

WALTER H. CAPPS CENTER
FOR THE STUDY OF
ETHICS, RELIGION, AND PUBLIC LIFE
UC SANTA BARBARA

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Dear Capps Center community,

We at the Center are taking this opportunity to reconnect with you after what has been a long Covid experience for all of us. Though not over, pandemic conditions have eased enough to enable a return to in-person programming and for us to reinvest in long-standing initiatives and launch new ones. We are eager to share some of these developments with you in this newsletter. More information on each topic can be found on our [website](#).

For those of you who don't yet know me, allow me to introduce myself. I joined the Center as Director during Winter Quarter of 2020, moving here from the University of Colorado. A faculty member in the Department of Religious Studies, my research and teaching focus on Indigenous traditions and law. I'm honored and delighted to be directing the Center and look forward to continuing the legacy and vision of Walter Capps and Wade Clark Roof with programming, events, and initiatives at various scales devoted to our collective interests in ethics, religion, and public life.

Needless to say, my transition to UCSB was not what I had anticipated due to pandemic constraints. Even so, the Center was able to deliver considerable programming over the past two years, primarily online, including a year-long symposium on Indigenous place-based ethics. Recordings of much of this programming can be found on our [videos page](#). Last Spring Quarter, we began to experiment with hybrid and in-person programming, including a series of lectures on Christian nationalism and a timely event with Michele Goodwin on the topic of post-Roe abortion healthcare. This year we have continued with in-person events, including a kickoff event celebrating Advisory Board member Joseph Blankholm's new book, *The Secular Paradox*. Our first major public-facing event this year is with Erica Gies, a science journalist who will speak about her new book, *Water Always Wins: Thriving in an Age of Drought and Deluge* (November 16, 5:00pm in HSSB 6020—see flier below). We are hard at work scheduling Winter and Spring Quarter events and look forward to welcoming you back to campus soon.

Below you will find information about each of our staff members. Of special note, I want to introduce you to our new Associate Director, Dusty Hoesly. Having completed his PhD in Religious Studies at UCSB under Wade Clark Roof in 2018, Dusty has considerable familiarity with the history and ethos of the Capps Center. He possesses a wide skill set and an active scholarly profile that articulates well with our mandate. I look forward to working with Dusty to build community and advance the initiatives of the Capps Center.

Finally, please reach out to us if you have questions about the Capps Center. We would be delighted to learn about your interests and to think with you about how we might best facilitate programming and initiatives that are relevant, engaging, and challenging.

Sincerely,
Greg Johnson



Staff of the Capps Center

Dusty Hoesly is the Associate Director of the Capps Center. He earned a PhD in Religious Studies at UCSB in 2018. His research focuses on contemporary American religions, specializing in how new religious movements, Asian American religions, and the religiously unaffiliated shape modern American culture. He is co-chair of the Sociology of Religion Unit at the American Academy of Religion (AAR). Dusty joined the Capps Center in 2022.



Nonie Hamilton is the Academic Coordinator of the Capps Center's Sara Miller McCune Endowed Internship and Public Service Program. It is her privilege, each year, to work with a group of exceptional and civic-minded UCSB students, those with a passion for social change and an interest in public service. She has woven together her own public service career working at local, national, and international levels, in the nonprofit and government sectors, on issues of equity, justice, and public health. Nonie joined the Capps Center in 2013.



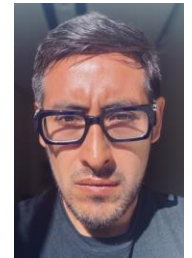
Gregory Jarrett is a Lecturer for the Capps Center and coordinates our Capps Forum on Ethics & Public Policy. He earned his PhD in Philosophy at USC, and studied environment law at Vermont Law School. He teaches a three-quarter series in applied ethics, including Environmental Ethics, Biomedical Ethics, and Ethics and the College Experience. Greg joined the Capps Center in 2009.



Mitchell Kauffman is a Lecturer for the Capps Center. He has an MBA and MSFP, and is a Certified Financial Planner and entrepreneur. He teaches courses in business ethics and managerial economics, including Wall Street Ethics, Have Ethics Gone Awry, and Ethical Investing to Impact Social Change. Mitch joined the Capps Center in 2016.



Adrián I. P-Flores is the ALCS Emerging Voices Fellow at the Capps Center. He earned a PhD in Gender & Women's Studies from the University of Arizona, and he is a former UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Comparative Literature at UCLA. His primary field of specialization is the racial and philosophical history of "suicide," with a focus on psychoanalysis, political theology, and Black feminist theory. Adrián joined the Capps Center in 2022.



Advisory Board: Gerardo Aldana (Chicana and Chicano Studies), Joseph Blankholm (Religious Studies), Elizabeth Pérez (Religious Studies), Amrah Salomón J. (English), David Walker (Religious Studies), Mayfair Yang (Religious Studies and East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies).

About the Capps Center

The Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at the University of California, Santa Barbara, promotes discussion of how ethical teachings and values relate to civic life -- at the local, national, and global levels. We are committed to the fundamental belief that public dialogue and an informed and engaged citizenry are vital to democratic society. Non-partisan and non-sectarian, the Center seeks to strengthen and extend the principles on which such diverse, modern society rests, namely, tolerance and respect for the views of others, the practice of civility, and efforts to achieve the common good.

Please follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)!



<https://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/>

info@cappscenter.ucsb.edu

Programs

The [Sara Miller McCune Endowed Internship and Public Service Program](#) is a year-long service-learning program for undergraduate students that brings students and community partners together for personal and social transformation. It provides students with opportunities to engage effectively with the local community on issues such as socioeconomic inequities, education, the environment, immigration, and more. Students connect their classroom learning with community service, translating theory into real-world experience. Local organizations benefit from the support of energetic, talented students who help them to fulfill their missions more effectively.

The [Steve and Barbara Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy](#) supports fellowship stipends each year for outstanding graduate students in the College of Letters and Science at UCSB whose research or programs of study advance the goals of broad-based cultural literacy and high ethical standards in our participative democracy. Support may be provided for dissertation fellowships, supplemental fellowships, summer stipends, or for special research projects. The fellowships encourage discussion and debate relating to the compelling questions of ethics and values in contemporary public life, and with particular attention to how these questions might be informed by knowledge of history and cultural traditions.

We offer a variety of [Ethics Courses](#) throughout the academic year, including courses on environmental, biomedical, and business ethics; diversity and social justice; and ethics and the college experience.

A series of [Public Events](#) at UCSB and within the Santa Barbara community bring well-known speakers on a range of topics each year. Videos of many of our past events are available on our [website](#), [YouTube](#), and [UCTV](#). Our next events include:

- [Science journalist Erica Gies](#) discussing her book, *Water Always Wins: Thriving in an Age of Drought and Deluge* (Nov. 16 at 5:00pm, McCune Conference Room, HSSB 6020)
- [Christian Nationalism and the Future of Democracy](#), featuring a panel of leading scholars discussing the 2022 Midterm Elections (Nov. 18 at 7:00-10:00pm MT; tickets for *virtual event* available [here](#))
- Check our website for Winter and Spring events—coming soon!

We are also working on a range of [other initiatives](#), including:

- Helping to lead the [UC Disaster Resilience Network](#) (DRN) Campus-based Committee at UCSB
- Collaborating with the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Project](#)
- Working with Chumash and other Native nations on [repatriation](#) of ancestral remains
- Partnering with the religion and politics [podcast](#) Straight White American Jesus

Make a Donation

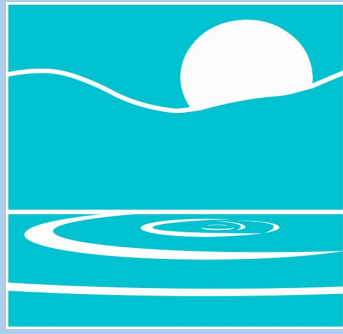
A wide range of [giving opportunities](#) is available through the Capps Center for those friends, parents, community members, and UCSB alumni who wish to be a vital part of the Center's future. The Capps Center benefits from annual unrestricted support and major gifts designated for special purposes. Your generosity plays a critical role in our ability to fulfill our mission and is truly appreciated. Every gift counts.

Please follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)!



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Capps Forum on Ethics and Public Policy

Water Always Wins: Thriving in an Age of Drought and Deluge

Erica Gies

Independent journalist

in conversation with Dr. Greg Jarrett (UCSB)

As new climate disasters remind us every day, our world is not stable—and it is changing in ways that expose the deep dysfunction of our relationship with water. Increasingly severe and frequent floods and droughts inevitably spur calls for higher levees, bigger drains, and longer aqueducts. But as we grapple with extreme weather, a hard truth is emerging: our development, including concrete infrastructure designed to *control* water, is actually exacerbating our problems. Because sooner or later, water always wins. Science journalist Erica Gies introduces us to innovators in what she calls the Slow Water movement who start by asking a revolutionary question: What does water want? Experts in ecology, engineering, and other fields are already transforming our relationship with water. Figuring out what water wants—and accommodating its desires within our human landscapes—is now a crucial survival strategy.



Erica Gies is the author of *Water Always Wins: Thriving in an Age of Drought and Deluge* (2022). A National Geographic Explorer and an independent journalist, her stories covering water, climate change, plants, and critters appear in *Scientific American*, *Nature*, *bioGraphic*, the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and other publications.

November 16, 2022

5:00 p.m.

**McCune Conference
Room, HSSB 6020**

UC Santa Barbara

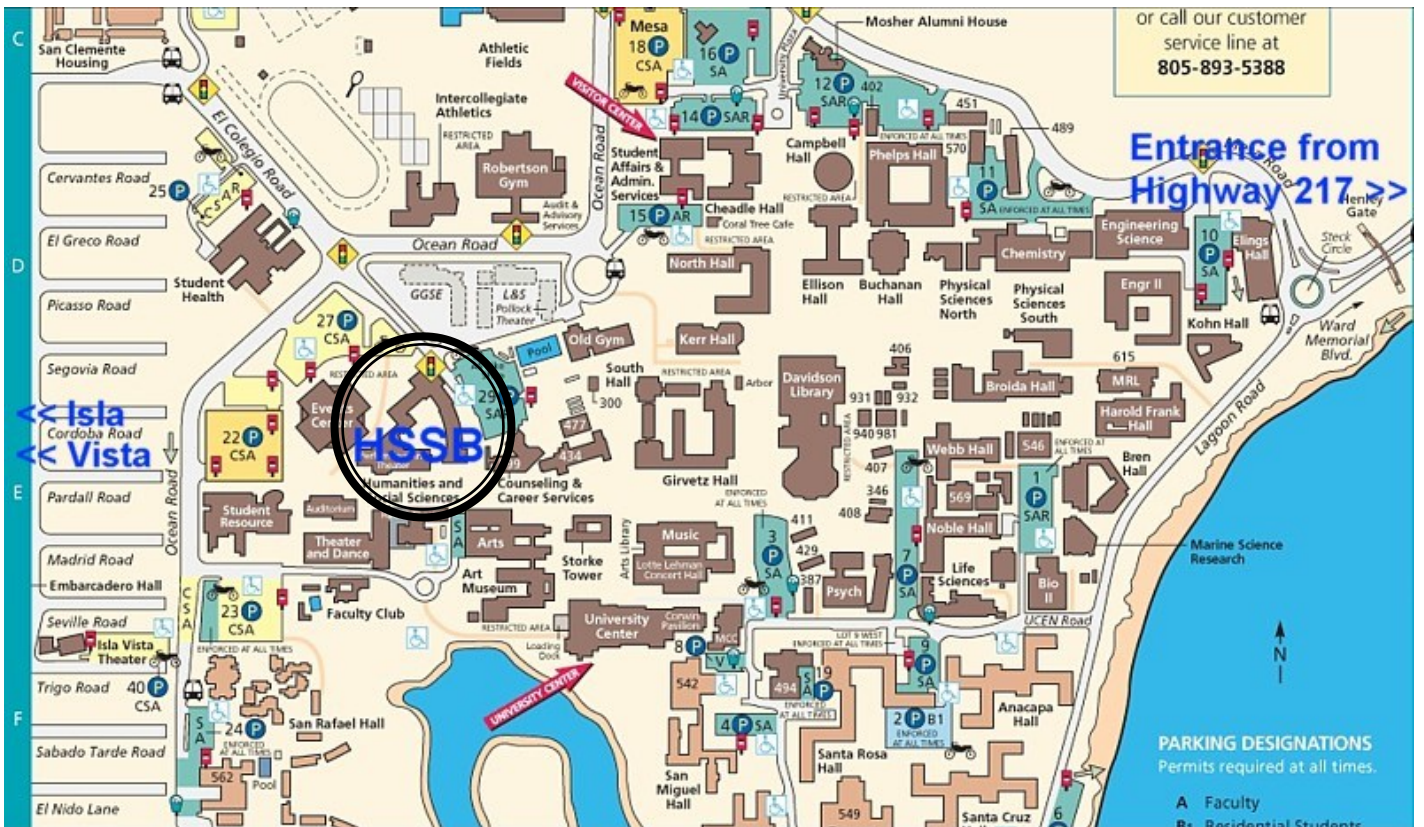
Free and open to the public



For more information, contact the Capps Center at info@cappscenter.ucsb.edu or 805-893-2317

McCune Conference Center Parking Map

The McCune Conference Center is on the 6th floor of the Humanities & Social Sciences Building (HSSB). Take the elevator to the 6th floor and go to Room 6020. HSSB is on [Google Maps](#). Park in Lots 27, 29, or 22, which are closest to HSSB. All vehicles must have a valid e-permit; your license plate acts as your permit number. You can pay for a parking permit using the [ParkMobile app](#) on your phone, or by credit card using the kiosks located in each parking lot. Parking costs \$4 for weeknights and weekends. Be sure to read lot entrance signs.





CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM & THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

THE 2022 MIDTERMS AND WHAT'S NEXT

Given the enormous stakes in the 2022 midterm elections and what they mean for the future of this country, we have gathered an illustrious group of journalists and scholars to analyze the present state of our country and the perilous future of democracy here and around the world. While scholars have drawn attention to the prevalence of White Christian nationalism in the United States, the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and other Supreme Court decisions, coupled with Christian supremacist rhetoric from high profile leaders and politicians, has brought the issue of Christian nationalism to the forefront of American politics. Will democracy survive in the USA? What will the next two years look like given the state of our congress and Supreme Court? How has Christian nationalism overtaken such large segments of the American Right?

7:00 PM MST
NOVEMBER 18, 2022



DENVER UNIVERSITY
DAVIS AUDITORIUM, STURM HALL

www.bradonishi.com/nationalism



ROBERT JONES



KHYATI Y. JOSHI



JACQUELINE HIDALGO



LARYCIA HAWKINS



KATHERINE STEWART



PHILIP GORSKI



BRADLEY ONISHI



SAMUEL PERRY



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Department of Religious Studies
**College of Arts, Humanities
& Social Sciences**
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



FORO URGENTE: **Criminalization and Repression against Indigenous Communities in Guatemala**

**Concepción Santay Gómez & Lucía Ixchú
moderated by Dr. Giovanni Batz**



Guatemala is currently at a crucial political juncture in which there are growing concerns surrounding the increasing human rights abuses, repression and violence against indigenous communities. The event brings together two leaders to provide insights on the lived local realities for Maya peoples in Guatemala. They include, Concepción Santay Gómez, a Maya Ixil ancestral authority from Guatemala and Lucía Ixchú, a Maya K'iche' activist and co-founder of Festivales Solidarios (a decolonial collective consisting of journalists and artists). The forum will be moderated by Dr. Giovanni Batz, Assistant Professor, Department of Chicana/o Studies at UC Santa Barbara.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH | 1-2:30PM
LAS MAESTRAS CENTER | SOUTH HALL 1415
Livestream on Las Maestras Center Youtube Channel**

register here: bit.ly/foro-urgente

Talk will be held in Spanish with limited English translation