

AUSTIN CHOI-FITZPATRICK, PhD

Associate Provost & Professor

University of San Diego

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ASSOCIATE PROVOST OF ACADEMIC STRATEGY AND GROWTH

Office of the Vice President and Provost, University of San Diego | 2024–Present

- Lead the **Office of Sponsored Projects**, managing a **\$90M portfolio** of contracts and research funds, directing all events and reports, and leading a team of **5 full-time staff**.
- Institutional Review Board (**IRB**) **Administrator**, managing **600+ annual submissions**, streamlining approval processes, and leading a team of **2 part-time staff and 12 volunteers**.
- Drive key initiatives related to efficiency (especially **integrating artificial intelligence** into the research administration workflow) and scale (increasing core capacity).
- Initiated, co-chaired, and wrote final report for Joint Provost-Senate Taskforce on Engaged Scholarship that was 1) unanimously approved, and 2) drove subsequent research strategy.
- Institutional Reference: \$700M endowment, \$550M revenue, 9k students, 7 schools, NCAA Div 1, Carnegie R2 (HERD 340), Hispanic Serving Institution, #18 Best-run College.

FACULTY DIRECTOR

Center for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship, University of San Diego | 2023–Present

- Directed the **MA in Social Innovation**, with annual operating costs of **\$1M+**.
- Collaborated with Executive Director to bring **three research units** under Center control, creating operational efficiencies and increasing annual revenue tenfold to **\$2M**.
- Supported Executive Director and Advancement in securing sustaining funding beyond the Center's current **\$6.5M endowment**.
- Coordinated with Executive Director in adding **USD Teaching Cases on Social Impact** to *Official Partner Collection* with **Harvard Business Publishing** Education.

DIRECTOR

Future of Slavery and Emancipation Working Group, Yale University | 2022–Present

- Developed and lead a **two-year convening of global experts** on post-slavery futures, resulting in interdisciplinary policy memos and a forthcoming book.

PROFESSOR

Kroc School of Peace Studies, University of San Diego | 2015–Present

- Full Professor, with expertise in **global civil society**.
- Author or editor of **6 books** (Cambridge, Oxford, MIT, Columbia, Penn), **50+ articles & chapters**.
- **Television and radio** appearances in the American, Canadian, and British markets.
- **Fellowships** at Harvard, Yale, UCSD, and Oxford.

EDUCATION

- **PhD and MA**, Sociology, University of Notre Dame (2013)
- **MS**, International Administration, University of Denver (Korbel School)
- **BS**, Photography, Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU)

EMPLOYMENT

- 2015-present Full Professor of Sociology
(Assistant '15-'19, Associate '19-'21, Endowed Univ Prof '21-'22, Full '22-present)
Kroc School of Peace Studies, **University of San Diego**
- 2013-2015 Founding Assistant Professor of Political Sociology
School of Public Policy, **Central European University (EU)**

LEADERSHIP & ACADEMIC POSITIONS – Current

- 2024-present **Associate Provost for Academic Strategy and Growth**, Office of the Provost and Vice President, University of San Diego
- 2023-present **Faculty Director**, Center for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, USD
- 2022-present **Scholar in Residence**, Aspen Global Leadership Network, **Aspen Institute**
- 2022-present **Co-Director**, Working Group on Future of Slavery, **Yale University**
Affiliated Scholar, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University
- 2023-present Member, The International Panel on the Information Environment (Switzerland)
- 2023-present Member, Strategic Planning Committee, University of San Diego
- 2019-present **Co-Founder & Vice-President**, *Art Builds Collective* (501c3)
- 2018-present Rights Lab Visiting Professor of Social Movements and Human Rights,
School of Sociology and Social Policy, **University of Nottingham (UK)**
- 2014-present Associate Editor, *Journal of Human Trafficking*
- 2008-present International Advisory Board, *Mobilization*

ACADEMIC POSITIONS – Previous

- 2023-2024 **Director**, MA in Social Innovation, Kroc School, University of San Diego
- 2014-2023 **Director**, The Good Drone Lab
- 2022 Visiting Scholar, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, **Yale University**
- 2021-2022 University Professor, University of San Diego
- 2021-2022 Technology and Human Rights Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights, Kennedy School of Government, **Harvard University**
- 2020-2021 Visiting Scholar, Institute for Practical Ethics
University of California, San Diego
- 2020-2021 Knowledge Futures Group MIT Publishing Innovation Fellow
Knowledge Futures Group, MIT
- 2017 Visiting Scholar, Oxford Internet Institute, **Oxford University (UK)**
- 2014-2020 Faculty Fellow, Center for Media, Data and Society (EU)

RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS

- 2024 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin** and Gordon Hoople. *Connective Creativity: What Artists can Teach us About Collaboration*. Essentials Series, Cambridge University Press.
- 2022 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**, Douglas Irvin-Erickson, and Ernesto Verdeja (eds). *Wicked Problems: The Ethics of Action for Peace, Rights, and Justice*. Oxford University Press.
- 2020 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**. *The Good Drone: How Social Movements Democratize Surveillance*. MIT Press.
- 2020 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin** and Gordon Hoople. *Drones for Good: How to Bring Sociotechnical Thinking into the Classroom*. Springer.
- 2017 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**. *What Slaveholders Think: How Contemporary Perpetrators Rationalize What They Do*. Columbia University Press.
- 2012 Brysk, Alison and **Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick** (eds). *From Human Trafficking to Human Rights: Rethinking Contemporary Slavery*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

PUBLICATIONS: EDITED SPECIAL ISSUE

- 2016 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**, ed. Special Issue of the *Journal of Human Trafficking* on 'Slaveholders and Traffickers.' Guest Editor, 2(1) 2016 ([link](#)).

PUBLICATIONS: PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2024 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**. "Disruption and Emergence: How to Think about Human Rights Futures." *Journal of Human Rights*. 23(1). Impact Factor: 1.9 ([link](#)).
- 2021 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin** and Amelia Watkins-Smith. "Agency Continuum? A Non-Binary Approach to Agency Among Human Rights Victims and Violators." *Human Rights Quarterly* (43)4. Impact Factor: 1.22 ([link](#)).
- 2021 Boyd, Doreen, Bertrand Perrat, Xiaodong Li, Bethany Johnson, Todd Landman, Feng Lin, Kevin Bales, **Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick**, James Goulding, Stuart Marsh and Giles M. Foody. "An Earth Observatory for Human Rights." *Humanities and Social Science Communication* (published by *Nature*), 8. Impact factor 2.60 ([link](#)).
- 2019 Hoople, Gordon, **Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick**, Nathaniel Parde, Diane Hoffoss, Max Mellette, Rachel Nishimura, Virginia Gutman. "About Time: Visualizing Time at Burning Man." *The STEAM Journal* 4(1) ([link](#)).
- 2019 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**, Hoople, Gordon, and Elizabeth Reddy. "Drones for Good: Interdisciplinary Project Based Learning Between Engineering and Peace Studies." *International Journal of Engineering Education* ([link](#)).

- 2019 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**, Reddy, Elizabeth, and Gordon Hoople. "Boundary Objects in Classroom Practice: Using Drones to Foster Critical Engagement." *Engineering Studies* 11(1), 51-64. Impact Factor: .73 ([link](#)).
- 2019 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin** and Gordon Hoople. "Cultivating an Entrepreneurial Mindset: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Using Drones." *Advances in Engineering Education* 7(3) ([link](#)).
- 2018 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**, Tautvydas Juskauskas, and Mohammed Sabur. "All the Protestors fit to Count: Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Estimate Crowd Size in Urban Environs." *Interface* 10(1-2), 297-321 ([link](#)).
- 2016 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**. "The Good, the Bad, the Ugly: Human Rights Violators in Comparative Perspective." *Journal of Human Trafficking* 2(1) ([link](#)).
- 2015 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**. "From Rescue to Representation: A Human Rights Approach to the Contemporary Anti-Slavery Movement." *Journal of Human Rights*. 14(4), 486-503. Impact Factor: 1.9 ([link](#)).
- 2015 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**. "Managing Democracy in Social Movement Organizations." *Social Movement Studies*. 14(2): 123-141. Impact Factor: 1.74 ([link](#))
- 2015 Brandon Vaidyanathan, Michael Strand, **Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick**, Thomas Buschman, Meghan Davis, and Amanda Varela. "Causality in Contemporary American Sociology: An Empirical Assessment and Critique." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*. Impact Factor: 1.81 ([link](#)).
- 2015 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**. "Emancipazioni contemporanee: una tipologia delle vie d'uscita dall'asservimento (Emancipation from Contemporary Slavery: A Typology of Intervention Strategies)." *Mondo Contemporaneo Rivista di Storia – Italian Journal of Contemporary World History*.
- 2014 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**. "Drones for Good: Technological Innovation, Social Movements and the State." *Columbia Journal of International Affairs*. Volume 68; Number 1. 1-18 ([link](#)).
- 2014 **Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin**. "To Seek and Save the Lost: Human Trafficking and Salvation Schemas among American Evangelicals." *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*. Volume 1; Number 2, 119-140 ([link](#)).
- 2011 McVeigh, Rory, Josh Dinsman, **Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick**, and Priyamvada Trivedi. "Obama vs. Clinton: Categorical Boundaries and Intra-Party Electoral Outcomes." *Social Problems* 58(1): 47-68. Impact Factor: 3.575 ([link](#)).
- 2009 Velitchkova, Ana, Jackie Smith and **Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick**. "Windows on the Ninth World Social Forum in Belém." *Societies Without Borders* 4, 193–208.

ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS

Art Builds (2019-present): Together with Gordon Hoople (Engineering), Nate Parde (Theatre), and Diane Hofoss (Mathematics) I have co-founded an interdisciplinary art collective. We are committed to building public art that sparks joy and invites engagement. My personal intention is to extend the ideas found in my written work out into the world in physical form. Our three most recent pieces play with key concepts from my new book manuscript, *Bonded*, including liminality, multiple perspectives, structure, and agency. With Gordon Hoople I have written about this experience in *Connective Action* (2024, Cambridge University Press).

Penumbra (2024, Black Rock City, Nevada, *Burning Man*) was commissioned through a Black Rock City 2024 Honoraria art grant. By day it invites exploration. Night brings a transformation as an internal tower becomes a beacon, throwing shadows across the desert floor and calling participants to the tower's top. This floating camp fire invites people to commune. And to play, as the light's position is controlled by a wheel.



Unfolding Humanity (2023, Black Rock City, Nevada, *Burning Man*) was commissioned through a Black Rock City 2023 Honoraria art grant. This steel dodecahedron covered in more than 17,000 LEDs highlights the tension between technology and humanity. The pentagonal walls of the sculpture unfold under human power and allude to Albrecht Dürer's 500-year-old unsolved math problem on unfolding polyhedral and it was conceived, designed, and built by a large (80+) group of faculty, students, and community volunteers.



re:emergence (2022, Black Rock City, Nevada, *Burning Man*) is a 20' tall and 60' long series of gates designed to spark joy, prompt reflection, and invite action. Dramatically extending design features from *Emergence* (2021), *re:emergence* demonstrates the extent to which structures shape, but can never fully constrain, human action. At times the design seems to require some forms of action (stooping at the saddle point, for example), but nothing stops you from exiting the tunnel, and climbing outside of the structure altogether.



Reflexion (2022, La Jolla, California) was commissioned through the City of San Diego's Park Social initiative. With its mirrored columns and individually rotatable prisms, *Reflexion* is a meditation on the competing, overlapping, distorting, and clarifying roles played by lenses, filters, and frames in contemporary life. Yet, just when all seems lost, *Reflexion* reminds us of our power – to take control and to change perspectives. Stand between them, and multiple perspectives help us see the impossible, and perhaps notice what we've missed.



Emergence (2021, Mojave Desert, *Everywhen*) was a 10' tall, 30' long, LED-illuminated wooden sculpture. The piece invites meditation on the liminal – the no-man's zone between moments and eras. Conceptualized in the midst of a global pandemic, and installed as the world was recalibrating the aftermath, *Emergence* constricts and flares in ways that remind us that we must both bow and climb.



About Time (2019, Black Rock City, Nevada, *Burning Man*) was a thirty-foot long, 3,000 pound wooden sundial reflected on the role time plays in our lives, as master and measure. This installation projected time using two sundials: a horizontal dial which swept time out across the desert floor and an equatorial dial located on one face of the pyramidal structure. A platform at the peak of the pyramid allowed visitors to become the sundial's apex and to experience panoramic views of the landscape. At the end of the installation the piece was burned, underscoring time's fleeting nature.



PUBLICATIONS: PEER-REVIEWED CHAPTERS – Available Upon Request

PUBLICATIONS: REFEREED CONFERENCE – Available Upon Request

PUBLICATIONS: REVIEWS, PRESS, POLICY, ADVOCACY – Available Upon Request

INVITED KEYNOTE TALKS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES – Available Upon Request

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS – Available Upon Request

GUEST LECTURES – Available Upon Request

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND HONORS

International Grants and Awards – Detailed List Available Upon Request

2024	“Art Builds” Black Rock City 2023 Honoraria Penumbra, wood	\$10,000
2023	“Art Builds” Black Rock City 2023 Honoraria Unfolding Humanity, steel	\$10,000
2018-2023	Tier 1 “Exceptional Talent” Visa-holder (UK)	

National Grants and Awards – Detailed List Available Upon Request

2023	Art Builds, “Threshold 5,” City of Escondido Art Council	\$45,000
2020	Art Builds, “Park Social, an <i>Art Builds Collaboration</i> ,” City of San Diego Funding to build public art, in order to engage communities, post-pandemic.	\$15,000
2018	<i>Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Book Award (ASA)</i> – Honorable Mention for <i>What Slaveholders Think</i>	
2016-18	National Science Foundation RED sub-award for development of curriculum championing “Changemaking Education.” NSF EEC-1519453. With Gordon Hoople (USD-Engineering).	\$10,000
2011	National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant: “How Human Rights Interventions Affect Local Norms and Practices.” NSF SES-11311019.	\$7,400

University Awards – Detailed List Available Upon Request

2019	Co-PI: “ <i>Art Builds: An Interdisciplinary Art Cooperative.</i> ” CoLab Collaborative Arts Award. With Gordon Hoople (USD-Engineering).	\$5,000
2019	Co-PI: “ <i>Art Builds: An Interdisciplinary Art Cooperative.</i> ” Faculty Interdisciplinary Startup (FIRSt) Grant, Humanities Center (USD). With Gordon Hoople (USD-Engineering)	\$7,000
2015-2019	Research Support Kroc School of Peace Studies, University of San Diego	\$50,000
2011-2012	Kellogg Dissertation Year Fellowship. Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame	\$18,000
2011-2012	Dissertation Research Grant. Center for the Study of Social Movements, University of Notre Dame	\$18,000
2010	Young Scholar Award. Center for the Study of Social Movements and Social Change, University of Notre Dame	— —
2009	Graduate Research Seed Grant. Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame. Pre-dissertation fieldwork.	\$7,000

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Social Movements, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2022-2024)
Portfolio, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2022-2024)
Social Innovation Practicum (San Diego), Kroc School, University of San Diego (2021)
Foundations: Peace, Justice, and Social Change, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2020-2024)
Protest and Revolution Discussion Group, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2020)
Slavery and Freedom Discussion Group, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2019)
Rwanda: Social Innovation Practicum, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2017-2020, 2022-2024)
Engineering Peace, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2017, 2018)
Social Innovation, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2017-2020, 2022-2023)
Introduction to Peace Studies, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2016-2018)
Research Methods and Design, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2016)
Technology and Social Change, Kroc School, University of San Diego (2015)
Power and Politics, School of Public Policy, Central European University (2015)
Social Movements and Media Advocacy, School of Public Policy, Central European Univ. (2015)
Human Rights Advocacy, School of Public Policy, Central European University (2014)
Social Movements & Social Change, School of Public Policy, Central European University (2014)
Contemporary Slavery & Abolition, School of Public Policy, Central European University (2014)
The Evolution of Governance, School of Public Policy, Central European University (2013, 2014)
How to Survive Graduate School, School of Public Policy, Central European University (2013)
Social Movements and Globalization, Sociology Department, University of Notre Dame (2008)
The Politics of Globalization, Political Science Department, San Diego State University (2006)

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE – Selected

2023-present **Member, Strategic Planning Committee** (USD)
2023-2023 **Tenure Appeal Ad-Hoc Committee** (USD)
2021, 2022 **Chair, Faculty Search Committee** (USD, Kroc)
2023-2024 **Director, MA Social Innovation Program** (USD, Kroc)
2015-2022 **University Senate** (Executive Committee 2017-2021) (USD)
2020-2022 **Co-Chair, Joint Provost Senate Taskforce on Engaged Scholarship** (USD)
2018-2019 **Sexual Misconduct and Gender Equality Committee** (USD)
2007-2013 **Assistant Director, Center for Study of Social Movements & Social Change** (ND)
2002-2003 **President: Student Government** (Korbel School, DU)
2002-2003 **Editor: Newsletter** (Korbel School, DU)

REFEREE

American Journal of Sociology
American Sociological Review
Contemporary Sociology
Qualitative Sociology
Sociological Inquiry
Social Problems
Social Forces
Antipode

Mobilization
Human Rights Review
Societies without Borders
Journal of Conflict Resolution
Journal of Human Trafficking
International Political Sociology
Journal of Asian and African Studie

Cambridge University Press
Columbia University Press
Oxford University Press
Rowman and Littlefield
Routledge
MIT Press