

# Faculty Development Grants, 2009–10



## FACULTY RESEARCH COMPLETION GRANT

### Dawn M. Upchurch

Professor, School of Public Health

*Midlife Women's Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine for Self-Care, Menopausal Symptoms, and Health Conditions* investigates midlife women's use of CAM for health maintenance and for management of menopausal symptoms.



## FACULTY RESEARCH SEED GRANTS

### Eric Avila

Associate Professor, History, Chicano/a Studies, and Urban Planning

*Limited Access: The Gendered Politics of Highway Construction in Urban America* undertakes a comparative history of urban

highway construction during the 1950s and 60s, after the impact of the National Interstate and Highway Defense Program, which brought the federal government into the business of building a national urban and interurban highway network.

### Keith L. Camacho

Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies

*Between Okinawa and the Marianas: Gender Power and the Right to Speak in the Post-9/11 Pacific* is an ethnographic research project on the formation of social activist groups in the CNMI, Guam and Okinawa during the post-9/11 era. The study is interested in the ways in which the creation of US foreign and territorial policies since 9/11 have shaped the conditions for militarization and anti-militarization movements in Asia and the Pacific.

### Robin Derby

Assistant Professor, History

*Boca del chivo: Rumors of Power and the Power of Rumor in the Caribbean* treats Haitian and Dominican rumors about the state. With examples

ranging from the eighteenth century to the mid-1990s, the project traces circuits of popular narration as they change in meaning from one national or class constituency to another, and as they move from the state to popular sectors and back, with attention to plot, allegory, metaphor and formulaic elements such as condensed symbols.

### Christine Dunkel-Schetter

Professor, Health Psychology Chair, Psychology

*Trial of a Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Intervention During Pregnancy* conducts a controlled pilot trial in a small, ethnically diverse sample of pregnant women in order to examine the feasibility and efficacy of a standardized 6-week mindfulness-based intervention aimed at reducing prenatal stress and strengthening coping skills.

### Hannah Landecker

Associate Professor, UCLA Center for Society and Genetics

*Epigenetics and the New Politics of Prenatal Nutrition and Maternal Care* examines the

intersection of science and the politics of reproduction, looking at how new discourses in the genetic sciences reconfigure ideas of the relationship of care between parents and their fetuses and babies, as well as the relationship of care between societies or governments and women of reproductive age.

### **Aamir Mufti**

Associate Professor, Comparative Literature

*Homes and Homelands: Gender and the Iconography of India's Partition* explores the iconography of Partition in the visual arts and the ways in which distinct understandings of the Partition and its legacies can be produced through the visual image. The project is interested in particular in the work of Zarina Hashmi, an artist who has been based in New York for more than thirty years.

### **Margot Quinlan**

Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry

*Regulation of the Actin Cytoskeleton During Oogenesis* seeks to understand the role of the cytoskeleton in determining polarity during egg and embryo development. During early development, polarity is required for body axis establishment, the first step in developing the complex body plan of multi-cellular animals. We are currently focused on

understanding the roles of two proteins, Spire and Cappuccino, which regulate the cytoskeleton and are essential for proper egg development in fruit flies as well as mammals.

### **Saskia Subramanian**

Assistant Resident, Psychiatry & Medicine,  
with Thuy Tran, M.D.

*Health Risks Associated with Hormone Replacement Therapy and Alternatives Available to Menopausal Women* seeks to conduct in-depth interviews and focus groups over the course of six months with 12 physicians who regularly treat women suffering from menopausal symptoms. It is the project's goal, through open-ended interview instruments, to explore how physicians decide upon appropriate standard of care of menopausal symptomology in their own patient population, how the clinical decision-making process unfolds, and their perceptions of patient help-seeking patterns.



## **JUNIOR FACULTY RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

### **Lucy Burns**

Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies

*Puro Arte: On the Filipino Performing Body* traces the Filipino performing body in various sites, which include early American plays about the Philippines, the Filipino patron in the U.S. taxi dance halls, theatrical performances about the Martial Law, and the phenomenon of Filipino actors in Miss Saigon.

### **Jo-Ann Eastwood**

Assistant Professor, School of Nursing,  
with Dr. Noel Bairey Merz

*Estrogen Deficiency and Cardiovascular Disease in Premenopausal Women* evaluates the stability of Hypo-E in premenopausal women and identifies associations between Hypo-E, other reproductive hormones, noninvasive markers of CVD and environmental stress in this population. This pilot study provides an initial first step by confirming these links. Such pilot data are essential for future development of treatments to prevent or reduce CVD in premenopausal women.

**Nina Sun Eidsheim**

Assistant Professor, Musicology

*Touched From Afar: Towards a Phenomenology of Voice as Becoming* posits that a logocentric perspective (which places a higher value on the study of printed scores and libretti than on the performance thereof) has guided the majority of research on voice and vocal repertoire within the Western musical canon. The project questions this platform through an exploration of the extrasonic dimensions—the body and physical space— of singing, and through listening to timbre in ways suggested by the work of four female composers: Juliana Snapper, Björk, Meredith Monk, and Kaija Saariaho.

**Michelle A. Johnson**

Assistant Professor, Social Welfare

*Neighborhoods, Networks, and Perinatal Health Disparities among Women of Mexican-Origin in Los Angeles : Implications for Intervention* seeks to build knowledge regarding the ways in which neighborhood dynamics contribute to maternal and infant health disparities by examining the social networks of women of Mexican descent.

**Katrina Daly Thompson**

Assistant Professor, Applied Linguistics & TESL

*The Popobawa's Discursive Trajectories: A Critical Analysis of Sexuality and Gender in a Coastal Tanzania Urban Legend* explore the linkages between the discursive phenomena associated with *popobawa*, a Tanzanian urban legend of a giant bat-like creature who is said to break into people's homes at night, paralyzing men and raping them, and the construction of attitudes toward sexuality in modern coastal Tanzania.

