



For Immediate Release

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Dear Provosts, Deans, and Emeriti Association Presidents:

**UC Davis and UCLA Professors Honored with
2023-2024 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award**

The 2023-2024 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award honoring Emeriti Professors in the University of California system has been awarded to Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and History Brian Copenhaver (UCLA) and Distinguished Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Suad Joseph (UC Davis).

UC Emeriti Professors Copenhaver and Joseph are the fifty-second and fifty-third recipients of the Constantine Panunzio Award. Both awardees have especially long and notable records of research, teaching, and service to the University of California, their disciplines, and their communities. The late Dr. Panunzio, a Professor of Sociology at UCLA for many years, has been described as the architect of the UC Retirement System and was particularly active in improving pensions and stipends for his fellow Emeriti. The award bearing his name was established in 1983 and includes a \$5,000 prize.

Brian Copenhaver, UCLA, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and History retired in 2017. Since retirement, Professor Copenhaver's scholarly output has been extraordinary and wide-ranging, including six monographs, twelve articles, with at least three additional works on the way, including one of the most extensive studies of Pico della Mirandola's *900 Conclusions*. While much of his focus has been on understanding and explaining the importance of the work of Giovanni Pico della Mirandola as exemplified in his work, *Magic and the Dignity of Man: Pico della Mirandola and His Oration in Modern Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2019), he has also published and translated the works of several other Renaissance philosophers, giving him a panoptic view of Renaissance thought. Professor Copenhaver is considered the leading authority on the history of learned magic and one of the top three experts in the world on Renaissance philosophy. Yet, he has not limited himself to the renaissance, and since retirement has published an important argument about the nature of "modern" philosophy, *Philosophy as Descartes Found It: Theory and Practice* (2024). He has continued to teach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and has participated in programs and seminars at several universities. After becoming emeritus, up until 2022, he served as editor of the *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, which not only testifies to his professional commitment, but also to the breadth of his philosophic interests.

Suad Joseph, UC Davis, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies retired in 2014. Professor Joseph has had an illustrious and productive academic career and that has continued unabated into retirement. She is considered a visionary in international and societal issues. Her accomplishments as a scholar and as an advocate for new multidisciplinary approaches and cultural framework to the study of women, gender, family and community in the Middle East have been inspirational for a generation of colleagues and students. Demonstrating her enormous energy and productivity, Professor Joseph has developed additional programs of research: Transforming Refugee Mental Health, Gendering Stem Education, Mapping the Production of Knowledge on Women and Gender in the Arab Region. She is the founding and current editor of the *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic*

Cultures, and has published over 100 articles and 15 online supplements since retirement. Her research activity highlights another of her professional skills: fundraising. She has been tireless in seeking and obtaining research grants to fund her projects and has used this funding collaboratively. Notably, since retirement she founded the Middle East/South Asia Studies Program and has raised over \$6 million in external awards to support numerous educational endeavors. Her research and teaching admirably overlap as she has devoted time and energy to bringing students into research projects, seminar instruction and mentorship.

Please join all of us on the Committee in congratulating Emeriti Professors Brian Copenhaver and Suad Joseph on receiving the 2023-2024 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent part.

Michael S. Levine

Chair, Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award Selection Committee
Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs & Personnel