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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



College of Social
& Behavioral Sciences

SBS SNAPSHOTS

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM
THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP
4

**Aspects of the relationship between Israelis and Iranians:
History, Culture, Politics, Wars, and Prospects**

Marshall Building, Room 490, 3:30-5:30PM

OCT
8

2025 Tumamoc Author Series: Patricia Gilman

Tumamoc Hill Boathouse, 6-7:30 PM

NOV
6-8

Save the Date: Homecoming

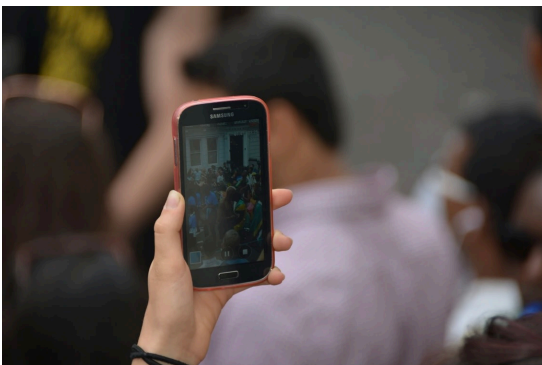
University of Arizona Campus



New U of A Study Confirms Humans Roamed the Americas 20,000+ Years Ago

Vance Holliday, professor emeritus in the School of Anthropology, led research confirming that footprints at White Sands are over 20,000 years old—the earliest known evidence of humans in the Americas. Multiple dating methods place the prints between 20,700 and 22,400 years ago, pushing back the timeline of human presence on the continent. [More](#)

SBS FEATURES



TikTok May Be Deepening Divides, Says U of A Researcher

Zicheng Cheng, assistant professor in the School of Journalism, writes in *The Conversation* that TikTok may be fueling political echo chambers — her new study finds that users largely

follow like-minded accounts,
reinforcing polarization. [More](#)



Trailblazer to Legacy: Jan Monk's Enduring Influence on Women and Scholarship

The late Janice (Jan) Monk, research professor emerita in the School of Geography, Development & Environment and executive director of the Southwest Institute for Research on Women, continues to impact the field through an endowment supporting student travel, lectures, and feminist geography research—advancing her lifelong work to uplift women scholars. [More](#)



SBS Undergraduate Researcher Earns Top Authorship on Policy Paper

Abe Macy, a 2025 School of Government and Public Policy graduate who will begin the Master of Public Administration program this fall, earned a rare lead author credit on a published academic paper last year as a senior — showcasing exceptional scholarship and the power of dedicated mentorship.

[More](#)

SBS NEWS BRIEFS



Congratulations to our exceptional faculty! Learn more about the 16 recipients of the 2025 SBS Faculty Awards. [More](#)

Robin Reineke, associate research social scientist at the Southwest Center in the School of Global Studies, joined the [***Voices of Fronteridades***](#) podcast to discuss her binational project, Forensic Citizenship in the Borderlands, which examines efforts to identify the missing and address the human toll of border policies. [More](#)

Nine students from diverse fields, including three from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences—**Baku Kamihara**, **Thais Rodrigues**, and **Matthew Aloysius**—spent the summer investigating how [***AI intersects with education, creativity, and society***](#) through a grant program from the Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry. A public showcase of their work will be held mid-fall.

Undergraduate student **Yusuf Majed M Badghaish**, who participated in the inaugural Field Studies in Writing course, was recently published in the [***Borderlands Restoration Networks***](#) newsletter. The piece reflects on the experience of volunteering at a permaculture farm, highlighting the impact of university and community partnerships.



How is AI transforming social media, and what does that mean for teens?

Jennifer Stevens Aubrey, professor and head of the Department of Communication, explores how immersive platforms impact adolescents' mental and physical health, focusing on gender, sexuality, and body image.

From media literacy to the gendered realities of sexting, she shares insights into how media is shaping youth development. [Watch to learn more.](#)

SBS IN THE NEWS

" [Scientists baffled by mysterious new statue emerging on Easter Island: 'This is a first'](#)" *The Daily Mail* (UK), 8/11/25 (Terry Hunt, Anthropology)

"[Local opinion: Project Blue controversy is democracy in action](#)," *Arizona Daily Star*, 7/31/25 (Andrea Gerlak, Geography, Development & Environment)

" **The 50th anniversary of 'The Monkey Wrench Gang,'**" *Daily Kos*, 7/31/25
(Edward Abbey, English)

"**A new statue suddenly appeared on Easter Island. That doesn't make sense,**" *Popular Mechanics*, 7/31/25 (Terry Hunt, Anthropology)

" **Making service visible,**" *Inside Higher Ed*, 7/30/25 (Beth Mitchneck, Geography, Development & Environment)

"**Scorching cells: How heat threatens lives in America's prisons,**"
Reuters, 7/30/25 (Ufuoma Ovienmhada, Geography, Development & Environment)

" **U of A students join search for lost WWII bomber crew in Poland,**"
Arizona Daily Star, 7/26/25 (Max von Husen, Anthropology student)

"**Migrant crossings on our northern border,**" *Investigative Post*, 7/22/25
(Binational Migration Institute)

"**What's your echo chamber? How TikTok increases political polarization,**" *Daily Independent*, 7/18/25 (Zicheng Cheng, Journalism)

"**CD 7 special primary provides data point for social media,**"
KOLD/KMSB-TV, 7/16/25 (Yotam Schmargad, Government and Public Policy)

"**Buckmaster Show: Will President Trump's Russia announcement change anything?**" KVOI-Radio, 7/15/25 (Pat Willerton, Government & Public Policy)

"**Arizona Dems fight to be the 'outsider'**" *Salon*, 7/13/25 (Tom Volgy, Government and Public Policy)

"Solar panels and farming unite in Southwest heat," *Wisconsin Ag Connection*, 7/11/25 (Greg Barron-Gafford, Geography, Development & Environment)

"After policy lapse revealed, Pima County Sheriff drops rule on tracking immigration calls," *AZ Luminaria*, 7/9/25 (Bradley Bartos, Government and Public Policy)

"Joe Rogan misleads on 'climate cooling' in Bernie Sanders interview," *AFP USA*, 7/9/25 (Kevin Anchukaitis, Geography, Development & Environment)

"Seven U of A faculty members named Fulbright scholars," *Arizona Daily Star*, 7/7/25 (Brian Silverstein, Anthropology)

"'Like leaving your soul behind:' Tucson humanitarian heals through service," *Arizona Daily Star*, 7/6/25 (Elizabeth Oglesby, Latin American Studies. Geography, Development & Environment)

"Why isn't agrivoltaics taking off in Arizona?" *High Country News*, 7/4/25 (Greg Barron-Gafford, Geography, Development & Environment)

"Elon Musk backs conservative rebels, blasts GOP, teases a new party," *TRT Global (Turkey)*, 7/2/25 (David Gibbs, History)

"Jan Lauren Boyles named School of Journalism director at the University of Arizona," *Editor and Publisher*, 6/30/25 (Jan Lauren Boyles, Journalism)

"White Sands' footprints confirmed as the oldest evidence of humans in the Americas," *Reuters*, 6/19/25 (Vance Holliday, Anthropology)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

The **SBS Academic Affairs and Student Success team** received the 2025 Outstanding or Innovative Programming Award. The U of A's Student Success Office presents this honor to a program addressing a specific campus concern or need. Each program's success has led to an increase in student engagement, success, and retention.

Christopher Cokinos, professor emeritus in the Department of English, was named a co-winner by the **2025 Utah Book Awards** for his book, *Still as Bright*.

Allison Ewing Cooper, director of SBS academic advising, received the 2024-2025 University of Arizona Outstanding Academic Advising Administrator Award. The U of A recognizes outstanding academic advising through its Excellence in Undergraduate Advising awards, which acknowledge individuals who have demonstrated exceptional support and guidance to undergraduate students.

Cristina Ramirez, professor and head of the Department of English, won first prize from the **WILLA Literary Awards** for her scholarly nonfiction book, *A Story of Stories: The Texas Border Barrio Life and Writings of Dona Ramona Gonzalez*, published by Trinity University Press.

MORE EVENTS

SEP
20

Inaugural Freedom Center Workshop on Academic Freedom

Memorial Student Union, Kachina Room, 9AM-4PM

OCT
15

Colloquium on Desert Cultures 2025

Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico

NOV
1

Southwest Center Travel Series: San Luis Potosí 2025

San Luis Potosí, Mexico

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A Just World, Together

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Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. The university strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.