

University of California, Los Angeles
Department of Anthropology
2025 Commencement Ceremony

June 14, 2025

11:00AM

UCLA Dickson Court North



Excavation research in the Ifugao Rice Terraces. Ifugao, Philippines.

Photo by Paul Connor. © 2025

UCLA

College | Social Sciences
Anthropology

ANTHROPOLOGY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY 2025 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nadine Truong



Nadine Truong is an award-winning filmmaker and educator who earned her B.A. in Anthropology from UCLA in 2003 and her M.F.A. in Directing from the American Film Institute Conservatory in 2009, where she was a recipient of the Mary Pickford Foundation Scholarship for excellence in directing. The daughter of Vietnamese refugees and raised in Germany, Nadine brings a cross-cultural lens to her work. Her films have screened at festivals around the world, including as part of a U.S. State Department–sponsored cultural diplomacy tour in Kosovo. She has directed acclaimed actors including Mike Faist (*West Side Story*, *Challengers*) and Selenis Leyva (*Orange Is the New Black*, *Diary of a Future President*). Nadine serves on several academic faculties at highly respected film programs across Southern California, including Loyola Marymount University, Chapman University, and UC Irvine. A former recipient of Visual Communications' Armed with a Camera fellowship and a frequent speaker on representation in media, she uses her work to uplift underrepresented voices and support emerging artists. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters.

ANTHROPOLOGY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY 2025

PROCESSION OF THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Laurie Hart, Ph.D., *Department Chair*

FACULTY SUBFIELD SPEAKERS

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Tom Wake, Ph.D. | Archaeology |
| Abigail Bigham, Ph.D. | Biological |
| Zion Mengesha, Ph.D. | Linguistic |
| Jessica Cattelino, Ph.D. | Sociocultural |
| Heather Loyd, Ph.D. | Lemelson Honors |

STUDENT SPEAKER

Shay'La L. Price

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nadine Truong

REMEMBRANCE OF SINTHIA JEAN CARDENAS

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Heather Loyd, Ph.D. & Monica Smith, Ph.D.
Laurie Hart, Ph.D. & Abigail Bigham, Ph.D.

MOVING OF THE TASSEL

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| White | Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) |
| Gold | Bachelor of Science (B.S.) |

CONCLUSION AND RECESSIONAL

UCLA Lemelson Anthropological Honors Program

The UCLA Lemelson Anthropological Honors Program was founded in 2011 with a generous gift from our own Professor Robert Lemelson to support the development of research and mentoring partnerships among undergraduate and graduate student anthropologists and faculty. This program has helped enable UCLA's Anthropology Department to provide inspiration and top-notch research training to the next generation of research anthropologists, while nurturing the culture of collaboration for which UCLA is renowned.

The UCLA Lemelson Anthropological Honors Program is widely regarded as among the finest Departmental Honors programs in the country, and this year's seniors represented the department with great distinction during Undergraduate Research Week, which took place in May 2025. Our scholars' research presentations can be viewed at:
lemelson.anthro.ucla.edu.

Special thanks to our faculty and graduate teaching assistant who taught the senior cohort throughout the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years:

Professor Aomar Boum

Professor Linda Garro

Professor Doug Hollan

Professor Heather Loyd

Professor Tritia Toyota

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Emilia Holmbeck

2025 Lemelson Anthropological Honors Scholars

Nora Alsabi

"Everybody Speaks English": The UAE Linguistic Landscape

Reina Cooper

"Sometimes I Regret Having My Daughter": Navigating Motherhood and Gendered Labor Systems in Japan

Kristina Dove

On the Razor's Edge: Women's Sex Work, Roles of Advocacy, and the Law

Alex Gabriel-Yingling

"Mind the Gap": Disability and the Challenges of London's Transportation System

Victoria Gutierrez

"Try Lithium to Even Your Flow": Civic Engagement and Resource Extraction in California's Salton Sea

Ivanna Hernandez

"Even if It's Just for the Day": How Renaissance Faires Build Community and Bring Fantasy to Life

Clarissa Lesky

Embodied Expertise and Uncertain Medicine: Navigating a "New" Diagnosis through Illness Narratives

Greer Little

Fighting Back the Suburbs: Black Placemaking From Below

Daniel Nava

"I Wasn't Expecting to Build a Mommy Village": Resilience and Social Support among Single Mothers in Los Angeles Transitional Housing

Izabella Preziosi

Voices of Empathy: Socialization into Youth Agency and Inclusion through UNESCO Initiatives

Yanci Rosales Huezo

"We Do Not Depend on You": Nawat-Pipil Efforts in Preserving Identity and Ancestral Knowledge in Western El Salvador

Sara Shimabukuro

"A Very Individualized, Personalized Standard of Care": Health Care Professional Perspectives on Integrative Medicine

2025 Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Rachel Abad Abalos | Stephen Clark |
| Ayub Abdul-Cader | Reina Cooper ^{L*} |
| Ani Abramian | Priscila Hernandez Cordero |
| Rahaf Abumansour | Temple Daniel *** |
| Sama Agwani | Askyla Delaplaine *** |
| Mora Ali | Nina Carolina Dias Reino |
| Peyton Amberly Allen | Elizabeth Dodd |
| Nora Ebrahim Alsabi ^{L***} | Sara Isabel Dolmo Arriola |
| Nancy Leilani Alvarenga | Yvette Angelina Dominguez |
| Brizeida Alvarez Arana | Nyousha Dorajy |
| Tadeh Amirkhanian | Kristina Dove ^{L*} |
| Autumn Armstrong Simovic | Mysaiah Duke |
| Angelina Avraham | Valeria Isabel Escobar |
| Mila Awana-Surla | John Estrada |
| Angelina Barnes | Meghan Evans |
| Lana Bazik * | Kiana Farivar |
| Sarah Maria Belew-Gaidola | Michele Farnoush *** |
| Maxwell Sebastian Bjork-Traugott | Talia Festekdjian |
| Rowan Bolton | Madeline Flood |
| Wynne Brill | Alexandra Flores |
| Alizé Hennessy Bugarin | Ciara Freundlieb |
| Lauren Campsey | Alexandra Gabriel-Yingling ^{L*} |
| Daniela Cañas Hernandez | Cambree Ashlyn Garcia |
| Elena Maria Cano | Mirrey Gharibian |
| Sinthia Jean Cardenas | Sharis Gharibian |
| Valeria Carreon | Camila Giron Vela |
| Angelica Castelli | Merilyn Gomez-Gutierrez |
| Audrey Joy Chin Cheng | Melissa Gonzalez |

2025 Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Isabella Greenberg | Nessa Laxamana |
| Melanie Guerra | Connor Leach |
| Apoorva Gunti | Shaolin Lee |
| Nicholas Hayden Haverlock | Rachel Cao Lei |
| Kaila Naaz Hemmatyar * | Natalie Leon Zarate |
| Abigail Henderson | Clarissa Maria Lesky ^{LH*} |
| Esmeralda Henriquez | Nicholas Litt |
| Ivanna Renee Hernandez ^L | Greer Little ^{L***} |
| Victor Josue Isaias Hernandez | Aodong Liu |
| Ashley Marie Herrera | Rachel Liu |
| Arthur Hijmans Malesy ** | Helen Cecilia Lopez Alvarez |
| Andres Benjamin Ibarra | Sophia Elena Loux |
| Enrico Rafael Gaxiola-Melson III | Mia Lucier |
| Jessica Michelle Jary | Stephanie Macias |
| Xavier De Jesús Jimenez Castillo | Noshin Mahamud |
| Ciela Johnson | Xochitl Elisa Marin |
| Makia Johnson | Patricia Matias Chan |
| Kelsey Nicole Johnson | Ley'ah Gabriella McClain |
| Krikor Keork Kaprielian | Lily Autumn McFarlin |
| Leon Keork Kaprielian | Katheryne Menendez |
| Robert John Kavanagh | Kailyn Missaghi |
| Jeannie Renee Kennedy | Ryann Mitchell |
| Crystal Teri Kettle | Helia Mohseni |
| Kenneth Kim | Kimmie Moomau |
| Rebecca Faith Kim | Eddie Muñiz Calavera |
| Zoe Rachel Klein | Daniel Nava ^L |
| Kyla Laaly | Kyra Nevarez |
| Eric Burke Large | Kamyiah Oliver |

2025 Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Monzerrat Osuna | Hilda Sanchez |
| John Paul | Heidy Sánchez-Villavicencio |
| Ariana Pazooki | Haley Shaubzada |
| Haroutyun Perchemyan | Christopher Aldair Silva |
| Arielle Rose Pérez | Lea Sioson |
| Stella Perry | Joseph Rhoads Skaric |
| Archer Phillips | Jillian Joyce Snyder |
| Martin Pierro | Kegan Standridge |
| Oliver Donald Jacob Porter | Summer Syed |
| Aaron Myers Powell | Nidia Tapia |
| Izabella Preziosi ^{L**} | Dionysius Tasigeorgos |
| Shay'la L. Price * | Ruby Taylor |
| Lincoln Raju-Johnson | Aidan Teeger |
| Karma Kuen Rappleve | Rojan Tehranifar |
| Sophia Elizabeth Raymond ^{H***} | Yu Ting Teng |
| Isabella Reeves | Isabella Vega Thompson ^{H**} |
| Brianna Rodriguez | Carlos Francisco Torres ^{**} |
| Laysha Rodriguez | Sofia Tovar |
| Ash Romero | Taleen Vartani |
| Yanci Natalia Rosales Huevo ^L | Alexandria Nicole Carbajal Velasco |
| Nelva Elizabeth Ruiz-Martinez | Xinlin Wu |
| Mariam Saab | Brittany Yevoli |
| Marius Sabatino | Dayoung You |
| Sahil Sadiq | Myra Zavala |
| Parsa Sadri | Kelly Zhang |
| Haru Sakurai | Tongtong Zhang * |

2025 Degree Candidates

Bachelor of Science in Anthropology

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Basma Abdulla | Ryan Lejun Hu |
| Fatima Ahmad * | Yewon Jang |
| Karina Elizabeth Amaya | Thea Kassabian |
| Aliyah Asadi | Robert Attnasuos Kennedy |
| Ginah C Banks | Bianca Montano |
| Gabriel Bañuelos | Adam Rosenthal Nguyen |
| Akilah Beatty | Princess Osita Ogbonnaya |
| Marnie Cavanaugh | Jaclyn Nellie Padilla |
| Itzel Cerecedo Moctezuma | Karen Park |
| Emily Faith Chan | Cecilia Radilla |
| Gabriela Citlali Chavez | Malauna Rice |
| Serena Cross | Gicelle Alejandra Rubin |
| Heleena Getahun | Audrie Elizabeth Salcedo |
| Luciana Geovanna Gonzales Melgar | Sara Shimabukuro ^{L**} |
| Chloe Gupta | Ani Shirvanyan ^{H***} |
| Nathan Han | Tania Sotiri |
| Mercy Hau Palma | Angelina Tran |
| Alejandra Hernandez | Maia Oriana Von Hempel |
| Gagik Hovhannisyan ^{H*} | Elijah Zahran |

2025 Degree Candidates Minor in Anthropology

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wyatt James Almony | Victoria Gutierrez ^L |
| Lily Ann Baga | Trevor Hall |
| Kiely Ballard * | Kylie Yael Heering *** |
| Valerie Benavides | Naomi Hoang |
| Vedant Bhargava | Gwendolyn Kelley |
| Emma Bluemel | Meagan Balmas Kimbrell ** |
| Janice Boktor | Saanvi Kshetramade *** |
| Leia Rose Broughton * | Yesenia Nancy Lara |
| Grace Brown | Alette Laughton |
| Kyle Bruckman | Fernanda Madrazo |
| Paul Andrew Aviles Carcellar | David Mandujano Morales |
| Jack Francis Carleton ** | Sydney Marable |
| Fiona Choi | Gracie McEwen |
| Carlos Francisco Cienfuegos | Celeste Ione Medina-Seymoure |
| Jaime Spring Cruz | Maya Upendra Mehta ** |
| Katie Daniels | Catherine Nguyen |
| Cheska De Jesus | Nhat Nguyen |
| Humairah Djafar | Keelin Louise Nixon *** |
| Anthony Blair Lagu Dramani | Lucia Osuji |
| Samantha Eberle ** | Sarah Paredes |
| Farzana Yasmin Ecob ** | Seeta Roshan Patel *** |
| Gaia Encin * | Jessica Perez |
| Alondra Escobar-Contreras | Ella Roxanne Reitsma |
| Graciela Fabiano | Madison Rhynhart |
| Kyla Farley | David Rivera |
| Gabriel Sung Ho Fellin | Kristen H Rivera |
| Ricardo Garcia Raya ** | Annie Lizbeth Robles |
| Olivia Ghorai *** | Breanna Romero |

2025 Degree Candidates Minor in Anthropology

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lilibeth Veronica Salvador Mares | Karoline Vera |
| Cristina Sanchez | Cristian Villa |
| Octavio Santana | Anna Yu Vongjesda |
| Amanda C. Strevia | Rena Dream Wu ** |
| Ruby Stuart | Lin Miyoshi Yamamoto |
| Noa Sunshine | Gareth Yu *** |
| Sofia Thanopoulos | |

The presence of degree candidate names in this program is not an official record of each student's graduation status. The Registrar's Office is responsible for the official verification of each student's degree completion after the student's declared candidacy term.

WHAT IS A FOURRAGERE AND WHO WEARS ONE?

The decorative braid, called a fourragere, is worn to recognize achievement. Students receiving either College Honors, Latin Honors or both wear a gold fourragere on the left shoulder.

HOW ARE LATIN HONORS DETERMINED?

Latin Honors are awarded according to a student's cumulative University of California units and GPA at graduation.

(Note: Honors notations in this program are based on units and grades as of Winter 2025.

Honors statuses may change upon graduation.)

Fall 2024 through Summer 2025 GPA Requirements:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| CUM LAUDE | 3.927 minimum cumulative GPA |
| MAGNA CUM LAUDE | 3.969 minimum cumulative GPA |
| SUMMA CUM LAUDE | 3.992 minimum cumulative GPA |

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY THANKS

Abel Valenzuela, Ph.D.

Dean, Division of Social Sciences

Robert Lemelson, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor of Anthropology

Laurie Hart, Ph.D.

Department Chair

Abigail Bigham, Ph.D.

Vice Chair, Undergraduate Studies

Brooke Scelza, Ph.D.

Vice Chair, Graduate Studies

Kimberly Webster

Department Manager

Tracy Humbert

Accounting and Personnel Analyst

Myrna Dee Castillo Kikuchi

Undergraduate Student Advisor

Jason Liang

Technology Analyst

Drew Patterson

Academic Personnel Analyst

Ryan Rusnak

Graduate Student Advisor

Victor Sepulveda

Front Office Coordinator

Dashrit Pandher

Student Assistant