

Matt Hibbing (SSHA, Political Science)

Matt Hibbing is an associate professor of Political Science. He studies American politics with a focus on political behavior, political psychology and the influence of biology on mass politics. His research centers on individual level predispositions that shape political attitudes and behaviors, including personality and physiological traits. Professor Hibbing's current work

examines differences between liberals and conservatives in terms of their perceptions of the political system. Hibbing's work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Science*, the *American Political Science Review*, the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Psychology*, and *Environment and Behavior*.

[Muey Saeteurn](#) (SSHA, History, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies)

Muey Saeteurn is an Associate Professor of African History in the History and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies Department at the University of California—Merced, specializing in the history of decolonization, nation-building, socio-economic development, and agrarian change in twentieth-century Kenya and the world. She received her Ph.D. in African history from Washington University in St. Louis in 2014. At UC Merced, Dr. Saeteurn has participated in service commitments that have resulted in the recruitment of a diverse faculty, enhanced the intellectual experiences of undergraduate and graduate students, and increased the university's visibility in the wider community. Most notably, she served as Vice Chair of the Interdisciplinary Humanities (IH) Graduate Program from fall 2019 to Spring 2022.