## Executive Committee 2006-2007

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INTRODUCTION

TWO DECADES OF ACHIEVEMENT
and a 21ST-CENTURY AGENDA

The states and nations bordering the Pacific Ocean are densely linked by patterns of historical contact, geology, trade, investment, international agreements and conflicts, migration, environmental and disease vectors, and the incessant flow of ideas and cultural practices. In the past two decades, increasing interaction among the peoples and states of the Pacific Rim has generated new issues of common concern.

UC President David Gardner observed in 1985 that California’s location and immigrant heritage could enable it “to play a pivotal role in what will surely be one of the greatest centers of trade, commerce, and cultural exchange the world has ever known”; but, he continued, the State “tends to be far more parochial than either our history or our position in the world would suggest.” As part of UC’s response to this challenge, the Pacific Rim Research Program (PRRP) of the University of California was established in 1986 to support research on the Pacific Rim region. The PRRP is the only UC program devoted to an understanding of the region as a whole. PRRP projects reframe research beyond national borders and area studies programs, making new questions visible.

The PRRP supports collaborative, interdisciplinary, and comparative research, awarding competitive grants to UC faculty and graduate students and their colleagues in other Pacific Rim countries. It funds extended research projects, workshops and conferences, and short-term projects that engage in promising new areas. The PRRP enables research that is new, unique, and specific to the region and that fosters the development of scholarly collaboration across national boundaries and among disciplines. Because PRRP research projects are always collaborative, they develop new research networks and transnationalize the process of research and training.

For UC faculty collaborating with colleagues across the Pacific Rim, the PRRP offers Research Grants and Faculty Development Grants. UC graduate students—the next generation of scholars—are supported by Advanced Graduate Research Fellowships. Both faculty and graduate students also receive Workshop/Planning Grants and Minigrants.

TWO DECADES OF ACHIEVEMENT

More than 600 projects have been funded since the inception of the Pacific Rim Research Program. More than 450 University of California faculty, 120 graduate students, and well over 300 scholars from institutions on both sides of the Pacific and in both northern and southern hemispheres have worked under PRRP auspices. Researchers have asked how to control infectious diseases across vast distances and cultural gulfs, how to re-engineer industry to compete in a transnational regional economy, and how to comprehend cultural fusion taking place in the arts. Environmental scientists, educators, psychologists, historians, anthropologists, film and literature scholars, artistic performers, and medical practitioners have benefited from PRRP support.

A full list of PRRP project descriptions, reports, and publications can be found at http://www.ucop.edu/research/pacrim/archive.html.
In addition to specific research over the past two decades, the PRRP has:

- facilitated cooperation among UC campuses engaged in Pacific Rim research;
- helped UC maintain a presence in Pacific Rim affairs and raised UC’s profile across the region. UC faculty have established ongoing relationships with colleagues in all disciplines in virtually every Pacific Rim nation;
- attracted a rising number of the most gifted students from Pacific Rim nations to pursue advanced training at UC;
- affected national and regional policies through cooperation with governments and nongovernmental organizations throughout the region; and
- generated parallel projects in other Pacific Rim nations, where local institutions have begun to provide funding and personnel for Pacific Rim research.

The University of California takes justifiable pride in its response to the challenge articulated by President Gardner in 1985.
Research Results: A Sampling

- Transnational history broadens scholarly training in a discipline where knowledge is still largely organized by nation

Kenneth Pomeranz (UC Irvine) and R. Bin Wong (now at UCLA), along with colleagues in Tokyo and Australia, analyzed Asian business enterprises, trading networks, and political economies to develop new historical perspectives on economic relations and their effect on the modern economy. Both professors went on to publish highly praised books related to their Pacific Rim Research Program study: Wong’s China Transformed, and Pomeranz’s The Great Divergence and The World That Trade Created (with Steven Topik). The Great Divergence won the 2000 John K. Fairbank Prize of the American Historical Association and was the co-winner of the 2001 World History Association Book Prize. It was one of Choice’s Outstanding Academic Books of 2000. (1994)

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, Professor of History at UC Santa Barbara, along with scholars from the U.S., Russia, and Japan, examined the Soviet factor in the ending of the Pacific War. The team produced an international history that reinterpreted the Soviet role in the ending of the Pacific War. Hasegawa’s book, Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan, dramatically depicts two races: the race between Stalin and Truman or between Soviet entry into the war against Japan and the dropping of atomic bombs to force Japan to surrender; and the race between pro-war and pro-peace parties in Japan. The book won the 2006 Ferrell Book Prize for Historians of American Foreign Relations. (2001)

In recent years, debates on how to internationalize or even globalize historical research have gained momentum in many countries. In the United States and East Asia, a growing number of scholars have contributed to the rapidly growing body of theoretical literature on global history. And yet, the methodological debates on international and global history are far from being global, remaining largely confined to single national or regional arenas. Dominic Sachsenmaier of Global and International Studies at UCSB is investigating the mental maps, regional identities, and understandings of globalization that underlie the initiatives to globalize historiography, with particular focus on the writing of history in East Asia and the United States. (2004-2005)

- Multi-sited ethnography follows people and commodities across political borders, tracing their changing relationships to one another, to markets, and to the region

Matsutake is a wild forest mushroom, valued in Japan as a delicacy. With the decline of the Japanese harvest, matsutake collecting has moved across the Pacific Rim—to southwest China, Korea, Siberia, Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. Pacific Northwest. Its collection in these many sites is made possible by a divergent set of rural economies, forest management regimes, and cultural preoccupations with nature. Vietnam veterans in Oregon compete with village communes in Yunnan; culture and economy are revealed at their most colorful and diverse; and yet, this is a diversity that flowers within global encounters. Initiated by UCSC Professor of Anthropology Anna Tsing, an international group of anthropologists has begun to study the global links through which matsutake science and economies are negotiated. (2005-2006)

- Performance projects foster artistic collaboration

The Pan Pacific Players is a collaborative theatrical research effort featuring two of the leading theater training programs in the world: The Korean National University of Arts, Seoul, and the University of California, Irvine, with Professor Eli Simon of UCI originating the project with prominent South Korean director Suk-Man Kim. Their original adaptation of The Birds by Aristophanes was performed in 2005 at the Suwon International Theatre Festival, South Korea, and at KNUA. The play, set in Korea’s DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), explores the struggle for sanctity in the face of international strife and misunderstanding. Birds in DMZ combined performance elements of Korean Mask Dance Drama, Commedia dell’Arte, instant transformation, clowning, classic Korean music, original masks, costumes, and scenery. The script fused Korean, English, German, Greek, Italian, Arabic, and French into a new transnational theatrical language. It was the first such collaboration between American and Korean theater artists. (2005-2006)
• Labor and employment research tracks the social and individual consequences of economic change

China’s recent social and economic reforms have created an income disparity that UC Irvine professor Feng Wang calls “explosive.” Professor Wang, who studies social inequalities in contemporary China, has examined and compared institutional sources of income inequality in China and the United States. With his colleague Philip Cohen, Professor Wang analyzed Urban Household Income and Expenditure Survey data from China’s National Bureau of Statistics for income inequality trends. Professor Cohen’s work on gender inequality in the U.S. workplace has inspired the team to examine China’s gender equity situation. If development continues in its current form, gender inequality may worsen, they say. The two professors are planning more comparative studies on these issues. (2001)

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Chile’s fruit-export industry expanded spectacularly in the late 20th century. So, too, did consumer demand for year-round fresh produce in the United States. Heidi Tinsman, Associate Professor of History at UC Irvine, researched collaborations between Chilean and U.S. businesses and universities in developing Chile’s half-billion-dollar fruit industry and in promoting international demand for fruit. Parallel advertising campaigns of U.S. and Chilean agribusiness directed at women in the United States promoted the idea that fruit was fresh, wholesome and desirable, Tinsman found. To meet the demand, Chilean fruit companies hired more laborers, mostly poor people, who were then incorporated into the consumer economy. These workers developed a demand for products such as clothes, cosmetics, televisions, and radios, many of them manufactured in the United States. Women, who comprise up to 90% of fruit packing plant workers in Chile, are most responsible for directing household consumption. They also play a major role in labor organizations and promoting gender-equality policies. (2002)

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Perhaps the most globalized of businesses, the apparel industry has experienced tremendous shifts and changes in the past 30 years. While a graduate student at UC Santa Barbara, Judi Kessler studied the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on the apparel industry in the United States and Mexico. She found that the industry has generated ever more integrated cross-border regional production chains in North America, with the nerve center emerging in Southern California.

Apparel exports from Mexico in the mid- and late 1990s surpassed those from Asian countries. Kessler argued that these changing dynamics and transnational environments will likely result in two polarized apparel industry sectors in Southern California—large companies with offshore production and small quick-turn manufacturers/contractors. The co-existence of fashion creation and garment manufacturing in Los Angeles has helped it emerge as a “knowledge-based” hub, avoiding the fate of many traditional apparel-manufacturing hubs in other U.S. regions. Kessler now teaches sociology at Monmouth College. (1998)

• Indigenous rights projects analyze political and cultural movements that often exist in tension with state authorities and across state borders

Susan Najita explored the contemporary literary outpouring by indigenous Pacific Islander writers in light of recent independence and sovereignty movements. John Dominis Holt of Hawai’i, Keri Hulme and Patricia Grace of New Zealand, and Albert Wendt of Samoa, enact cultural nationalism through their fictional texts, asserting their belief in the necessity of the nation as an interface with global capital even as they critique the pitfalls and perils of the nation itself. Their works pay particular attention to cultural and racial hybridity. Najita completed her Ph.D. at UCSB in 2001 and now teaches at the University of Michigan. (2000-2001)
Religion and public life research brings the questions of multiple disciplines to bear on contemporary Pacific Rim societies

UC Berkeley student Daromir Rudnyckyj conducted research for his Ph.D. dissertation in Anthropology, *Islamic Ethics and Spiritual Economy in Contemporary Indonesia*. Why and how, Rudnyckyj asked, are Islamic practices invoked to effect economic transformation in contemporary Indonesia? In examining the deployment of new techniques of Islamic norms, Rudnyckyj developed the notion of “spiritual economy” to describe practices of religious reform that simultaneously seek to achieve economic and ethical transformation. The concept is useful in understanding assemblages of religious reason and economic rationality that are intended to configure new technologies of the self. He argues that spiritual reform both enables Islamic virtue and effects dispositions that enhance corporate efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness in an increasingly global market. (2003)

Richard Madsen, Professor of Sociology, and an interdisciplinary team of seven UC San Diego colleagues examined the emerging public role of religion in Asia, conducting ethnographic fieldwork and archival research in Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Their book includes essays on a Theravada Buddhist walk for peace in Cambodia, Islamic feminism in Indonesia, and Christian advocacy of religious freedom in Hong Kong. (2000)

Disaster analysis and planning seeks to understand, predict, prevent, and ameliorate catastrophic events

Nearly every country in the Pacific Rim has been hit by an earthquake or some seismic activity during the past few decades. Jere H. Lipps, Professor of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley and Curator of Paleontology at the Museum of Paleontology there, has been studying Pacific Rim salt marshes as seismic detection systems. Dr. Lipps collaborated with experts in several Pacific Rim countries to examine the sedimentary and fossil record preserved in coastal salt marshes to evaluate this method for use around the Pacific Rim, and to determine historical and precursor changes of nearby earthquake faults and subduction zones. (A subduction zone is the place where an edge of one crustal plate is forced below the edge of another.) Dr. Lipps retrieved cores from marshes and mangroves in California, Oregon, and Washington, and in Mexico, New Zealand, and Moorea in French Polynesia. His team was able to identify the 1995 seismic event and tsunami that devastated the coastal region near Manzanillo, Mexico and left a deposit of sand across the mangrove muds. The team’s work in New Zealand confirmed that the techniques used there will work along any subduction zone where earthquakes are active. (1999)
• Environmental and resource stewardship projects combine scientific inquiry with attention to social and policy issues

Ever since the Convention on Biological Diversity became international law in 1993, countries have been attempting to develop effective national access and benefit-sharing (ABS) policies to facilitate the exchange of genetic resources. Pacific Rim countries such as the Philippines, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru are forerunners in such policy development, says Santiago Carrizosa, a research ecologist at UC Davis. Along with colleague Stephen Brush and UC Berkeley’s Brian Wright, Carrizosa studied ABS policies and their implementation among 41 countries of the Pacific Rim region. More than 60 scientists and policymakers from those 41 countries participated in the project, which is the largest such study to date. The team identified an international network of experts and decision-makers, studied successful and unsuccessful initiatives, proposed recommendations and alternatives for access and benefit-sharing issues, and presented their research at international seminars and workshops. The three UC professors and fellow editor Patrick E. McGuire produced a book in 2004 entitled Accessing Biodiversity and Sharing the Benefits: Lessons from Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2002)

Yu Gu and K.N. Liou of the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at UCLA studied the impact of increased anthropogenic aerosols in China on climate and climate change of the Pacific Rim region, and the potential consequences on the dust storms in north China that have significantly affected the environments of other Pacific Rim countries. (2003)

March 29, 2001 (NOAA Satellite Image)

Dust (indicated by the yellow arrows) is visible blowing off the coast of China. A dust storm that began on the Mongolian-China border reached the U.S. two weeks later on April 18, 2001. Image courtesy of Yu Gu.

• Disease control draws upon science research, sociology, public health, gender studies, and a wealth of other disciplines

Dr. Pamina Gorbach is Associate Professor in Residence at UCLA’s Department of Epidemiology. Her research on “beer girls” and “karaoke girls” working in Phnom Penh yielded important data on their sexual risk and HIV/STD exposure. This research will help produce more effective education and HIV prevention programs in high-risk areas in Southeast Asia. (2002)

Hepatitis B kills nearly two million people every year. In some parts of the world, the virus silently infects one out of every ten people--lurking in its victims for years, or even decades, with dire health consequences for a percentage of those infected. UCLA tropical disease specialist Claire Panosian, and Patrick Dunavan, a 5-time Emmy award-winning television producer, have made it their cause to educate at-risk peoples of the Pacific Rim with their video, “Hepatitis B: The Global Challenge,” a half-hour program that will save lives. (Multiple PRRP grants)

Women completing surveys in Phnom Penh. Photo by Pamina Gorbach
A 21ST-CENTURY AGENDA

The UC Pacific Rim Research Program was founded with an acute sensitivity to the escalating processes of integration and globalization in the Pacific region in the 1980s. The need to understand these processes has only increased over the past two decades in light of economic, political, technological, social, ethical and cultural developments in the Pacific Rim.

California in particular, and the U.S. more broadly, are interdependent with nations across the region, and will become even more so in the next decade and beyond. Improved communication and information technology, dense commercial and financial networks, and large-scale immigration, among other factors, have made the Pacific region a place of dialogue and interchange, as well as tension and conflict. The future well-being of the Pacific Rim will depend on how state and non-state entities in the region work together to address common concerns.

California is a crossroads and destination in the Pacific Rim. The State looks west to Asia and south to Mexico and Latin America, perhaps even more than it looks east to the traditional American and European seats of power. As the major research institution in California, the University of California must take on a leadership role in promoting understanding within the region. With its proven record of excellence, the Pacific Rim Research Program will continue to play a crucial role in the University’s mission to meet this need.

As it enters its third decade, the Pacific Rim Research Program is poised to provide an array of new concepts and tools that will increase our understanding of how regions are made and unmade, and how societies envision their futures. From economics to the environment, migration to artistic innovation, historical understanding to political negotiation, PRRP research will continue to help Pacific Rim nations and peoples cooperate in confronting the challenges facing the region.