In conjunction with the announcement of the Multicultural Center’s Scholar-in-Residence Program, the Multicultural Center, Department of Feminist Studies, and Social Sciences Division in the College of Letters and Science are honored to announce Dr. Debanuj DasGupta as the MCC’s Activist Scholar-in-Residence during the 2022/2023 academic year. Dr. DasGupta has distinguished themselves by engaging in service that aligns with the MCC’s mission to give space and voice to social justice programming and initiatives.

Dr. Debanuj DasGupta is an Assistant Professor of Feminist Studies at UCSB. Debanuj’s research and teaching focus on racialized regulation of space, immigration detention, queer migrations, and the global governance of migration, sexuality, and HIV. Debanuj serves on the political geography editorial board of the Geography Compass and is Board-Co Chair of the Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies: CLAGS at the City University of New York. He is the recipient of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) funded Junior Scholar Award in Transregional Studies: Inter Asian Contexts & Connections; Global Challenges Research Fund Networking Award, The British Department for International Development, Ford Foundation funded New Voices Fellowship, American Association of Geographers and National Science Foundation funded T. J. Reynolds National Award in Disability Studies and the International AIDS Society's Emerging Activist Award.

Debanuj is presently working on two book projects. The first is tentatively titled Trans/Detention: Politics of Trauma and Trans/Migrant Justice this monograph-length project investigates how transgender detainees and asylum seekers are subjected to trauma within detention centers and asylum courts in the US and how transgender immigrant rights activists are transforming trauma into creative political action that seeks to disrupt the national security state. The second monograph is tentatively titled Sexing the Region: Cross Border Trans/Activisms in South Asia. This monograph opens up questions about how border conflicts between nation-states in South Asia are felt at the scale of the transgender body and argues for a regional, inter-scalar understanding of transgender lives in South Asia.

Debanuj self-identifies as Koti/Gender Queer. S/he loves traveling and spending quiet time alone and is an avid foodie.