2025-2026 Faculty Highlights

Dino Bozonelos – Political Science & Global Affairs



Over the summer, Dino Bozonelos worked on a faculty-led project through Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA). His research looks at how religious tourism can be better managed by comparing the Soumela Monasteries in Turkey and Greece. As part of this project, he completed about 20 interviews with people in Trabzon, Turkey, and Veria, Greece. He shared his findings at the 16th International Religious Tourism & Pilgrimage Annual Conference in Palermo. The full project will be presented at the next conference in Girona, Spain, in June 2026 and the publication of the research is expected within six to eight months after that.

Dr. Fernando Amador II - History



Dr. Fernando Amador spent the summer helping the indigenous community of Los Altos de Jalisco, Mexico, which had recently gained official recognition from the federal government. With a team of six locals, he collected, organized, and stored documents in a historic archive. Thanks to a grant from the British Library, the team was able to organize and preserve important historical materials. The community uncovered more than 15,000 documents dating back to the 17th century, including court cases, maps, letters, and meeting minutes. Through this project, Dr. Amador helped preserve hundreds of years of history while supporting their recognition as an indigenous community.

Website: https://www.csusm.edu/history/masters/faculty.html

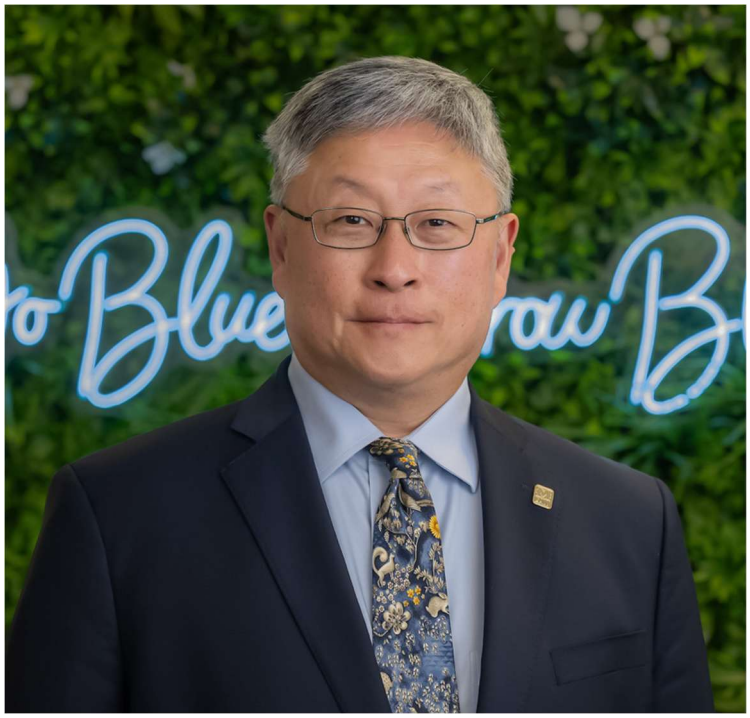
Alheli Calderon Villarreal – Public Health



Dr. Alheli Calderon Villarreal is a public health researcher focused on global health, health equity, and environmental justice, especially along the U.S. – Mexico border. Her work looks into structural violence, women's health, and migration, with most of her research based in Tijuana-San Diego region. She leads two main projects: the Socio-Environmental Tijuana River Project and the Health Risk Assessment on the Pacific Ocean Coastline, both developed in collaboration with local community organizations and universities in Baja California. Dr. Calderon Villarreal regularly presents her work at international conferences and teaches courses on social determinants of health, environmental health, and health disparities in the Master of Public Health program. She was also a speaker for the 2025-2026 Research Seminar Series, an event jointly hosted by The Office of Graduate Studies and Research (OGSR) and the CSUSM Committee of International Research (CIR).

Website: https://www.calderon-villarreal.com/

William Byun - COBA Management and Finance



William I.Y. Byun's work focuses on the intersection of sustainability, green energy, and artificial intelligence in capital projects. His current projects are based in the Philippines, Uzbekistan, and Mexico with other collaborations being discussed in Mali, the UAE, and India. One major project involves converting end-of-life tires into TPO and carbon black to be used as feedstock for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), using advanced UK and Chinese technology to develop a carbon-negative plant in the U.S. He works with Actual Systems, an industrial AI firm, to optimize project design and efficiency. This initiative helps to reduce landfill waste while addressing the shortage of green aviation fuel. Mr. Byun is also leading a blue-economy project in the Visayas and Mindanao regions of the Philippines, partnering with local governments, the University of San Carlos in Cebu, and the Maroon Research Institute to promote coral reef restoration, sustainable fish farming, eco-tourism, and local energy development.

Website: https://www.linkedin.com/in/williambyun/

Elvis Nshom – Communication and Media Studies



Dr. Elvis Nshom's work focuses on intergroup relations, immigrant adaption and acculturation, and how social and psychological factors influence conflict dynamics and political attitudes. His research spans in four continents: Africa, Europe, North America, and Asia with work conducted in countries including Cameroon, Ghana, Finland, Russia, the United States, Pakistan, and China. His work has earned him a Top Paper Award from the International and Intercultural Communication Division of the National Communication Association, to be presented this November in Denver, Colorado.

Website: https://elvisnshom.com/

Lucy HG Solomon – Art, Media, and Design



Lucy HG Solomon is working in collaboration with Brazilian media artist Cesar Baio as the collective *Cesar & Lois*. They've created living artworks that combine microbiological and ecological systems to explore the relationship between technology and the natural world. Their work has taken them from the Arctic at UNIS on Svalbard to Finland's boreal forests and Brazil's tropical regions, where they have collaborated with conservation scientists and microbiologists. Their recent project *Boreal Intelligence*, which integrates the bioelectrical signals of forest life into sculptural forms, was exhibited in *Earth Gazes Back* (2024-2025) in Oulu, Finland and will travel to Slovenia in 2026. Upcoming projects in Brazil include O mundo Segundo IA (The World Through AI), Memória do Solo (Memory of Soil), and Culturas Degenerativas: Impacto Ambiental da AI (Degenerative Cultures: Environmental Impact of AI), along with exhibitions at UNICAMP, Sesc Campinas, and the Centro Ambiental Edoardo Bonetti.

Website: https://cesarandlois.org/boreal-intelligence/

Xiaoye She – Political Science



Dr. Xiaoye She's research focuses on the growing complexity and changing power dynamics in global development cooperation, including North-South aid, South-South cooperation, and triangular cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Her current projects explore the role of the Global South in Southeast Asia, the evolution of social and environmental safeguards across regional development banks, and models for regional infrastructure diplomacy among major donors such as China, Japan, World bank, and South Korea. In summer 2025, Dr. She conducted field research in China and Thailand, organizing and chairing panels on development cooperation at the International Conference of Public Policy in Chiang Mai. She is currently working on a book project titled *Contesting Development in Southeast Asia* (under contract with Routledge) and mentors a student research assistant through independent study.

Website: https://www.csusm.edu/politicalscience/faculty/xiaoye_she.html

Teru Toyokawa – Human Development



Teru Toyokawa's research focuses on the experience among the youth as they move from school to work in different cultural settings. His recent work looks at how Japanese college students explore career options and how that process shapes their sense of identity. He is currently conducting a survey study on college students in Japan to better understand their career exploration and identity development. In summer 2026, he plans to travel to Japan to continue this research through surveys and interviews with students about their career search experiences.

Yu Zhang – Psychological Sciences/CHAD



Yu Zhang's research focuses on how families from different cultures think about and support children's learning. Her current study compares Chinese families in China and families in the U.S. to explore whether they see learning as something shaped more by effort or by enjoyment. She aims to understand how cultural values influence children's motivation and approaches to learning. During a recent research trip to Hong Kong and Beijing, she shared early findings and collaborated with international scholars to expand the cross-cultural reach of her research.

Website: https://sites.google.com/view/clc-lab-csusm/home?authuser=1