Mary Yu Danico is a Professor and Vice Chair of Sociology in the Psychology and Sociology Department at Cal Poly Pomona. In the last 15 years, Dr. Danico has focused her work in the areas of ethnic relations, Asian American Studies, human rights, and social justice. People outside and within colleges and universities continue to view academic institutions as fair and reasonable, far removed from the inequalities that afflict society in general. Despite greater numbers of women, working class people, and people of color—as well as increased visibility for LGBTQ students and staff—over the past fifty years, universities remain “ivory towers” that perpetuate institutionalized forms of sexism, classism, racism, and homophobia. In her book, *Transforming the Ivory Tower*, Dr. Danico builds on the rich legacy of historical struggles to open universities to dissenting voices and oppressed groups. There is a presumption and a lack of social political awareness that often curtails productive and meaningful experiences for many in higher education. This talk will attempt to unpack the various obstacles, but also discuss concrete ways in which one can survive the ivory tower.

**LOCATION:** GRADUATE RESOURCE CENTER (GRC)  
GATEWAY STUDY CENTER 3100

**RSVP at:** diversity@rgs.uci.edu

**QUESTIONS?**  
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The Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience (DECADE) initiative is sponsored by a FIPSE comprehensive grant aimed at increasing the number of women and underrepresented minorities receiving doctoral degrees at UCI. The DECADE Speaker Series features distinguished speakers from across the country and invites the UCI community to participate in dialogue focused on campus climate and diversity.