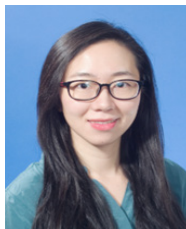


55ⁱⁿ Faculty Research Talks

Research Discussions Across Disciplines



Phung Huynh, MFA
Arts & Letters



Yixian Wang, PhD
Natural & Social
Sciences



Michael Selvan
Joseph, PhD
Health & Human
Services



Lexi Hwang, PhD
Education

**Join ORSCA and the conversation as
four faculty present 5 slides in 5 minutes**

October 28
12 to 1 pm

**University Library
Reading Lounge**
Second Floor
Snacks will be provided



Please RSVP by October 21 to: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZY3BLUDywb>

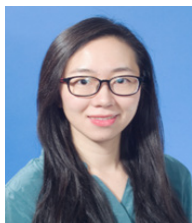
Research Discussions Across Disciplines



Phung Huynh, MFA
Assistant Professor of Art
Arts & Letters

“The repatriation of looted Cambodian statues and antiquities”

Phung Huynh is a Los Angeles-based artist and educator with a practice in drawing, painting, public art, and community engagement. Her work explores cultural perception and representation, and challenges beauty standards by constructing images of the Asian female body vis-à-vis plastic surgery to unpack how contemporary cosmetic surgery can whitewash cultural and racial identity. Her work of drawings and prints on pink donut boxes explores the complexities of assimilation and cultural negotiation among Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees who have resettled in the United States. Her most current work confronts the legacy of colonial museum practices through the repatriation of looted Cambodian statues and antiquities. Huynh received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with distinction from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena and received her Master of Fine Arts degree from New York University. She is a recipient of the City of Los Angeles Individual Artist Fellowship, the California Arts Council Individual Established Artist Fellowship, the California Community Foundation Visual Art Fellowship, and the Marciano Art Foundation Artadia Award. Phung Huynh is represented by Luz De Jesus Los Angeles ♦



Yixian Wang, PhD
Professor in Chemistry
Natural & Social Sciences

“Linking protein misfolding, environmental pollutants, and dopamine chemistry in Parkinson’s disease”

Dr. Wang is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Cal State LA. She earned her B.S. in Materials Chemistry from Peking University, Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the City University of New York, and completed postdoctoral research at Arizona State University. Her research focuses on developing novel analytical imaging and sensing tools for biomedical, nanomaterials, and environmental applications. Her current projects include studying how α -synuclein aggregation and nanoplastic pollution contribute to Parkinson’s disease, creating spatially resolved electrochemical imaging methods to probe heterogeneous cell activities, and developing approaches for microplastic depolymerization and upcycling. Since joining Cal State LA, she has mentored more than 90 undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom have continued to MS and Ph.D. programs or careers in STEM. At this panel, she will share the work on Parkinson’s disease research and show how students play an integral role in driving these discoveries ♦



Lexi Hwang, PhD
Associate Professor
Special Education & Counseling,
Education

“Sealing the leaks in the STEM Pipeline”

Dr. Hwang’s research centers on transforming K–postsecondary STEM education to reduce attrition in the STEM pipeline by integrating emerging technologies—such as computational modeling and simulations, virtual and augmented reality, and artificial intelligence (AI)—with evidence-based pedagogy. She also conducts research in K–12 mathematics education, focusing on fractions, algebra, and word problem solving, with the integration of AI-powered tools for automated assessment and error. Dr. Hwang currently serves as Principal Investigator on two federally funded projects: (a) Simulation-Based Pedagogical Approach in Chemistry Education for All Students to Succeed in STEM (SPACE), supported by the NSF (2023–2026), and (b) Education Reform in Food and Agriculture Using Reactive Molecular Dynamic Simulations and Science Pedagogy (e-FARMS), funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (2023–2027). Both projects aim to advance STEM post-secondary education through the use of cutting-edge techniques and pedagogy ♦



Michael Selvan Joseph, PhD
Associate Professor Kinesiology
Health & Human Services

“Can the spinal cord learn and how does this implicate spinal cord injury and plasticity”

Dr. Joseph’s lab investigates mechanisms of spinal cord plasticity after injury. Evidence shows the spinal cord can learn new tasks independently of the cortex. The Paw Withdrawal Learning (PaWL) paradigm uses spinally transected rodents to train the ankle to flex and hold a new position without brain input. The lab demonstrates that this acquired ankle flexion is a spinally mediated learned behavior. Undergraduate and graduate students work together to perform the surgeries, run the PaWL paradigm, and carry out subsequent cellular and molecular analyses to define the mechanisms of spinal plasticity. Understanding spinal learning mechanisms will aid development of targeted therapies to improve recovery after spinal cord injury ♦