

Terry Christensen

Curriculum Vitae 2025

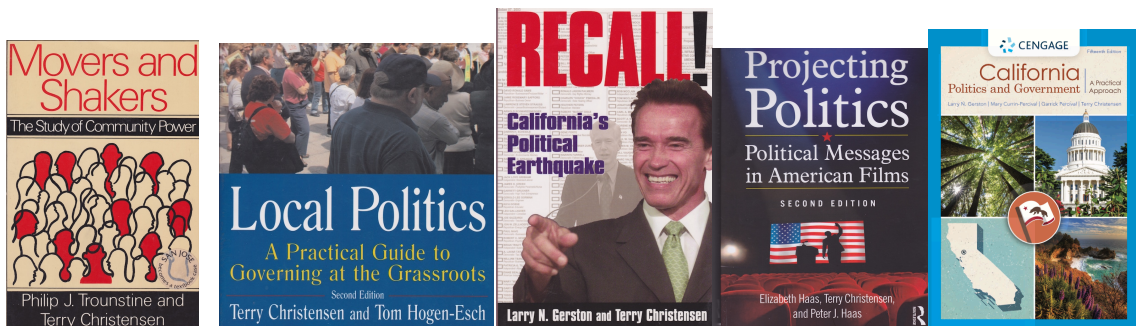
Email: Terry.Christensen@sjsu.edu

BA, Stanford University, 1966

Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1972

- Professor of Political Science, San Jose State University, 1970-2012
 - Chair, Department of Political Science, 1994-2002
 - San Jose State University Outstanding Professor, 1997-1998
- Founding Executive Director, CommUniverCity San Jose, 2005-2008
 - Founder and Organizer, Don Edwards Lecture, 1995-2012
 - Founder and Director, SJSU Political Science Internship Program
 - Founder, SJSU Political Science Washington Internship Program
- SJSU Coordinator, Sacramento Semester and Panetta Congressional Fellowships
 - Founder, SJSU Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (IPACE)
- Founder and Faculty Member, SJSU Study Abroad Program in Bath, England
 - SJSU Presidential Search Committees, 1994 and 2004
 - Adjunct Faculty, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, 2003-2008
- Over \$850,000 raised for Political Science Scholarships, the Don Edwards Lecture, CommUniverCity and IPACE

Publications



Publications

- *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, with Larry N. Gerston, 1st Edition Brooks Cole, 1991; 15th Edition Cengage, 2022
- *Projecting Politics: Political Messages in American Films*, with Elizabeth Haas and Peter J. Hass, 1st Edition M.E. Sharpe, 2005; 2nd Edition Routledge, 2015
- *Local Politics: A Practical Guide to Governing at the Grassroots*, 1st Edition Wadsworth, 1995; 2nd Edition (with Tom Hogen-Esch), M.E. Sharpe, 2005
- *Recall! California's Political Earthquake*, with Larry N. Gerston, M.E. Sharpe, 2005.
"Throughout the summer and early fall of 2004, the world watched as California shuddered through an unprecedented political earthquake. No one watched more carefully—or better understood what they were seeing—than veteran political scientists Larry N. Gerston and Terry Christensen. The result is a tour de force of informed reportage that is at once instant history and political science."
--Kevin Starr, Professor of History, University of Southern California
- *Politics in the Golden State: The California Connection*, with Larry N. Gerston, 1st Edition, Little, Brown, 1984; 2nd Edition, Scott, Foresman, 1988
- *Reel Politics: American Political Movies from Birth of a Nation to Platoon*, Blackwell, 1987
- *Movers and Shakers: The Study of Community Power*, with Philip J. Trounstine, St. Martin's Press, 1982. A PDF of the chapter on San Jose's political history to 1970 is available here: [San Jose Political History to 1970](#)
- *Reliable Sources: A Handbook for Political Research in San Jose and Santa Clara County*, Fidelity Press, 1st Edition 1980, 2nd Edition 1991
- *Neighbourhood Survival: The Struggle for Covent Garden*, Prism U.K., 1979
- "CommUniverCity San Jose: Building a Partnership for Service and Learning," with Melinda Jackson, *Civic Service: Service-Learning with State and local Government Partners*, eds. David Redlawsk and Tom Rice, Jossey-Bass, 2009
- "Initiatives as Catalysts in Racial Politics," with Larry N. Gerston, *Racial and Ethnic Politics in California III*, eds. Bruce M. Cain and Sandra Bass, Institute of Governmental Studies, 2008
- "Rambo and the New Patriotism in 1980s Action Films," in *Examining Popular Culture: Americans' Views About War*, Greenhaven Press, 2001

Publications (continued)

- “San Jose Becomes the Capital of Silicon Valley,” (a political history of San Jose 1970-1998), *Reflections of the Past: An Anthology of San Jose*, ed. Judith Henderson, Heritage Publishing, 1997. A PDF is available here: [San Jose Political History since 1970](#)
- Chapters in Richard L. Sutter, ed., *Internationalizing the California State University*, 1992; D. T. Herbert and R. J. Johnson, eds., *Geography and the Urban Environment*, 1981; Dorothy Buckton James, *Analyzing Poverty Policy*, 1975.
- Articles for Scholarly Journals: *College teaching; Cities; The Political Quarterly* (U.K.); *The Californians; California Journal; The Journal of Policy Studies; Landscape; Urban Land Quarterly; Western Political Quarterly; Teaching Political Science; Publius; San Jose Studies; Education Concerns* (U.K.)
- Opinion and OpEd Columns for *Pacific News Service, The Spartan Daily; The Independent Weekly; The Oakland Tribune; The San Francisco Examiner; The Sacramento Bee; The Business Journal; Silicon Valley Biz Inc.*, and (frequently) *The San Jose Mercury News*

Sample Op Eds for *The San Jose Mercury News*

- “Where Are the Women in Top Local Offices,” 1/7/2013
http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_22313168/terry-christensen-where-are-women-top-local-offices
- “Truth and Truthiness in San Jose Politics,” 7/1/2015
http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci_28410337/terry-christensen-truth-and-truthiness-san-jose-politics
- “California Failing on County Diversity,” 1/9/2016
http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci_29361671/terry-christensen-california-failing-county-supervisor-diversity
- “San Jose’s Claim to Fame Could be Great Trails,” 9/7/2016
<https://www.mercurynews.com/2016/09/01/christensen-san-joses-claim-to-fame-should-be-a-great-trail-system/>

Professional and Community Service

- For an overview of Terry’s community service and teaching philosophy, listen to his 2023 interview on Amazing Cities here:
<https://amazingcities.libsyn.com/with-dr-terry-christensan>
- Host and Executive Producer, Valley Politics, CreaTV, 2015-2023
- Director of Communications, BART Transit Village Advocates (BARTVA), 2014-

Professional and Community Service (continued)

- Executive Director, Friends of Five Wounds Trail (FFWT), 2013-2022
- Network Development Committee American Leadership Forum, 2003-2023
 - Santa Clara County National Heritage Area Task Force, 2016
 - Political Analyst, KLIV Radio 1590 2003-2016
 - General Plan Revision Task Force, City of San Jose, 2015-2016
- Co-Founder and Trainer, Labor/Community Leadership Institute, 1997-2015
- Commonwealth Club Silicon Valley, Program Committee and Advisory Committee, 1997-2015
 - Delegate, South Bay Labor Council, AFL-CIO, 1973-2006
- Chair, Chancellor Search Committee, San Jose/Evergreen Community College District, 2005
 - Advisory Board, City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley, 1997-2005
 - Horace Mann Elementary School Foundation Advisory Board, 2004-2009
- California Faculty Association, Statewide Political Action and Legislative Committee, 2003-2009.
 - Consultant, City of San Jose Council Salary Setting Commission, 2003, 2005.
 - External Program Reviewer, Departments of Political Science, California State University, San Luis Obispo, 2004; California State University, Hayward, 2003; Santa Clara University, 2003; California State University, Sacramento, 1998
- Founder and Trainer, Local Officials Leadership Academy (LOLA) for new and on-going council members, 2001-2004
 - San Jose City Council Redistricting Committee, 2001
 - Downtown Strategy Task Force, 2000-2001
 - Mayor's Redevelopment Advisory Task Force, 1999
 - Charter Revision Committee, Santa Clara County, 1997-1998

- Board of Directors, Campaign Ethics Foundation, 1997-2009
- Staff (volunteer) for Don Foster, Member of Parliament, U.K., 1992
- San Jose Film Festival, President 1982-1983; Vice President 1984
 - Downtown Working Review Committee, 1980-1983
 - Chair, Neighborhoods for District Elections, 1978
- Consultant, San Jose Charter Review Committee, 1976, 1977
- Chair, Central San Jose General Plan Citizen Review, 1975-1976
- Chair, Central San Jose Projects 75 review of capital improvement needs, 1974-1975

Honors and Awards

- Lifetime Achievement Award, Assemblyman Ash Kalra, 2020
- Friend of the SJSU Department of Urban and Regional Planning, 2007, 2019
- BAYMEC Wiggys Sivertsen & Ken Yeager Lifetime Achievement Award, 2015
 - Austen Warburton Award for Distinguished Scholarship, SJSU College of Social Science, 2007
 - Professor of the Year, Political Science Class of 2006
- Community Activist Extraordinaire, United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, 2003
 - American Leadership Forum ALF Senior Fellow (Class of 2002-2003)
- Moccasin Award for Community Service, City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley, 2000
 - **Outstanding Professor, San Jose State University, 1997-1998**
 - Outstanding Faculty Person, 1997-1998, Disability Resource Center
- “Best Professor” in the San Francisco Peninsula,” *Peninsula Magazine*, 1987
- Bill Casey Memorial Award for Best Contribution to *San Jose Studies*, 1984.
 - Mover and Shaker Award, Santa Clara County AFL-CIO, 1982.