

## Biographies of Speakers

**GEORGES VAN DEN ABBEELE, PH.D.**  
Dean, School of the Humanities  
UC Irvine

Dr. Van Den Abbeele is dean of the School of Humanities at UC Irvine. He previously served as dean at Northeastern University in Boston and at UC Santa Cruz, and taught at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, University of Miami and Harvard University.

He is the author of "Travel as Metaphor: From Montaigne to Rousseau," co-editor of "Community at Loose Ends," "A World of Fables" and "French Civilization and its Discontents." He has published over fifty articles on travel narrative, critical theory and Renaissance literature. He is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and recipient of the Blaise Pascal Medal.

A native of Belgium, Dr. Van Den Abbeele earned a bachelor's degree from Reed College and a Ph.D. from Cornell University.

**RACHEL TEAGLE, PH.D.**  
Founding Director, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art  
UC Davis

Dr. Teagle is the founding director of the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, which is scheduled to open on November 13, 2016. Prior to joining UC Davis in August 2012, Dr. Teagle served for five years as the executive director of The New Children's Museum in San Diego. She led the team that distinguished the museum as the only museum in the United States dedicated to commissioning leading contemporary artists to create works for children. She also led a successful \$27 million capital campaign for a major renovation of the museum. She has held curatorial positions at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Bay Area's Anderson Collection, a private collection made up primarily of post-World War II American art.

Dr. Teagle earned her Ph.D. in contemporary art history from Stanford University.

**MILAGROS PEÑA, PH.D.**  
Dean, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences  
UC Riverside

Dr. Peña is the dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at UC Riverside, a position she has held since September 2015. Prior to joining UC Riverside, Dr. Peña was the associate dean of

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the University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences where she was responsible for social and behavioral sciences, two interdisciplinary Title VI Centers and managing graduate affairs.

Dr. Peña's academic research, among other topics, has explored Latina activism and the role of nongovernment organizations and faith-based communities in Mexico and the United States in social and political change.

She is the author of "Latina Activists Across Borders: Women's Grassroots Organizing in Mexico and Texas," which won a 2008 distinguished book award from the Latino/a Section of the American Sociological Association. She is also the author of "Theologies and Liberation in Peru: The Role of Ideas in Social Movements," and "Punk Rockers' Revolution: A Pedagogy of Race, Class, and Gender" (with Curry Malott).

Prior to becoming associate dean, Dr. Peña was director of the University of Florida's Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, and she held faculty positions at New Mexico State University and Bowling Green State University.

Dr. Peña earned a Ph.D. and master's degree in sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a bachelor's degree from Iona College.

## **SALIM YAQUB, PH.D.**

**Associate Professor, Department of History**

**Director, Center for Cold War Studies and International History**

**UC Santa Barbara**

Dr. Yaqub is an associate professor of history and director of the Center for Cold War Studies and International History at UC Santa Barbara. He specializes in the history of U.S. foreign relations, with a particular focus on U.S. involvement in the Middle East in the postwar era. Prior to teaching at UC Santa Barbara, Dr. Yaqub was an assistant professor of history at the University of Chicago.

He is currently working on "Imperfect Strangers: Americans, Arabs, and U.S.-Middle East Relations in the 1970s," a book-length monograph on diplomatic, political, cultural, demographic and psychological interactions between the United States and the Arab world in the 1970s, which is scheduled for publication this year by Cornell University Press.

Dr. Yaqub received his B.F.A. in illustration from the Academy of Art College, San Francisco and earned his Ph.D. in U.S. history from Yale University.