I. Background Description

1. What are your department’s strengths and current assets?

Founded in 1967, History of Consciousness has established an international reputation and has served as a model for advanced interdisciplinary research and pedagogy. Its faculty have produced influential and widely cited scholarship, and its graduates have become well-published leaders in a variety of disciplines and inter-disciplines. History of Consciousness has also been one of UCSC’s most robust graduate programs. The Ph.D. program operates at the intersection of established and emergent disciplines and fields, enabling students to work between disciplines across the Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Physical and Biological Sciences. Intellectual projects are problem-based and thus draw on many different theoretical models. Current areas of specific interest and emphasis among the faculty and students can be grouped into the following four categories:

1) Race and Ethnicity; Gender and Sexuality: African and African American Studies, ethnic studies, Jewish studies, queer theory, feminism, disability studies, histories and theories of race and racialization, animality studies;

2) Philosophy and Theory: postcolonial studies, Marxism, psychoanalysis, political history and theory, science and technology studies, humanisms and posthumanisms, human rights, theology;

3) Political Economy and Social Movements: globalization, world systems, financialization, history of movements of the left and right, environmentalism;

4) Media, Aesthetics, Poetics: visual culture, music, literature, digital arts, popular culture, cultural studies.

One of the department’s most significant assets is its ability to foster such cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary work through its open and flexible program requirements and its active use of faculty expertise across the campus. This flexibility and openness characterizes History of Consciousness’s new vision, detailed below in sections 4 and 5.

The department has an active and longstanding commitment to training a highly diverse group of graduate students; a significant number of History of Consciousness PhDs (9 between 1989 and 2012) populate the ranks of the UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship program, thus testifying to a continuing record of diversification and excellence in the scholars and scholarship produced.

2. How does your department fit into the academic landscape of its discipline or field of study? What makes your department’s scholarly profile and research program distinctive within that landscape?
a. How does that distinctiveness relate to the focus and goals of your graduate program?

The History of Consciousness department has distinctive characteristics, even for an interdisciplinary program in the humanities. Its scholarly profile is the legacy of a faculty whose path-breaking theorizations of politics, culture and science have had a considerable impact on both the intellectual direction of the established disciplines and on the formation of new ones. Across the variety of these singular contributions, the department has come to be known as a place where new theoretical approaches are first developed at a distance from prevailing disciplinary conventions. The current faculty have upheld this conception of the mission of the department in their scholarship. Their research spans the gamut from critical political economy to critical race studies, from the ethics of humanitarian foreign policy to those of our relations to companion species, from radical philosophy to psychoanalysis. The resulting intellectual landscape of overlapping areas forms the basis of a new period of rebuilding and renewal as an epicenter of non- and inter-disciplinary, theory-driven scholarship in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts.

The graduate program is similarly distinctive, cultivating original scholarship in the above-mentioned areas. The department has continued to be able to provide an intense form of mentorship to its graduate students, encouraging them to formulate ambitious dissertation projects that can be recognized within the established disciplines as the promising first works of original interdisciplinary scholars.

The seminars the department offers provide graduate students with foundations in classical and contemporary theoretical approaches and introduce them to original faculty research. In both capacities they serve an important function across the campus as a place where students from a variety of disciplines can engage in collaborative intellectual work that moves between and beyond recognizable areas and field formations.

b. What effect does the distinctiveness discussed above have on the character of the department’s undergraduate curriculum and the meaning of your undergraduate degrees?

Although the department does not have an undergraduate major, it does offer a variety of undergraduate courses that introduce students to “big ideas” in the history of thought. Some examples include: Modernity and its Discontents; The History of Philosophy; Capitalism; The Foundations of Critical Theory; and The Emotions. These courses provide undergraduates with critical intellectual tools for understanding interdisciplinary and historical knowledge in critical theory, philosophy, affect, politics and economics. These courses offer intellectually foundational critical knowledge that serves undergraduates in many other majors in the social sciences and humanities. Graduate students offer independently designed courses in their fields of specialization that are also interdisciplinary and address issues of pressing political and social concern (e.g. AIDS, the Prison Industrial Complex, Queerness and Race, Marxist Philosophy, Social Movements).

3. What societal issues or needs are addressed by the work of your department? How do the ideas, projects, or opportunities associated it contribute to that issue or need?
The department has had a tradition, which it continues to practice, of highlighting the activist dimensions of intellectual work; as a result, History of Consciousness PhDs have gone on to work in a variety of different fields and professions that have some degree of social impact and relevance. On the one hand, graduates publish path-breaking books in established disciplines that challenge those disciplines to move beyond their boundaries; on the other, in addition to participating in the institutions of public and professional life, they also publish with a view toward the effect conceptual and theoretical work can have on the world. The department’s web site regularly features this work and attests to the diversity and socially minded quality of the intellectual production of History of Consciousness-trained alums.

Some of the topics currently being researched by PhD students illustrate this awareness of the contribution intellectual work can make to the world. Examples include critical race studies; visual culture; sound studies; animal studies; food management; prisons; AIDS; Occupy and other social movements; finance capital and human rights.

There are also innovative links with non-academic institutions in the Arts, with artist-based projects located in local and Bay area museums, galleries and libraries (San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland), and nationally and internationally. Such links have helped maintain the research in the Arts conducted within the department. For example, History of Consciousness students and PhDs have collaborated with the Sesnon Gallery (on campus), the Museum of the African Diaspora (SF), and the San Francisco Art Institute. Undergraduate and graduate courses at SAI designed by History of Consciousness students—and building on the department’s unique and dynamic combination of interdisciplinary perspectives, expertise and activities—allow student artists to reflect critically on their practice.

These ongoing connections—with the SAI, the Bruce Initiative on Rethinking Capitalism, the Lutecium School of Lacanian psychoanalysis—enhance opportunities for postgraduate mobility and training that help create a national and international framework for global cultural and policy studies in the public sphere.

The founding of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies is an important campus-wide event. The department’s faculty and students continue to be pivotal to future developments in this area, thus responding to society’s needs for professionals able to communicate and thrive in a diverse society.

A selected list of current and former PhD accomplishments in these and other areas of public concern follows this academic plan.

II. Opportunities for Impact

4. What strategy and priorities will your department take for:

a. Shaping the ladder faculty for research profile and graduate training?

b. Supporting a range of effective undergraduate programs and curricula?

c. Contributing to interdepartmental degree programs and scholarly collaborations and programs

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**d. Engagement with public good or contributions of public service?**

Taking advantage of existing interdisciplinary strengths among participating faculty and the flexibility of the graduate degree program, the department proposes to re-organize graduate admissions and the curriculum in History of Consciousness. The aim is to sharpen the intellectual coherence of the program, enhance the resources available for a range of intellectual foci, and increase the involvement of associated, affiliated and other faculty. The department will announce—as targeted admissions areas—biennial projects, themes or areas of interest (concentrations) that cut across disciplines, theoretical orientations and methodologies.

This is a consortium approach to curricula and graduate admissions with a distinctive intellectual ethos and a commitment to bringing UCSC faculty together in graduate teaching and development. History of Consciousness can play an expanded role as an integrator of graduate education across the campus through projects identified with the humanities, broadly conceived. A “consortium approach” means that a number of Ph.D. students in History of Consciousness will be admitted as part of a designated thematic project or concentration. Each project invites broad participation of faculty from other departments campus-wide.

The future the department seeks to shape is one in which the core values and strengths associated with History of Consciousness scholarship (problem-focused rigor, inventiveness, counterintuitive insight) are sustained by embracing a more collaborative approach to teaching and intellectual development. The department will continue to train new scholars in traditions of interdisciplinary study and also provide an environment to innovate new forms of practice, media and texts. This vision stresses key issues and problems while fostering an interdisciplinary sensibility across departments and divisions.

The department hopes to build on the track record of faculty in the core disciplines of the arts, social sciences and humanities to develop innovative forms of dialogue across subject areas and fields of study (for example, political theory and social movements, cultural history and cultural studies, digital technology and art, cultural analysis, science and technology studies and world environment). The department also aims to encourage young scholars to think about creating forms of knowledge that are accessible and linked to public engagement, dialogue and critical new thinking.

The department will continue its practice of admitting outstanding students whose projects find convergences among the faculty involved in the program, regardless of whether they are part of the particular concentration, and students will be free to change their focus as their intellectual interests develop. UCSC graduate students in other departments will be able to participate through the department’s Designated Emphasis degree notation.

The consortium affords an opportunity to enhance and reconfigure the department’s graduate profile through focused research projects across existing and future faculty in Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts. History of Consciousness seeks to help shape a future in which the intellectual ambition vital to research and teaching in the humanities is attuned to the value of interdisciplinary study. Outstanding expertise in creating the conditions for that engagement has been one of the key strengths of History of Consciousness; the development and dissemination of
that expertise among graduate students is one of its primary aims. Forging creative research communities of graduate students has always been an implicit goal of History of Consciousness, and this approach formalizes and advertises that goal, while explicitly enlarging its graduate community through an expanded inclusion of faculty and students from other UCSC departments.

The consortium thus invites faculty to teach and mentor graduate students alongside History of Consciousness faculty and to develop year-to-year symposia and curricula. Those not involved in the current project are encouraged to propose and develop future projects. In this way History of Consciousness can function as a catalyst for developing new and highly visible forms of collaborative graduate education across the UCSC campus. Meanwhile, the consortium would offer participants the opportunity to create a research culture that is at once responsive and responsible, socially engaged and socially challenging, anchored by their individual involvement with graduate students.

History of Consciousness will benefit from this approach because it reaffirms and concretizes the department’s commitment to foster the problem-driven research vital to new forms of knowledge and intelligibility, and to meet the challenges of imagining new modes of scholarship for the arts, social sciences and humanities today, while remaining a department of modest size. The approach also offers a benefit to the campus by allowing for modest Ph.D. student growth within the context of existing resources for training, teaching and mentoring.

The first of these projects, in its pilot admissions year, is “Crisis in the Cultures of Capitalism.” Little more than twenty years after the end of the Cold War, worldwide economic disorder is raising questions about the future of capitalism. The perceived failure of governments to respond effectively to worsening economic conditions has triggered widespread protests, and politics and popular culture have both adopted a decidedly apocalyptic tone. It is thus a moment that compels rigorous and inventive approaches to analysis and interpretation of these problems.

In response, The History of Consciousness Department proposes “Crisis in the Cultures of Capitalism,” a two-year, interdisciplinary program of courses, colloquia and study groups. “Crisis in the Cultures of Capitalism” seeks to provide a forum for the consideration of the economic, political and cultural dimensions of this global crisis. The objectives are: 1) to promote graduate student scholarship, and 2) to encourage faculty collaboration and intellectual community within this emerging area of critical inquiry. What forces lie behind the crisis? Why and how did levels of debt and inequality rise? How does the current crisis compare to crises of the past, and what might it indicate about the future? What new social movements and cultural identities arise in response to this crisis? What political and cultural possibilities are opened up in different regions of the world? These and many other questions will be addressed in the seminars, talks and publications that emerge from this project over the coming years.

On the undergraduate level, the department is interested in participating in a new interdisciplinary major or minor in the Humanities and the undergraduate CRES initiative. Graduate students in the program are already centrally involved in its planning and development, and their participation could be increased through the department’s Teaching Fellowship program, which offers graduate students the opportunity to teach courses of their own design.
Such participation would provide a valuable context for the department’s freestanding undergraduate offerings. The department is also interested in exploring how some of its introductory lecture courses could be integrated with curricula in allied departments and adapted to meet major requirements in those areas. Thinking synergistically, this could be a benefit to programs that are struggling to sustain full undergraduate and graduate curricula, while enabling robust undergraduate enrollments and a source of TAships to History of Consciousness graduate students.

III. Vision and Goals

5. What will the department look like in 5 years? What should it look like in 2 years? How are you preparing to achieve these aspirations?

The department faces an imminent retirement, bringing the full-time FTE in the department down to 2.25 (Eric Porter has transferred .25 FTE into the department). Two additional faculty participate as bylaw—55 members of the department, one of whom teaches full-time in the department (Robert Meister). Next year, the first year of the Capitalism project, the department will also benefit from additional faculty resources in the graduate program, while for two years now Jerome Neu has also offered his courses through History of Consciousness. Thus, even with a reduced faculty, the department is able to mount a respectable undergraduate and graduate curriculum. However, under these circumstances, FTE-holding faculty opportunity for research and scholarship is highly curtailed, as no one can afford to go on leave for a significant period.

The department envisions a modest return to sustainability and a variety of strategies to achieve these ends, including participating in joint or divisional searches; taking advantage of opportunities arising for other UCSC faculty to transfer their FTE in whole or part; seeking potential candidates from within the UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellows Hiring Incentive Program; and, in the near term, conducting a standalone search to replace the FTE that will be imminently lost through retirement. With a cohort of associate and full professors and participating faculty at the senior level, and with a graduate program involving broad campus participation, this seems like an opportune time to search at the assistant to associate level.

1) The department hopes to play a prominent role in the search of the currently authorized (and unassigned) FTE in Race, Religion and Politics. Events across the globe in the post 9/11 period have made more apparent the long historical relationship between between religion and politics, in popular mobilizations, in the formation and exercise of state power, and in conceptions of legitimate rule. This is an area of increasing interest among current History of Consciousness graduate students and among applicants to the graduate program. Such a hire would, further, help fill the gap left by the death of former History of Consciousness faculty, Gary Lease. It will ultimately strengthen the cohort of History-of-Consciousness participating faculty in the areas of social movements and religion and complement the work of faculty in Feminist Studies and Anthropology on religion, social movements, politics and race. The hiring of a scholar working at the intersection of religion, race and politics would also contribute crucially to the development of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies.
2) The department has a history of teaching and research in the field of continental philosophy, characterized by a strong emphasis on broad cultural and intellectual contexts and a distinctive sense of social and political engagement. The department’s curricular offerings in philosophy have made important contributions to graduate teaching across the divisions and to the place of philosophy within the humanities at UCSC. Building on this tradition, the department seeks a position in philosophy, someone who can contribute to the research culture of the department and its current bases in contemporary critical theory, and take part in the department’s various research initiatives, including its graduate emphases in Race and Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality; Philosophy and Theory; Political Economy and Social Movements; and Media, Aesthetics and Poetics. In particular, the department seeks to appoint a philosopher with interdisciplinary interests who can build on and expand the interdisciplinary focus of the department. With the loss of divisional expertise in continental philosophy, and in particular with the retirement of David Hoy, whose research and teaching contributed centrally to History of Consciousness graduate student training, this position would benefit a range of Humanities graduate students working at the intersections of a variety of fields, not only philosophy, history and literature, but also critical theory, critical race studies, and feminism and queer theory.

3) The department also hopes to play a prominent role in a divisional search for a position in African American Diaspora studies, with comparative or transnational strengths, a historical orientation, and preferred expertise in one or more of the following: feminist and queer studies, cultural studies, American studies, urban studies and the study of social movements. This is a position that was jointly proposed by History of Consciousness and American Studies last year, and it speaks to a number of desiderata emerging from other programs in the Humanities. History of Consciousness already has strengths that complement this area, and it is an area in which there is considerable graduate student demand. An additional hire in African American diaspora studies, whether in the department or elsewhere in the division, would enable UCSC to become a major center of graduate distinction in African American Studies. It would support American Studies as an intellectual project, especially in its post-nationalist turn. A scholar in this area would also enhance and, indeed, be crucial to the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies program. Thus in two years the department foresees its faculty being enhanced by 1-2 positions, possibly 3, with one position located wholly in the department and the second and third potentially partly or wholly located in the department. It envisions benefitting from a modicum of stability, especially in its leadership. It envisions contributing importantly to the CRES curriculum on the undergraduate and graduate levels, and it will be launching its second concentration or project. “Affect” has been suggested as a next initiative, which could build on and enrich the work of the current Affect Working Group Research Cluster of the IHR. Depending on the success of its first project and the addition of 1-2 faculty, whether as a result of searches or transfers, the department may be in a position to see a modest but significant increase in the number of graduate students it admits.

In five years, the department hopes to enhance its faculty further with a position in Science and Technology Studies. Given UCSC’s location near centers of technological innovation, it is ideally positioned to recruit faculty trained both in science or engineering and in critical thought. STS is at present concentrated predominantly in the Social Sciences, Arts and Engineering, although Feminist Studies, importantly, has an undergraduate track and some graduate training in Humanities Academic Plan 2013 Update
this area, and History has, in recent years, hired in the related field of Environmental History. A significant cohort of Humanities graduate students, including History of Consciousness students, work in this and related fields. There is thus both a need and an opportunity for the Humanities to increase its historic and actual strengths in science studies and help bring the Humanities into greater collaboration with other divisions through this critical emphasis. This position represents a significant opportunity for graduate growth, in that a sizeable number of students applying to the department express a desire to do science studies’ work. The department would like to hire a scholar who can contribute to the domains of thought opened by new scientific developments, and whose work addresses the unexamined assumptions of these disciplines. A hire in this area would complement work in Feminist Studies, Digital Humanities, the Science and Justice Working Group, and the "software studies" and "game design" group in FDM, Computer Sciences and Engineering.

In five years, the History of Consciousness envisions having increased its graduate numbers to more robust levels than those of recent years (the reduction in number a result of faculty attrition). It anticipates benefitting from the participation of a number of faculty across the divisions, some with partial or full FTE in the department, others participating through the concentration initiatives. In five years the department will be in an ideal position to assess the success of its new vision of campus-wide interdisciplinary graduate training and to make adjustments as necessary. Depending on its success in these endeavors, it may also be in a position to recruit, jointly or alone, for an additional position. The History of Consciousness department would be assured of sustaining and continuing its legacy programs of excellence at the graduate level while continuing to launch innovative interdisciplinary Ph.D. projects and increasing its contributions at the undergraduate level with a modest critical mass of six faculty in the department.

History of Consciousness PhD Accomplishments (selected):

UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellows
Alvina Quintana 90-92 (HISC Spring 1989)
Laura Hyn Yi Kang 95-96 (HISC Spring 1995)
Jerry Miller 01-02 (HISC Spring 2001)
Kevin Fellezs 04-05 (HISC Spring 2004)
Kalidi Vora 07-08 (HISC Spring 2007)
Michelle Erai 08-09(HISC Spring 2007)
Tamara Lea Spira 09-10 (HISC Spring 2009)
Cindy Bello (HISC Fall 2012)
Nicholas Mitchell (HISC Spring 2012)

Recent Books
**Eric Stanley** (current)

**Sean Burns** (HISC Fall 2008)

Eben Kirksey (HISC Winter 2008)

Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua (HISC Spring 2005)
The Seeds We Planted: Portraits of a Native Hawaiian Charter School (Minnesota 2013)

Joanne Barker (HISC Spring 2000)

Nancy Campbell (HISC Spring 1995)

Katie King (HISC Spring 1992)
Networked Reenactments: Stories Transdisciplinary Knowledges Tell (Duke 2012)

José Rabasa (HISC Spring 1985)
TELL ME THE STORY OF HOW I CONQUERED YOU: ELSEWHERE AND ETHNOSUICIDE IN THE COLONIAL MESOAMERICAN WORLD (U OF TEXAS, 2011)

Other

Adam Bush (current)
Working on a teachers guide for a film on the Leimert Park jazz community of LA (www.leimertparkmovie.com)

Lissette Olivares (current)
Performances and Exhibitions:

Eric Stanley (current)
Co-director (with Chris Vargas), Homotopia (2006) and Criminal Queers (2011)