We welcome you to the 2016 Haas Scholars Undergraduate Research Conference! Our theme draws on the metaphor of the palimpsest, an ancient document in which newer writing is added over partially erased remnants of earlier writing. While acknowledging the influence of their mentors and past generations of scholars, this year’s Haas Scholars have boldly taken on the challenge of adding new insights to fields ranging from mathematics to literature, from Tajik dance and positive emotions to the struggle for social justice, and from explorations of our past to science at the cutting edge. We hope the fruit of this research will provide the next generation of Haas Scholars with a smooth and opalescent surface upon which their own insights may emerge.

At the Conference

January 14–15
Exhibit: Embeddings of Complete Graphs
Sophia Elia

January 15
Performance: Kulobi Dance from the Southern Region of Tajikistan
Natalie Rutiezer

Thursday, January 14
Howard Room, The Faculty Club, UC Berkeley
8:30–9:00 Welcome and Coffee
9:00–10:00 Women’s Academic Achievement and Collective Creativity
Chair: Thomas J. Carlson, Integrative Biology
Mehnaz Ahmar (Psychology/Integrative Biology)
Where Are All the Women? Exploring the STEM Gender Gap via Social Psychology Methodology
Faculty Sponsor: Thomas J. Carlson/Gemma Niermann, Integrative Biology
Kristothe Green (Psychology)
The Effect of Awe on Collective Creativity
Faculty Sponsor: Dacher Keltner, Psychology
10:15–11:45 Catalyzing Movements and Interactions
Chair: Andy Nguyen (Molecular & Cell Biology/English)
A Glimpse of the Protein Motions in a Model Hydrogen Tunneling Enzyme
Faculty Sponsor: Judith P. Klinman/Molecular & Cell Biology
Juliana Wu (Environmental Biological)
Optimizing Nutrient Interactions in a Broccoli-Fava Intercropping System
Faculty Sponsor: Celine Pallud, Environmental Science, Policy & Management
Casey Racicot (Anthropology)
Shifting Sensescapes: The Aftermath of the Richmond Chevron Fire
Faculty Sponsor: Charles Briggs, Anthropology
12:00–1:00 Lunch, Heyns Room, The Faculty Club, UC Berkeley
1:15–2:45 Communities in Transformation: Mind, Power, Space
Chair: Malo Andre Hutson, City & Regional Planning
Tyri Kayshawn (Interdisciplinary Studies/Spanish)
The Cognitive Transformation of the Striving Black Brothers Coalition
Faculty Sponsor: Nikki Jones, African American Studies
Jesus Vazquez-Cipriano (Interdisciplinary Studies)
Toward Latino Autonomy: A Case Study at UC Berkeley
Faculty Sponsor: Malo Andre Hutson, City & Regional Planning
Mimi Sergent-Leventhal (Sociology/Linguistics)
Habitus and Transition for the Private School Elite
Faculty Sponsor: John Lie, Sociology
3:00–4:30 Constructing Space and Identity
Chair: Mark Peterson, History
Charlotte Hull (History/English Literature)
Becoming Atlantic: A Spatial History from 17th Century Martha’s Vineyard
Faculty Sponsor: Mark Peterson, History
Connor Clark (History/American Studies)
“What a You Know About Dat, Eh?” Race and Respectability in the Italian American Vaudeville Theatre, 1880–1920
Faculty Sponsor: David Henkin, History
Minda Bautista (Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies)
From the Fields to the Pool Halls: The Plight of the Manong
Faculty Sponsor: Lok Sui, Ethnic Studies

Friday, January 15
Heys Room, The Faculty Club, UC Berkeley
9:45–10:15 Welcome and Coffee
10:15–11:45 Power, Prosociality, and Planarity
Chair: Professor Serena Chen, Psychology
Rhonda Armstrong (Psychology/Social Welfare)
Rising to the Top: The Effect of Rejection Resiliency on Power Attainment
Faculty Sponsor: Serena Chen, Psychology
Jay Gupta (Molecular & Cell Biology/Psychology)
Elucidating the Neural Structures and Mechanisms that Mediate the Prosocial Response in Rats
Faculty Sponsor: Daniela Kaufer, Integrative Biology
Sophia Elia (Physics/Mathematics)
Regular Embeddings of Complete Graphs
Faculty Sponsor: Bob Jacobsen, Physics
12:00–12:15 Performance: Kulobi Dance from the Southern Region of Tajikistan
Natalie Rutiezer
12:15–1:30 Lunch, Great Hall and Heys Room
1:30–3:00 Community, Identity, and Practices
Chair: SanSan Kwan, Theater, Dance & Performance Studies
Nalya Rodriguez (Ethnic Studies/Sociology)
Dislocation: An Intergenerational Analysis of Political Gang Violence in El Salvador and Los Angeles
Faculty Sponsor: Victoria Robinson, American Cultures/Ethnic Studies
Kaylee Yoshii (History/English)
A Half Century of Food Rationing in Cuba: A Historical Analysis of the Libreta
Faculty Sponsor: Elena A. Schneider, History
Natalie Rutiezer (Near Eastern Studies/Dance)
Expression, Performance, and Ritual: An Exploration of Dance in Tajikistan
Faculty Sponsor: SanSan Kwan, Theater, Dance & Performance Studies
3:15–4:45 Mourning Becomes Ekphrastic
Chair: Lisa C. Pieraccini, Classics
Karen MacLaughlin (Classical Languages)
Bifurcated Hope: Stoic Suicide and Christian Martyrdom in First Century Rome
Faculty Sponsor: Trevor Murphy, Classics
Marvin Morris (Classical Civilizations)
First in Flight: A Comprehensive Study of Etruscan Winged Demons
Faculty Sponsor: Lisa C. Pieraccini, Classics
Rikki-Nikol Anderson (English)
Picturing Reality: An Examination of Nabokov’s Ekphrastic Photographs
Faculty Sponsor: Eric Naiman, Comparative Literature/Slavic Languages & Literatures