The International Institute is dedicated to supporting internationally-focused research and fostering collaboration between scholars across the UC San Diego campus. We celebrated the end of the second full year of operation in 2018-19. Exciting new projects included the Mellon-funded Sawyer Seminar, and the successful sponsorship of UC San Diego's first Scholar at Risk. We also continued to support interdisciplinary Faculty Groups and award fellowships to graduate students engaged in international fieldwork. In 2019-20, we look forward to continuing these activities, and to hosting a conference with Science Studies in January 2020 entitled *Fossil Fuel Authoritarianism: Climate Change, Carbon Economics, and the Rise of the New Right*.

Prof. Nancy Postero has finished her term leading the International Institute from inception to its current status. We thank her for her tremendous dedication and energy. The Co-Directors in 2019-20 are Prof. Akos Rona-Tas and Prof. Sharon Rose.
Sawyer Seminar:
"Claiming the City: Urban Citizenship, Hybrid Cultures, and Governance in the Modern Era."

With funding from the Mellon Foundation, a group of interdisciplinary scholars met bimonthly during 2018-19 to read and discuss international urban scholarship. Eleven speakers from around the world visited the seminar to present and discuss their research.

Every other Friday throughout the year, a group of faculty, post-docs, graduate students and visitors from different departments met in the International Institute Seminar Room to read papers and discuss research on the theme Claiming the City. Led by co-PIs Nancy Kwak (History) Nancy Postero (Anthropology), Pamela Radcliffe (History) and Sharon Rose (Linguistics) and post-doctoral fellow Emilio de Antuñano, the seminar focused on four main themes: political claims to the city, claims against the state, hybrid urban cultures and place-making practices, and urban resiliency. The group read and discussed papers in preparation for visiting presenters.

In Fall 2019, we welcomed three speakers who addressed the first three themes. James Holston (UC Berkeley) spoke about his research in Brazil in a wide-ranging lecture “Metropolitan Rebellions and the Politics of Commoning the City”. John Cameron (Dalhousie University) presented on the intriguing dynamics of decision-making concerning self-governance in Bolivia in “Saying No to Indigenous Autonomy in Bolivia: Pragmatism, Hybridity and Alternative Modernities at the Grassroots.” Marik Shtern (UC San Diego), a post-doctoral fellow in Sociology, presented a lecture on Israeli-Palestinian relations and place-making in Jerusalem malls.

In Winter 2020, the Sawyer Seminar hosted a discussion by Eli Elinoff (Victoria University of Wellington, and a visit by Austin Zeideman (London School of Economics) who presented “In the Wake of Logistics: On Time, Race, and Labor in Colombia”. Christina Schwenkel (UC Riverside) gave a fascinating presentation on urban living in Vietnam. Finally, Abidin Kusno (York University) presented “Notes on Semi-Urbanism”, a discussion of urban issues in Jakarta, Indonesia. Suzan Scheld (CSU Northridge) discussed her research in Dakar, Senegal.

In Spring 2020, we hosted AbdouMaliq Simone (University of Sheffield) who led a wide-ranging discussion entitled “Improvised Lives: Rhythms of Endurance for an Urban South.” Brodwyn Fisher (University of Chicago) spoke on “Relational Power and the Modern Urban Form in Recife, Brazil”. The Seminar concluded with a discussion with Ananya Roy (UCLA) “At the Limits of Urban Theory: Racial Banishment in the Contemporary American Metropolis”.

In addition to the bimonthly discussions, the Sawyer Seminar co-sponsored three events. In partnership with the Institute for Arts and Humanities, the Seminar co-hosted a lecture and art exhibit on Race and Gentrification Reclaim! Remain! Rebuild! Posters on Affordable Housing, Gentrification and Resistance. Co-PI Nancy Kwak served as co-host and II graduate student fellow Noni Brynjolson curated the exhibit and prepared the accompanying guide. Along with the Black Studies Project, the Sawyer seminar co-sponsored a lecture by Davarian Baldwin (Trinity College) “UniverCities: How Higher Ed is Transforming Urban America”. In Spring, the Seminar welcomed members of the Urban Studies and Planning program and their partners at The Global ARC to discuss the Oceanview Growing Grounds in southeast San Diego.
Faculty Groups

The International Institute aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration between faculty and graduate students from across campus.

Faculty groups are formed from across different divisions or areas of campus such as Scripps Institute of Oceanography or Health Sciences. This year, we distributed $40,000 to sixteen faculty groups who served that mission, with participation from 150 faculty, post-docs, students and other scholars. While many of the members are drawn from Social Science and Arts and Humanities, we also had participation from Public Health, SIO, Biology and Engineering.

Their activities ranged from regular discussion seminars to workshops to invited lecturers and performance artists. We also funded an innovative class project in Political Science in which students replicated international data science research with focus on developing countries and the authors visited to discuss the results.

Seven faculty groups focused on particular areas of the world: Eastern Europe and Eurasia, Brazil, Middle East, South Asia and the Pacific Islands, Latin America (focus on Indigenous Peoples), as well as Global San Diego.


Graduate Student Research Travel Fellowships

PhD students often have to travel to do fieldwork in other countries. However, there is often not enough funding available to support their work. Since 2017, the International Institute is committed to providing travel fellowships to graduate students conducting research internationally. In 2018-19, $44,600 in funding was awarded to 20 PhD students from a wide applicant pool. Students were drawn from eleven different departments/programs for projects in Japan, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Nepal, India, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Ghana, Nigeria, UK, Greece, Australia, Guatemala and Chile. In April 2019, the International Institute hosted a grad symposium in which the fellowship recipients gathered with the co-Directors and other professors to present the outcomes of their research and to receive feedback from outside their discipline.
Scholar at Risk Dr. Dilsa Deniz

Scholars at Risk is an international network of institutions and individuals whose mission is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom. Temporary academic positions are arranged at member universities and colleges for scholars facing threats. Scholars are able to continue their work in safety until conditions can improve and they can return home.

Dr. Dilsa Deniz, a Kurdish scholar from Turkey, is UC San Diego’s first Scholar at Risk. She arrived in spring 2019 and will be here throughout 2019-20. Dr. Deniz specializes in anthropology, religion and gender, Middle East studies and Kurdish Alevism. She will be teaching courses in Anthropology and Political Science and will mentor undergraduates working on senior theses. Dr. Deniz has much to teach our students, and we are pleased to offer her support to conduct her research and teaching.

A team of professors from across campus worked with the International Institute over the past two years to enable UC San Diego to join the Scholars at Risk network and sponsor its first Scholar at Risk. Generous funding was provided by the Executive Vice Chancellor, the Division of Social Sciences, Eleanor Roosevelt College, and the departments of Anthropology and Political Science, as well as the International Institute. We were also able to procure a $25,000 fellowship from the Scholar Rescue Fund. We hope that the university will continue to participate in the Scholars at Risk program to sponsor future scholars.

Human Rights Fellowships

The International Institute co-sponsored, along with the Center on Global Justice and the Human Rights Program, two student Human Rights Fellowships in 2018-19. Laura Santos was selected for her work with Latina immigrants in the California prison system and Morgan Chalmiers for her project with Syrian women refugees. Each fellow receives support for fieldwork with a human rights organization and participation at the UC-wide human rights conference with other fellows at UC Berkeley.