



**UCLA** Luskin School of Public Affairs

# LUSKIN

COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

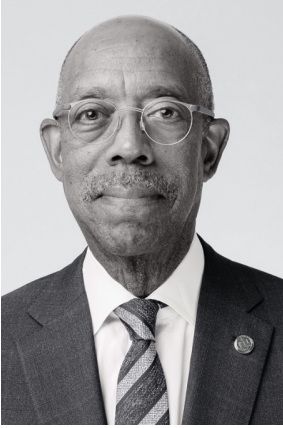
Friday, June 11, 2021

As a land grant institution, UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, Southern Channel Islands).

## **ABOUT THE UCLA LUSKIN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Founded in 1994 and dedicated in 2011, the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs is a leading institution for research and scholarship in the areas of public affairs, public policy, social welfare and urban planning. Based in the global metropolis of Los Angeles, UCLA Luskin develops creative solutions and innovative leaders that confront challenges in immigration, drug policy, prison reform, transportation, the environment, and other areas vital to the continued health and well-being of our global society.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Congratulations, UCLA Class of 2021! It is my honor to join your family, friends, and the entire University of California community in celebrating you and your wonderful accomplishment. Amid historically challenging circumstances across the globe, you have worked hard, persisted and persevered, in pursuit of your UC education.

I hope you will always take great pride in what you have achieved at the University of California, and in being a part of the UC family for life. This great university will always be a part of you, and UC will always be indelibly better for your time here as students.

UCLA alumnus and American hero Jackie Robinson once put it this way: “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.” You leave UCLA with the knowledge, skills, and confidence you need to go out into the world and create your future – and to change our planet for the greater good of all.

Your graduation is a milestone reflecting your resilience, your strength, and limitless hope for the future. The world faces unprecedented challenges. You are the leaders who will help heal what is wounded and right what is wrong. As you embark on this journey, know that you are ready. We are behind you, cheering you on, and wishing for ease, joy, and fulfillment in the path ahead of you.

Go forth, Bruins, and make the world a better, brighter place. Fiat lux – let there be light!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Drake, M.D." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael V. Drake, M.D.  
President, University of California

## CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



Congratulations, Class of 2021!

Graduation is the culmination of many years of determination, diligence and hard work. I hope you are proud of all that you have accomplished, and that your time at UCLA has broadened your horizons, deepened your relationships, strengthened your skills and helped you grow as people.

I also encourage you to take time to honor those who helped you on your journey and have been rooting for you from the start — your family, friends, mentors and peers.

You are entering an era that needs your creativity, brilliance and passion. This pandemic has taught us important lessons about vulnerability and inequality, but also about service, empathy and community. As we recover from the pandemic, you are well-equipped to contribute to the creation of a more prepared, more resilient and more just society.

At UCLA we affirm values of compassion and inclusion, careful research and thoughtful analysis, innovation and collaboration. Those are the very virtues that will serve you as you make your way through this challenging moment and beyond.

This UCLA community you have been a part of, the community you helped create, and the broader alumni community you are now joining will be with you always. May they give you strength and inspiration.

Congratulations once again. We can't wait to see where you'll go from here.

Fiat lux,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene D. Block". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gene D. Block  
UCLA Chancellor

## DEAN'S MESSAGE



To the UCLA Luskin Class of 2021:

It is my honor to join all of you today in congratulating the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs graduating class of 2021. I am deeply moved by their brilliance, their dedication and the impact they will have for all of us.

Graduates, it has been our privilege to host you these last years — two for those with master's degrees, and a bit more for those receiving their doctoral and undergraduate degrees. In your time at Luskin, we have done our best to share what we know about the social world and how we come to know it.

As you embark on your own careers, I am confident that the lessons learned here have prepared you — not just to be the next generation of policymakers, social services practitioners and urban planners, but to be a powerful force for positive action, to advocate for a society that works for all its members.

After today's ceremony, you will move on to new careers and new horizons — some at other universities, some working in communities and government agencies near and far. As you travel through your life, please remain connected and engaged with the Luskin School and UCLA. Many of you have heard from UCLA Luskin alums during your experience here — as event speakers, peer advisors and mentors, at career fairs and departmental programs. As the newest UCLA Luskin alumni, you can help by sharing your own expertise and knowledge with future students. We are forever proud that you have earned the degrees we bestow upon you today — we hope you are proud to carry the message of the Luskin School and UCLA to the broader world.

The goal of the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs is to prepare our students through research, education and public service to be change agents. On this day, I am proud to say that you are the evidence of our success.

Congratulations to the 2021 graduates! I wish you every happiness!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary M. Segura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary M. Segura  
Dean, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Patrisse Cullors is an educator, artist and best-selling author who has been on the front lines of community organizing for 20 years. In 2013, the UCLA alumna created the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag on Twitter, which grew into an international movement for racial justice and reform. Time magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in 2020.

As a teenager, Cullors became interested in activism and joined the Bus Riders Union, an advocacy group that fought for increased funding for bus systems in Los Angeles. She later started Dignity and Power Now, a coalition formed to shed light on brutality by sheriff's deputies in county jails.

She has also led the JusticeLA and Reform L.A. Jails coalitions, helping them to win progressive ballot measures, fight against a \$3.5 billion jail expansion plan in Los Angeles County, and implement the first Civilian Oversight Commission of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Her activism has been informed by her studies of revolutionaries, critical theory and social movements around the world. She earned a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from UCLA in 2012 and a master's in fine arts from USC.

In 2013, Cullors co-founded the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi in response to an acquittal in the killing of unarmed Florida teenager Trayvon Martin by a neighborhood watch volunteer. Today, the organization supports Black-led movements in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada and has been nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2018, Cullors and co-author Asha Bandele published "When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir," which became a New York Times best-seller.

In 2020, Cullors co-produced the 12-part YouTube series "Resist," which chronicles the fight against Los Angeles County's jail expansion plan. She also signed a multi-year production deal with Warner Bros. and has said she intends to use the contract to continue to uplift Black stories, talent and creators.

Cullors serves as the faculty director of Arizona's Prescott College, where she designed the curriculum for a new master's of fine arts program focusing on the intersection of art, social justice and community organizing.

## PROGRAM

### Opening remarks

*Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom*

*President Michael V. Drake*

*Chancellor Gene D. Block*

*Dean Gary M. Segura*

### Student Awards and Student Speakers

Undergraduate Department

Student Address

*Meredith Phillips, Chair*

*Long Hoang*

Public Policy Department

Student Address

Student Award

*Martin Gilens, Chair*

*George Every*

*To Be Announced*

Social Welfare Department

Student Address

Student Award

*Laura Abrams, Chair*

*Nana Akua Asabea Sarkodee-Adoo*

*To Be Announced*

Urban Planning Department

Student Address

Student Award

*Chris Tilly, Chair*

*Edgar B. Mejia*

*To Be Announced*



**Keynote Address**

Patrisse Cullors, *educator, artist, author and co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation*

**Message from the Department Chair**

**Presentation of Doctoral Candidates**

*Faculty Advisors from Social Welfare Department*

*Faculty Advisors from Urban Planning Department*

**Presentation of Master's Candidates and Conferring of Degrees**

**Presentation of Candidates for the Master of Public Policy**

*Martin Gilens, Chair*

**Conferral of the Master of Public Policy**

*Gary Segura, Dean*

**Presentation of Candidates for the Master of Social Welfare**

*Laura Abrams, Chair*

**Conferral of the Master of Social Welfare**

*Gary Segura, Dean*

**Presentation of Candidates for the Master of Urban and Regional Planning**

*Chris Tilly, Chair*

**Conferral of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning**

*Gary Segura, Dean*

**Presentation of Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs**

*Meredith Phillips, Chair*

**Conferral of the Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs**

*Gary Segura, Dean*

**Closing Remarks**

*Stephen Cheung, Alumnus and member of the Board of Advisors*

## 2021 MASTER'S CANDIDATES

Master of Public Policy  
Candidates

Jacqueline Adams <sup>†</sup>	Robin Kaloustian <sup>†</sup>
Julie Aguilar	Riko Kato
Sarah Andre	Aeden Keffelew
Rayan Bacaloni <sup>†</sup>	Assel Kumekbayeva <sup>†</sup>
Jessica Bendi <sup>2</sup>	Samuel Lau <sup>3</sup>
Rosie Browne <sup>1</sup>	Jiaxin Li
Hengyu Cai	Isabelle Liu
Shannon Camacho	Yijia Liu
Kaylyn Canlione <sup>2</sup>	Kathreen Lopez
Monique Cardona	Azami Moriyasu
Eduardo Castillo	Mariela Nevarez <sup>5</sup>
Shunan Chen <sup>†</sup>	Norihisa Niuro
Jeongseok Cho	William Proctor
Hanqing Chu	Savannah Ramirez
Sara Colic Omanovic	Eduardo Reyes
Siqiang Dai	Aidan Rutten
Amanda de la Cerda <sup>5</sup>	Amy Sage <sup>5</sup>
Cassandra Dewitt <sup>5</sup>	Ricardo Saraiva Ferreira
Dmitry Diment <sup>†</sup>	Joshua Segui
Ashley Etter <sup>2</sup>	Karishma Shamdasani
George Every	Xiaotang (Yoko) She <sup>†</sup>
Daniel Flynn <sup>†</sup>	Kathryn (Katie) Solomon <sup>4</sup>
Diana Garcia	Chee Yeon Song
Belinda Gaspar	Courtney Taylor
Katrin Gendova	Rachel Vogt
Sarah Goldmuntz <sup>†</sup>	Aditya Voleti
Kristen Goss	Savahhah Walker
Zijing Guan	Luoqi (Rocky) Wang
Jonathan Hagman	Siyuan Wang
Joshua Hardman	Bret Weinberger
Jasmine Hennessy	Haojia Wu
Punnpavin Herabat	Weifan Wu
Hiroaki Hirayama	Jianzhao Zhang
Tamera Hutcherson	Chuandruai Zhu <sup>†</sup>
Shuichiro Ikeda	

<sup>1</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Juris Doctor

<sup>2</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Master of Social Welfare

<sup>3</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Master of Public Health

<sup>4</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Master of Business Administration

<sup>5</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Doctor of Medicine

<sup>†</sup> Certificate in Global Public Affairs

Master of Social Welfare  
Candidates

Brett Elizabeth Anderson	Hoaran Li <sup>†</sup>
Jessica Danielle Appell	Deanna Sharon Lin
Gregory Vondell Arnold	Maggie Liu
Eva Leona Batalla-Mann <sup>3</sup>	Bernice Olimpia Lopez <sup>†</sup>
Jessica Friedman Bendit <sup>2</sup>	Princess Asata Louden
Carl Ann Rei P. Bolano <sup>3</sup>	Vanessa Macadamia
Joseph William Burton <sup>†</sup>	Kacie Gem Magoski
Ronald Alexander Calderon	Michelle Malkoukian
Kaylyn Canlione <sup>2</sup>	Enease Mansoorian
Maira Becky Chavez	Alexis Stephanie May
Cheyenne Lee Cole	Katharine Louise McCarty
Janaya Marie Cradle	Patrick Stapleton McCormick
Jade Alyssa Dalton	Valery Mendoza-Martinez
Lisa Chi Do	Jennifer Mizuki
Gloria Duran	Catya Jeannette Molina
Ashely Carin-Marie Etter <sup>2</sup>	Madison Lee Murphy- Sinclair
Ash Farnan	Angela Lan-Anh Nguyen
Sarah M. Fiskin	Guanhua Nie
Vilma Jeaneth Flores	Elizabeth Joy Nofziger
Kimberly Fuentes <sup>†</sup>	Tyler Block Ollanik
Alexia Renee George	Darlene Stephanie Olmedo
Lana Glazkova	Jesus Padilla Jardon
Araceli Gonzalez	Syd Peterson
Melissa Arlene Gonzalez	Nancy Alejandra Regis
Ambar Jacqueline Green	Anna Maureen Riley
Ayely Grigsby	Robyn D. Roberts
Caitlyn Dessaint Handy <sup>†</sup>	Francisco Rodriguez
Mayra Alexandra Hernandez	Sara Ann Rodriguez
Alyssa Faith Heskin	Stephanie Ruiz
Lauren Kiyo Higa <sup>4</sup>	Rangeena Salim-Eissa <sup>†</sup>
Sarah Elizabeth Homsy <sup>3</sup>	Mariesa Jene Samba
Jameelah Ashanti Howard	Nana Akua Asabea Sarkodee-Adoo <sup>2</sup>
Rebeca Cecilia Islas	Fabiola Saucedo Macias
Lucia Juarez	Jodi E. Scofield <sup>†</sup>
Hanako Alexandra Justice <sup>3</sup>	Antonio G. Shallowhorn
Alyssa Maria Keane	Michael Thomas Sheley
Matthew Robert Keels	Arthur Liu Sun
Amanda King	Anna Kim Tri
Taylor Jennings Kreiss	Alejandra Maria Vargas <sup>†</sup>
Julia Rachel Kulewicz	Isabella Maria Viducich
Kelly Y. Lai	Tiffany Kay-Yan Wang
Gabriella Therese Lara	Kate Woods
Aryeh Yitzhak Lazar	Sakile Wulbrecht
Jeanne Huynh Le	Iris Xing-Ting Xu
Jordan Robert Lee	Jiali Yao <sup>†</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Juris Doctor

<sup>2</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Master of Public Policy

<sup>3</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Master of Public Health

<sup>4</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Master of Arts, Asian American Studies

<sup>†</sup> Certificate in Global Public Affairs

Master of Urban and Regional  
Planning Candidates

Fernando Abarca  
Natalie Amberg  
Samikchhya Bhusal  
Cynthia Bourjac  
Chelsey Bryant<sup>†</sup>  
Suzanne Caflisch<sup>†</sup>  
Bertha Calderon Chinas  
Isabel Cardenas  
Eric Dasmalchi  
Laura Daza Garcia  
Khristian Decastro  
Sarah Diekroeger  
Antonio Elizondo Sanchez  
Charlotte Fagan<sup>4†</sup>  
Muthia Faizah  
Irene Farr  
Gerrlyn Gacao  
Jorge Gamboa  
Madeleine Garces  
Alejandro Gonzalez  
Andres Gonzalez  
Gul Nisa Gurbuz<sup>†</sup>  
Lauren Hiller  
Cassie (Cassandra) Hoeplich  
Eleanor Hunts  
Yu Hong Hwang<sup>†</sup>  
Rayne Laborde<sup>3</sup>  
Daniel Luu  
Tamara Mahadi<sup>†</sup>  
Selena Mao

Edgar B. Mejia  
Matthew Mello  
Damian Mendoza  
Breigh (Shireen) Montgomery  
Christina Monzer  
Alicia Morales Perez  
Alexander Murray  
Yustina Octifanny<sup>†</sup>  
Asiya Patel  
Shelly Quan  
Sasha Ragland  
Noy Ramon  
Cindy Reyes  
Morgan Rogers  
Lena Rogow  
Daniel Ruiz  
Rumsha Sajid  
Monika Shankar  
Elise Troxell<sup>†</sup>  
Michael Van Gorder  
Jayne Vidhecharoen  
Malavika Vinod  
Tayler Ward<sup>2</sup>  
Alexandra Weber  
Charlotte Will  
Robyn Wong  
Jacob Woocher<sup>†</sup>  
Allison Yang  
Jan Yonan  
Zachary Zeilman

<sup>1</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Juris Doctor

<sup>2</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Master of Public Health

<sup>3</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Master of Architecture

<sup>4</sup> Concurrent degree candidate for Master of Business Administration

<sup>†</sup> Certificate in Global Public Affairs

## 2021 DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Social Welfare Doctoral  
Candidates, Advisors and  
Dissertation Titles

Courtney M. Demko  
(Fernando Torres-Gil)  
"The New Face of Caregiving: Multidimensional Factors  
of Caregiver Burden Among Young Adult Caregivers"

Ryan J. Dougherty  
(David Cohen)  
"Prescribing Ethics to Psychiatric Medications:  
An Ethnography of Coercion in Involuntary  
Outpatient Commitment"

Aryun Hahm  
(Fernando Torres-Gil)  
"Balancing Work and Family: Parenting Preference,  
Compensating Differentials and Work-Family Interface"

Meredith Gamson Smiedt  
(Todd Franke)  
"Police Officer's Attitudes Towards Young People,  
Crime, and Criminal Responsibility"

Rachel Wells  
(Ananya Roy)  
"Change the Narrative: Poverty Discourse  
and Frontline Work in Community-Based  
Organizations in Post-Welfare Los Angeles"

Urban Planning Doctoral  
Candidates, Advisors and  
Dissertation Titles

Andre Comandon  
(Paavo Monkkonen)  
"Ethnoracial Diversification at the Edges of Exclusion"

Rebecca Crane  
(Paavo Monkkonen)  
"Is Granny in that Flat?: How Regulations Shape the  
Construction and Use of Accessory Dwelling Units in Los  
Angeles"

Silvia Gonzalez  
(Paul Ong)  
"The Role of Neighborhoods and Ethnorace in Constructing  
Health-Related Disparities in California"

Yiwen Kuai  
(Michael Lens)  
"Flying Under the Radar: 4% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit  
Program"

Bo Liu  
(JR DeShazo and Deepak Rajagopal)  
"Planning for Sustainable Transportation Through the  
Integration of Technology, Public Policy, and Behavioral  
Change: A Data-Driven Approach"

Patrick Adler  
(Michael Storper)  
"The Curating City: A Functional Account of the  
Agglomeration of Creative Industries"

## 2021 BACHELOR'S CANDIDATES

Bachelor of Arts in  
Public Affairs

Sophia Acosta  
Myranda Denise Arreola  
Tessa Azani  
Brandon Joshua Broukhim<sup>1,4</sup>  
Stephanie G. Cajina Porras  
Devin Elizabeth Carver<sup>3</sup>  
Shelby Hart Decker  
Raya M. DerBedrossian<sup>2</sup>  
Sophia Donskoi<sup>2</sup>  
Rachel DuRose  
Debby S. Erazo  
Kimberly Fabian Marquez<sup>2</sup>  
Niousha Farhangi<sup>2</sup>  
Hannah Feller  
Juliette Danzig Frank  
Ellie Graessle  
Darielle JD Green  
Jackson Peter Gregory<sup>3</sup>  
Chase J.S. Griffin  
Navkaran Singh Gurm  
Daniella Hagopian<sup>3</sup>  
Long Hoang  
Mia Soojong Inglis<sup>3</sup>  
Maria John  
Christopher Keating<sup>3</sup>  
Kira Rose Kerkorian  
Gabrielle Marie Kester  
Talla Khelghati<sup>2</sup>  
Grace S. Lachman<sup>3</sup>  
Olivia Lamarre  
Sean J. Lantz  
Annika Andrea Larson<sup>2</sup>  
Nina Long<sup>1</sup>  
Areli Lopez  
Stephany Lopez-Figueroa

Sarah Lunder  
Marcos Ramses Magana Garcia<sup>4</sup>  
Daniela Mainz  
Spiro Maleki  
Josh Mimura<sup>1</sup>  
Atreyi Mitra<sup>2</sup>  
Darren Mizrahi  
Valeria Moeda  
Melissa Morales Chang<sup>3</sup>  
Daniela A. Morales Mateos  
Katelin Murray<sup>2</sup>  
Braeden Nelson<sup>2</sup>  
Vanessa Brooke Newman  
Devina Monet Ortega<sup>3,4</sup>  
Adah Betsabe Perez  
Victoria Pfau  
Schuyler Poh  
Nisha Porchezhiyan<sup>2</sup>  
Christopher Portillo  
Karen Quezada<sup>3</sup>  
Kaila Danielle Ralph  
Jenifer Ramos  
Nicolas Riani  
Jessica Loraine Rodriguez  
Samantha Jazmin Rodriguez-Silva  
Hannah Sacker  
Rimsha Hassan Saeed<sup>1</sup>  
Tanmay Sahni  
Leslie Berenice Sanchez  
Brianna Sanders  
Kelly Rose Sellers  
Stephanie Tapia Onate  
Raquel Vaca  
Candler Weinberg  
Trinity Shawnice Willard  
Adrian Chan Yu

<sup>1</sup>Summa Cum Laude

<sup>2</sup>Magna Cum Laude

<sup>3</sup>Cum Laude

<sup>4</sup>College Honors

*Note: For the candidates for degrees in spring and summer 2021, honors are contingent on final grade point average at graduation. All honors are listed as of May 20, 2021.*

