



*University of California*

*President's and Chancellor's  
Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs*

***ABSTRACT PACKET***

*2024 Academic Retreat*

*Saturday, April 20, 2024*

*UCLA Lake Arrowhead Lodge*

# GROUP I

Library – Main Lodge

**Veronica Castillo-Muñoz**, Gender, migration, US-Mexico borderlands, women, race  
**Douglas Haynes**, History

## Audience

**Karina Alma**, Central American studies, Latinx studies, Central American literature  
**Rosie Bermudez**, Chicana/o History, U.S. Social movements, Multiracial Coalition and Solidarity  
**Caroline Collins\***, Public Memory & Built Environment, Historic Preservation in the American West  
**Jalondra Davis**, Black Literary and Cultural Studies, Speculative Fiction, Folklore and Fairy Tales  
**Romina Garcia^**, Black Feminist Thought, Gender Violence, Law and Literature, Surveillance Studies  
**Yogita Goyal**, African American, Black Atlantic, Postcolonial Studies, Modern and Contemporary Literature  
**Christine Hong**, critical ethnic studies, U.S. war and empire studies, transnational Asian American studies  
**Samih Khalil^**, Palestine; Humanism; Alienation; Psychoanalysis; Critical Theory; Race  
**DeWitt King^**, Black geographies, critical sport studies, cultural studies ( tv,music), labor  
**Jennifer Manoukian^**, Ottoman Armenians; Diaspora; Historical multilingualism; Language shift  
**Patrícia Martins Marcos\***, History of race, gender and sexuality, black history  
**Andres Resendez**, Colonial Latin America, early Pacific  
**Brisa Smith Flores^**, African Diaspora/Black Cultural Studies  
**Cathy Thomas**, Caribbean textualities, speculative writing, Black feminist thought, race and gender  
**Cecilia Vasquez\***, Migration, citizenship, art-based research, activist-engaged research  
**Dana Velasco Murillo**, Latin America, women, gender, Ethnohistory  
**Ka-eul Yoo\***, Global Asia studies, Disability Studies, Medical Humanities

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

**GROUP I**  
Library – Main Lodge

- 9:00 – 9:10     **INTRODUCTIONS**
- 9:10 – 9:50     **Noah Hansen**  
*(African American Literature, Caribbean Literature, Marxism, Pan-Africanism)*  
The Marcus Garvey Extension: J.R. Ralph Casimir and the Making of a Caribbean Pan-African Literary Tradition
- 9:55 – 10:35    **Anne Napatalung**  
*(race, gender, midwives, histories of medicine, reproductive health)*  
Remembering Healing: The Tuskegee School of Midwifery and Its Legacies for Reproductive Justice
- 10:35 – 10:40   **BREAK**
- 10:40 – 11:20   **Taija Mars McDougall**  
*(race, monetary theory, options theory, psychoanalysis, continental philosophy, slavery studies, black studies)*  
“The Masochist’s Option”
- 11:25 – 12:05   **Cuauhtemoc Lule**  
*(Colonial Mexican History, Mesoamerican History)*  
The Colonial Era Expansion of Náhuatl into Northwestern Mesoamerica
- 12:05 – 1:05    **LUNCH**
- 1:10 – 1:50     **Sam Ikehara**  
*(Asian American and Asian diaspora studies, Hawaiian and Pacific Island studies, critical militarization studies, environmental humanities, science and technology studies, transnational feminisms)*  
The Feel of Peace: Noise Pollution and the Sovereignty of Wind
- 1:55 – 2:35     **Christian Alvarado**  
*(African History, African Studies, Cultural Studies)*  
“The Storm in Kenya”: Mau Mau and the End of Empire
- 2:35 – 2:45     **BREAK**
- 2:45 – 3:25     **Paul Irikefe**  
*(Metaphilosophy, Metaphilosophy and African philosophy)*  
The vice of Nepotism: The moral and the epistemic
- 3:25 – 4:00     **Wrap-up and Networking**
- 4:00             **FREE TIME!**

\*current President’s Postdoctoral Fellow  
^current Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow

Noah Hansen  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
English and Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, UC Los Angeles

The Marcus Garvey Extension: J.R. Ralph Casimir and the  
Making of a Caribbean Pan-African Literary Tradition

This paper introduces a book project on the literature of Garveyism titled *The Marcus Garvey Extension: Garveyism, Mass Culture, and Global Black Modernism*. Studies of Marcus Garvey's popular Pan-Africanist movement have historically veered between a focus on the philosophy and opinions of Garvey himself and bottom-up accounts of his mass diasporic following. Riffing on Duke Ellington's playful comment about Marcus Garvey's influence on Jazz, I develop an account of the "Garveyite extension" as a logic of cultural circulation and adaptation that, I argue, has been central to the movement's development across time and space. I employ the concept of extension to reframe debates about the role of culture, ideology and aesthetics as they pertain to the material infrastructures and social process of Black transnational movement-building. A history of Garveyite extensions, I suggest, will bring into view the crucial role of symbolic practices in the forging of Pan-African community as well as the collective character of ideological elaboration in global Garveyism.

I take as my case study the career of J.R. Ralph Casimir, a lifelong Garveyite activist and poet based in the eastern Caribbean island of Dominica. Casimir played a central role in facilitating the spread of Garveyism across Dominica, the Caribbean, and the wider Black Atlantic world. He also sought to steward a Pan-African literary culture by disseminating the Garveyite newspaper *Negro World*, establishing a local literary society, and editing anthologies of Dominican and Garveyite poetry. Attending in particular to Casimir's practices of poetry writing and bookmaking, I show how he transformed the island of Dominica into a base for the global extension of Garveyism.

Anne Napatalung  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
History, UC Los Angeles

Remembering Healing: The Tuskegee School of Midwifery and  
Its Legacies for Reproductive Justice

Birth disparities for Black communities in the U.S. continuously come into view as a public health issue, yet the medical frames that repeatedly produce these tragic circumstances are neither fully represented nor held accountable. With the increasing incorporation of midwifery care into formal medical environments, this talk centers the Tuskegee School of Midwifery (1941-1946) in Tuskegee, Alabama, which graduated the first class of midwives from a college or university in the U.S. As most of the school's records were destroyed or lost by its founding partners, the analysis considers the significance of the emergence and disappearance of this program for all Black women. Framing the midwifery school as an understudied and rich historical site, entangled in local, national, and transnational circuits of knowledge, the presentation will examine the suppression of Black and Indigenous lay midwives in relation to the Tuskegee Institute as a private, land-grant HBCU, and trace the criminalization of informal medical knowledges through circuits between Alabama and Haiti. Arguing that the school exposes broader implications of what M. Jacqui Alexander has called "the active suppression of Indigenous systems of metaphysics" in the U.S. South in relation to the formation of modern medicine, the conclusion calls for more expansive definitions of reproductive medicine, health, and care, rooted in an abundant archive of cultural and sensorial knowledges. Such knowledges reconstellate the lens through which reproductive justice and healing can be imagined.

Taija McDougall  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
History of Consciousness, UC Santa Cruz

“The Masochist's Option”

Anthony Farley's “The Black Body as Fetish Object” takes sadomasochism as the psychic constellation that defines the sides of the colorline. In this paper, I first put Farley into conversation with Deleuze of *Coldness and Cruelty* to interrogate Farley's use of the joint perversion to unfold what it would mean to call post-Emancipation blackness masochistic. Bringing Deleuze's separated symptomatology to bear on Farley's rendering of the colorline brings us to a key distinction in principles is at issue in *Coldness and Cruelty*: the sadist is on the side of the institution and the masochist is on the side of the contract. Staging a collision between Farley and Deleuze, I interrogate what it would mean for the black to have a masochistic fixation on our own humiliation as a problem of psychopolitics. In the second move of the paper, I turn to the contract, specifically the credit contract. Turning to contract as a social form, I expand both Farley and Deleuze to interrogate the masochist's contract, the credit contract, and racial blackness together as a means to think about institutionality, subjection, and the political stakes of so-called black masochism.

Cuahtemoc Quintero Lule  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
History, UC Davis

### The Colonial Era Expansion of Náhuatl into Northwestern Mesoamerica

On August 13th, 1521, the Aztec capital of Mexico-Tenochtitlan fell to Hernán Cortés and his combined force of Spanish conquistadors and Indigenous Mesoamerican allies. A key factor contributing to the victory over the Aztecs was the participation of numerous Nahua peoples, such as the Tlaxcaltecas, Huexotzincas, Chololtecas, and Acolhuas, without whose labor and military strength the conquest would not have been possible. With the collapse of the Aztec Empire, and the establishment of a Spanish colonial regime in the ruins of Mexico-Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City), came new military incursions throughout and beyond Mesoamerica intended to expand and consolidate Spain's hegemony in the "Nuevo Mundo." As allies of the Spaniards, Nahua peoples once again contributed to these campaigns as auxiliaries, translators, settlers, and conquerors. Furthermore, the Spanish Crown, colonial government, and Catholic religious orders sought to harness the language of the Nahua allies (Nahuatlahtolli, or Náhuatl) as a bureaucratic instrument and means of facilitating the evangelization of the diverse Indigenous populations of New Spain, including groups whose native language was not Náhuatl. The northwestern reaches of Mesoamerica provide interesting regional examples of how these colonial era processes involving Náhuatl and Náhuatl-speaking peoples impacted local Indigenous communities. My research focuses on analyzing and mapping (via mapping software) the movement of Nahua peoples/Náhuatl in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with an emphasis on the northwest of Mesoamerica, specifically the geographical area comprising the present-day Mexican states of Sinaloa and Nayarit.

Sam Ikehara  
UC President's and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow  
Critical Race & Ethnic Studies, UC Santa Cruz

The Feel of Peace: Noise Pollution and the Sovereignty of Wind

This essay analyzes the interconnected struggles of U.S. military occupation in Okinawa and Hawai'i through analysis of noise pollution, aircraft crashes, and community responses to these issues. While the violence of airbases transform air into a space of violence, I turn to the ways that Okinawan and Hawaiian communities articulate their respective sovereignties through the wind. I read legal testimonies from the first noise pollution lawsuit in Okinawa and community testimonies from across O'ahu, putting them in conversation with poetry by Nakazato Yūgo and Brandy Nālani McDougall. Against military reports that implicate wind as a threat which facilitates aircraft accidents and death, the testimony and poetry elucidate how wind builds relation and enables the preservation of intergenerational memory. This archive challenges state formulations of "resolution" by elucidating how deeper histories than the state has considered press onto the body, carrying into the present not only historical wounds, but also the capacity for their healing. The sovereignty of wind that they put forth marks a renewal of relationships to air and memory at the same they are organized around radical returns of land, of night, of the body itself.



Christian Alvarado  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
African American and African Studies, UC Davis

“The Storm in Kenya”: Mau Mau and the End of Empire

In October of 1952, the British colonial administration in Kenya declared a state of emergency in order to combat a series of revolts and African political movements then coming to be known to the world as “Mau Mau.” Within weeks, this “state of emergency” was transformed into a full-scale military operation, including the waging of open warfare in the forests of the colony and the establishment of a system of concentration camps containing those suspected of sympathies with the anticolonial movement. Alleged to be a secret society of radical African nationalists violently pursuing the ouster of white rule in the colony, debates regarding the events in Kenya were a microcosm of broader questions impacting colonized spaces across the continent and beyond: the problem of “race relations,” the meaning of decolonization, and the nature of African subjectivity, to name a but few. My current book project examines how shared understandings of Mau Mau in the mid-20th century impacted—and were impacted by—larger currents in global politics and culture during this period of African and world history.

To demonstrate the utility of one such framing, this talk considers the relationship between Mau Mau and what was referred to contemporarily as the “question of detribalization.” In colonized African contexts across the continent, detribalization served as a euphemism for expressing the hopes and anxieties attached to the emergence of new political and social forms brought into being by both the operations of colonial rule and processes of urbanization. The legal and anthropological category of Detribalized Africans represented a class of people unmoored from the places and cultural frameworks to which they belonged within colonial taxonomies. Seen as the product of “modernizing” conditions corrupting the peoples of the continent, in the eyes of colonial rulers and their allies, detribalized populations across the continent were positioned as latent threats ever capable of becoming “the next Mau Mau.”

Paul Irikefe  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Philosophy, UC Irvine

The vice of Nepotism: The moral and the epistemic

Nepotism forms a core part of our everyday moral and socio-political vocabulary, and yet we lack a coherent account of it. The aim of this paper is to supply that account. I argue that nepotism (i.e., nepotism proper) is a moral vice, which has a hitherto unnoticed epistemic counterpart, namely, “epistemic nepotism.” Further, I claim that both forms of nepotism arise from a vicious motive, morbid love of one’s “primordial private realm,” which makes individuals to assign undue weight to the side of the distributive equation they belong to, thus leading to injustice in the distribution of social and epistemic goods. The result of the analysis is then applied to substantive debates in political epistemology, specifically, to addressing the questions as to how vice attribution or explanation is appropriate in cases of individuals in “echo chambers” and cogent in cases of individuals whose epistemic conduct proceeds from value or ideology and to defending the epistemic aim of political beliefs against several objections in the literature.

# GROUP II

Lakeview- Main Lodge

**Eric Stanley**, Trans/Queer studies, Critical Theory

**David Yoo**, Asian American Studies, U.S. History, Ethnic Studies

## Audience

**Sahin Acikgoz**, Queer and Trans Studies in Islam, Slavery, Gender and Sexuality in Islamicate Societies

**Robert Chao Romero**, Asian-Latinx history, Latinx religions, legal history

**Xochitl Chavez**, Music, Expressive Culture, Mexico, Indigeneity, Gender

**Jemma DeCristo**, Black Studies, Sound Studies, Trans and Gender Studies, Critiques of Racial Capital

**Natalia Duong\***, Environmental humanities, disability studies, performance studies

**Alessandro Fornazzari**, Latin American Literary & Cultural Studies, Oceanic Studies, Political Economy

**Bernard Gordillo\***, Music, Sound, and Politics in Latin America; Central America; California

**Xandra Ibarra^**, gender, race, sexuality, sculpture, video, performance, sites of excess, boundaries of decency

**Sunaina Kale\***, reggae in Hawai'i, Hawaiian music, food sovereignty, Indigenous studies, ethnomusicology

**Brenda Lara^**, Chicanx & Latinx Studies, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Archives, Folklore, Death Studies

**Christopher Lee\***, Asian American studies and literature, trans/queer of color critique, critical prison st.

**Caleb Luna**, fat studies, disability studies, media studies, queer of color critique

**Cinthya Martinez\***, Abolition Geography, Feminism, and Border Studies

**Olga Najera Ramirez**, Cultural production, Folklore, Mexico, Dance, performance

**William Pruitt\***, U.S. Literature, the Black Radical Tradition, Black Feminism, Black Queer Studies

**Sahar Sajadieh\***, Computational Arts, Digital Performance, Generative/Ethical Artificial Intelligence

**José Manuel Santillana Blanco\***, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Feminist Studies

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

**GROUP II**  
Lakeview- Main Lodge

- 9:00 – 9:10     **INTRODUCTIONS**
- 9:10 – 9:50     **Trung Nguyen**  
*(Asian American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, Visual Studies, Media Studies, Queer Studies)*  
Unending Losses: Racial Capitalism, Value, and the Incorporation of the Vietnamese Subject
- 9:55 – 10:35   **Clementine Bordeaux**  
*(indigenous studies, cultural studies, visual studies)*  
"Skoden": Articulating a gendered narrative of Očéti Šakówiŋ creative practices
- 10:35 – 10:40   **BREAK**
- 10:40 – 11:20   **Ricardo Rocha**  
*(Latine Theatre and Performance, US Theatre History, Critical Race Theory, Bilingual Performance)*  
Selling the Sensation-Latinidad and Magical Materialism in Early US California Theatre
- 11:25 – 12:05   **Raed El Rafei**  
*(Film studies, Queer studies)*  
Queer Lebanese Cinema: New Political Imaginaries, Radical Aesthetics & Alternative Futures
- 12:05 – 1:05    **LUNCH**
- 1:10 – 1:50     **LaVelle Ridley**  
*(Black Transgender Studies, Oral History, and Prison Abolition)*  
Imagining Freedom: Reckoning with Black Trans Life through Narrative
- 1:55 – 2:35     **Amir Aziz**  
*(Gender, Queer/Trans Studies, Ethnic Studies, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Disability)*  
Captive Intelligence: Gender and Anti-Muslim Racism in the Making of Muslim Immigrant Informants in New York City
- 2:35 – 2:45     **BREAK**
- 2:45 – 3:25     **Dan Bustillo**  
*(transgender studies, trans and queer Latinx studies, media activism, queer carceral theory)*  
Trans Latinx Counter-Security Media: The “Wild Tongue” of Prison Letter-Writing Activism
- 3:35 – 4:00     **Wrap-up and Networking**
- 4:00             **FREE TIME!**

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

Trung PQ Nguyen  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, UC Merced

Unending Losses: Racial Capitalism, Value, and the Incorporation  
of the Vietnamese Subject

At the sunset of U.S. occupation of Afghanistan, a photo constructing a rhetorical equivalence between two refugee displacements across race, wars, and histories of militarized violence was published in a 2021 Associated Press article. The photograph, depicting a recently resettled Afghan family in the background gazing upon a smiling, real-estate owning, second-generation Vietnamese American subject and her family in the foreground, generated an imagined fantasy of both the refugee and war's aftermaths: properly managed, incorporated back into the heart of U.S. empire, a telos from indelible loss to the heteronormative, possessive American subject.

The teleological fantasy from loss to possession that undergirds the signification of the 2021 photograph marks a longer logic of loss visible through images of Vietnamese subjects under racial capitalism from coloniality through imperial warfare to its diasporic afterlives. Thinking across Ethnic Studies, Asian American Studies, and Southeast Asian Studies, this presentation examines how war losses incurred by Vietnamese bodies became incorporated back into the U.S. racial capitalist mode of production as a site of value generation and extraction across race during and beyond the moment of ontological liquidation. Examining spectacular commodities of and about the war-cathexed Vietnamese bodies between 1949 and 2021 as its mediator, I track how loss gets used to produce value out of death, suffering, and displacement, which in turn gets reproduced by Vietnamese refugee subjects themselves. Ultimately, I ask how loss gets disciplined away from the mobilization of organized grievance or the making of radical collectivities that threaten empire's monopolization of violence, and directed instead to stave off the endemic crises of racial capitalism through the management of its war's afterlives and in the ongoing production of new targets of necropolitical eradication.

Clementine Bordeaux  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
English, UC Riverside

“Skoden”: Articulating a gendered narrative of Očéti Šakówiŋ creative practices

In my research, I have sought ways to understand the interrelatedness of creative practices in Očéti Šakówiŋ cultures. I did not understand the disconnect I witnessed in formal and institutional art spaces I participated in away from my tribal communities. I wanted to hear the stories of the pieces I was seeing on display or visiting in the collections. The stories I receive in Western formal institutions do not always address the significant experiences of tribal people, including sharing or giving gifts of adornment items that support relational exchanges. The stories in formal institutions are often outside of a tribal context or clouded by settler colonial noise of diplomacy or cultural exchange that still misses the point of relational practices. My presentation focuses on a case study of Oglala Lakota artist Molina Jo (Parker) Two Bulls, specializing in Lakota beadwork and quillwork jewelry. The crafting practices of Molina Two Bulls reinforce the relational practices that are embedded in Očéti Šakówiŋ Creative Practices of engagement with the community. I understand that intertwining relational and creation practices are embedded in the making and everyday interaction. Creative practices such as creating the quilled bracelet or my dance regalia have always shown me how to relate to others and how others relate to me as Lakota relatives. Additionally, the gendered narratives of our family and our community have profoundly impacted Molina’s work. The confinements of Western art spaces that perpetuate a gendering of craftsmanship limit how the current public audience receives modern beadwork and quillwork. An analysis of Molina’s wearable art demonstrates an excellent reminder of creating relational pieces grounded in familial and cultural connections.

Ricardo Rocha  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Hispanic Studies, UC Riverside

Selling the Sensation—*Latinidad* and Magical Materialism in Early US California Theatre

*Magical materialism* is introduced as a theoretical framework to examine ideological constructions in mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century US theatre that incite the containment and positionality of Latines. The little-known play *Joaquín Murieta de Castillo, The Celebrated California Bandit* by Charles E.B. Howe (1858), David Belasco's Broadway hit, *The Rose of the Rancho* (1906), and the unknown theatre diaries of Florence Hellman, who witnessed Belasco's Broadway production in 1907, are assessed. Howe's unknown diaries from the 1850s, *Reminiscences*, are presented to examine empathy formations in early California and their relationship to labor, political power, neoliberalism, and racialized class systems. Yellowbird, our nation's first indigenous novelist and California poet laureate, reveals—through his letters and artistry—an essential relationship between indigeneity and early formations of *Latinidad* in US 19<sup>th</sup>-century California. El Teatro Campesino's 1981 adaptation of Belasco's *The Rose of the Rancho* in San Juan Bautista, California, is explored as a cultural decolonizing production through its determination to give voice and interpretive power to Chicanxs and Latinxs by dismantling colonial constructions of gender and race. These critical engagements provide unknown historical accounts and examine how these Latine representations influenced our culture's ethos surrounding Latine peoples. The engagement of theatre as a paradigm, as a highly socialized and structured institution, allows (student) practitioners critical opportunities to understand the values attached to the reception of aesthetic systems. The awareness of magical materialist illusory effects in theatrical depictions of California colonialism can be a productive, interventionist methodology to critically engage raced and gendered narratives in US theatre and performance.

Raed El Rafei  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Anthropology, UC Davis

Queer Lebanese Cinema: New Political Imaginaries,  
Radical Aesthetics & Alternative Futures

Since the new millennium, queer filmmakers and artists from Lebanon and its diasporas have engaged questions surrounding queer subjectivities boldly and creatively. Their films and art practices address and represent gender and sexuality in Lebanon, and more broadly the Arab region, in multi-layered ways that bring to light taboo issues surrounding the body but also, importantly, deconstruct social and bio-political patriarchal systems of control and power. My research project demonstrates that Lebanese queer artists have forged a unique queer imaginary drawing on local and regional cultures, histories, and archives while adopting, contesting, and reimagining western references. I argue that queer films and artworks from Lebanon, a hub for queer art production in the Arab world, help us understand Arab queer subjectivities in new complex ways, and not merely as western-influenced forms of self-expression in a so-called homophobic Middle East. The works I analyze produce alternative, speculative and utopian visions in response to local, regional and global contexts and realities, and redefine the relation of the individual to the collective, be it at the communal, national, or international levels. The originality of my research project is that it reveals the centrality of these diverse genres of works—documentary, experimental and fiction films as well as short videos posted on social media platforms—in overhauling socio-political and cultural systems. It provides an original interdisciplinary approach to the study of queer Lebanese cinema that furthers our understanding of queerness as a cultural, social and political force; Lebanon beyond a nation-centric approach; and cinema as an expanded moving image practice.



LaVelle Ridley  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Gender & Women's Studies, UC Berkeley

Imagining Freedom: Reckoning with Black Trans Life through Narrative

The mid-2010s ushered in a “transgender tipping point” which showcased increased mainstream visibility for transgender communities and cultures in the U.S. Despite increased awareness about trans people and the lives they live, this moment witnessed significantly higher rates of violence against trans people—specifically trans women and femmes of color—than ever before recorded. In the present moment of rising fascism in the U.S. and unprecedented global racial capitalism, scholars of trans/queer, feminist, and abolitionist traditions attend to the ways in which centering the oppressed reveal the patterns of subjugation underpinning the maintenance of the status quo. In this talk, I discuss my book project *Imagining Freedom* and how I use the life narratives of black trans women to reckon with the state of life chances transgender women of color have under current political regimes in the U.S. Through close readings of writers Janet Mock, CeCe McDonald, and Venus Selenite, I argue that a critical trans\* imagination helps black trans writers craft freedom in the present political moment, and ultimately demonstrate how centering the strategies of black trans women is key to transforming our knowledge around race, gender, sexuality, and the malleability of our social world. Specifically, I show how black trans creativity and praxis constructs cultures of devastating resistance to the oppressive status quo upheld by capitalist and neoliberal agents and institutions through embodied and narrative self-fashioning. This discussion of black transgender cultural studies connects cultural production to ongoing strategies for struggling towards liberation.

Amir Aziz  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Gender and Women's Studies, UC Berkeley

Captive Intelligence: Gender and Anti-Muslim Racism in the Making of Muslim Immigrant Informants in New York City

In this talk, Amir Aziz examines post-9/11 informant recruitment programs that have enlisted Muslim immigrants as counter-terrorism intelligence informants across the New York City metropolitan area. Aziz argues that federal agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the FBI have particularly targeted Muslim immigrant women and gender non-normative Muslim immigrants of South-West Asian, South Asian, South-East Asian, and North African background with vulnerable immigration status. Agents ply them with false promises of immigration relief and employing deportation and removal threats to coax them into becoming compliant informants, claiming that their co-operation will help uncover domestic terror plots and deter ISIL radicalization efforts in the U.S.

Despite how cases like *Hassan v. City of New York* and *FBI v. Fazaga* have attempted to end the suspicionless surveillance and coerced intelligence recruitment of Muslims by police and federal institutions, such practices are still informally authorized outside the judicial purview by ICE and FBI agents, who target Muslims with immigration-related vulnerabilities as pressure points to ‘flip’ them into intelligence assets. The talk will foreground the intersecting gendered/racialized dimensions of Muslim immigrants' experiences of informant recruitment—practices going strong more than 22 years after 9/11.

Dan Bustillo  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
English, UC Riverside

Trans Latinx Counter-Security Media: The “Wild Tongue” of Prison Letter-Writing Activism

This is a talk about trans Latinx worldmaking projects that are made possible through activists' creative media praxis. In this talk, I introduce what I term “counter-security media” as a community-building tool that challenges the ways that ethnoracialized gender is built into media and disciplinary structures. While gender may typically be thought of as a personal expression at the individual level, it is also expressed at systemic levels, built into racialized disciplinary practices in sex-segregated prisons and immigration detention centers, into the way that trans expression online is policed, and into the identification documents we use. However, just as systems can be used to express gender and reinforce gender norms, activists also use these same systems to articulate gender nonconformity and build community in the process.

Drawing from trans studies, Latinx studies, media studies, and queer carceral studies, this talk highlights an example of counter-security media in the form of trans-led letter-writing activism in US sex-segregated prisons and detention centers. This talk theorizes three trans-led activist organizations' strategic use of the letter genre to make transness safely legible to communities they build across carceral divides. Ultimately, I argue that letter-writing activism strategically writes transness back into existence in sex-segregated carceral systems where gender norms are used as tools of punishment.

## **GROUP III**

Pineview – Main Lodge

**John Carlos Garza**, Genetics/Ecology/Evolution/Marine Biology/Conservation

**Roberto Tinoco**, Immunology, Cancer immunology, Viral immunology

### **Audience**

**Gawain Antell\***, Paleontology, ecology

**Soniya Bastola^**, Cancer Biology, Tumor Biology

**Daniah Beleford**, Vascular Biology and Human Genetics

**Sada Boyd\***, Microbial evolution

**Alex Chaim**, RNA Biology, Neurodegeneration, Cancer

**Anthony Covarrubias**, Immunology, Metabolism, Aging

**Mohamad Dandan^**, Structure Biology, Biophysics, Cryo-EM, Ribosomes, Translation, Antibiotics

**Jovanka Gencel-Augusto^**, Cancer Biology, Tumor Suppressors, Genetics, Translational Biomedical Research

**Christian Henry\***, Flora wide leaf trait evolution

**Jacqueline Kimmey**, microbiology, infectious disease, circadian rhythm, inflammation, pneumonia

**Kirk Lohmueller**, Evolution, genetics, mathematical modeling

**Jesus Martinez-Gomez\***, Botany, Evolutionary Biology, Developmental Biology, Computational Biology

**Dequina Nicholas**, Immunology, Endocrinology, Diabetes

**Daniel Ojeda Juarez\***, Neuroscience

**Elsa Ordway**, Climate change, forest ecology, remote sensing, social-ecological systems

**Renata Pirani^**, Molecular biology, evolution, ecology, herpetology

**Maria Rebolleda-Gomez**, microbiomes, community ecology, evolutionary ecology

**Catherine Sandhofer**, Developmental Psychology, Language Acquisition, Bilingualism, Cognitive Science

**Danielle Schmitt**, Cell signaling and metabolism

**Jess Severson\***, Neuroscience, Development, in vitro systems, glia, stem cells, organoids

**Celia Symons**, Ecology - community ecology, aquatic ecology, global change ecology

**Morgan Tingley**, Biodiversity, climate change, wildfire, statistics

**Pamela Yeh**, Urban avian evolution, stressor interaction, antibiotic resistance

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

**GROUP III**  
Pineview – Main Lodge

- 9:00 – 9:10     **INTRODUCTIONS**
- 9:10 – 9:50     **Alejandra Hernandez-Teran**  
*(Plant-microbiome interaction, plant and microbial ecology, evolution)*  
Disentangling Microbiome Effects on Plant Adaptation
- 9:55 – 10:35   **Racine E. Rangel**  
*(Physiology, Marine Ecology, Aquaculture)*  
Changing Coastlines: From Ecology to Physiology
- 10:35 – 10:40   **BREAK**
- 10:40 – 11:20   **Diana Aguilar Gomez**  
*(genetics, environment, conservation, urbanization)*  
Conservation genomics of endangered species in North America
- 11:25 – 12:05   **Kendall Calhoun**  
*(Wildlife Ecology, Global Change Biology, Conservation, Fire Ecology)*  
Conserving California's Wildlife Communities in the Age of Megafire
- 12:05 – 1:05    **LUNCH**
- 1:10 – 1:50     **MeeJung Ko**  
*(Neuroscience)*  
Wrap to heal: biological basis of oligodendrocyte plasticity in psychedelic medicine
- 1:55 – 2:35     **Jennifer Yonan**  
*(Neuroscience)*  
PTEN deletion in adulthood triggers growth of mature neurons and the formation of a seizure prone circuit
- 2:35 – 2:45     **BREAK**
- 2:45 – 3:25     **Desi Delgadillo**  
*(Gut Microbiome, Stress and Emotion)*  
Happy Gut, Happy Mind: Discovering Links between the Gut Microbiome and Psychological Wellbeing
- 3:25 – 4:00     **Wrap-up and Networking**
- 4:00            **FREE TIME!**

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

Alejandra Hernandez-Teran  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UC Irvine

### Disentangling Microbiome Effects on Plant Adaptation

It's increasingly clear that microbes influence host health, fitness, and even important developmental transitions like metamorphosis in mosquitoes and flowering time. The timing of these transitions is central for organisms responses in changing environments. However, we don't know which microbes alter such traits and how they do it, or whether it's adaptive for the microbes or a consequence of their metabolism. Understanding the role of microbial communities in developmental timing of other organisms can help us better predict, and even enhance adaptive responses to changing signals. Using of life-history models and community selection, our goal is to understand microbial effects on plant developmental timing. One intriguing hypothesis is that since microbes are indicators of environmental and ecological conditions, they can provide information about optimal phenology to the plant hosts. We are using *Arabidopsis thaliana* to determine how microbial communities can affect developmental timing. We sampled microbial communities from several environments and inoculated *A. thaliana* seeds to see the effect of those communities on development. Using directed evolution, we serially propagated microbial communities in planta and selected communities that promoted extreme phenotypes on developmental timing. After four transfers, we stabilized the community to obtain microbes that reliably accelerate, delay, or maintain flowering time with respect to uninoculated controls. Using omics approaches, we are working on the characterization of the community and the metabolic functions that are associated with either late or early flowering and incorporating our insights into predictive life-history models to evaluate possible effects of microbes on plant adaptation to climate change.

Racine E. Rangel  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UC Santa Cruz

Changing Coastlines: From Ecology to Physiology

Marine ecosystems are being affected by global environmental change at an accelerated rate. Multiple stressors including global warming and ocean acidification are leading to modifications in population sizes and ecosystem functioning, impacting the services humans derive from the sea. The observed shifts in these higher order processes are a direct result of individuals' physiological responses occurring within naturally dynamic systems and communities. However, there are key knowledge gaps regarding the mechanisms that underpin the physiological responses and continued sustainability of marine populations, communities, and ecosystems. In this presentation, I will discuss how single and multiple stressors influence individual performance with impacts across levels of biological organization and ecosystem function. In addition, I will also discuss the assessment of adaptive mechanisms to better anticipate species, population, and ecosystem-level resiliency to future global change.

Diana Aguilar Gómez  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UC Los Angeles

### Conservation genomics of endangered species in North America

Conservation genomics plays a role in elucidating the genetic underpinnings of biodiversity and informing effective conservation strategies. By studying the genomes of endangered species, we can uncover valuable insights into population dynamics, genetic diversity, and adaptive potential. This knowledge is crucial for developing targeted conservation plans aimed at mitigating the threats faced by vulnerable populations, such as habitat loss, and climate change.

We study two distinct organisms that share one commonality: their endangered status. The first is the Rice's whale (*Balaenoptera ricei*), identified as a distinct species in 2021, epitomizes the challenges faced by endangered baleen whale populations, particularly in anthropogenically impacted regions like the Gulf of Mexico. With fewer than 100 individuals remaining today, they confront threats such as ship strikes, oil spills, and habitat degradation. Similarly, pumas (*Puma concolor*), as prominent large carnivores in the Americas, encounter habitat fragmentation and human persecution, leading to isolated populations and reduced genetic diversity. In Florida, the puma population nearly went extinct in the 1990s, with estimated 20 individuals left. To save the population, Texas pumas were introduced into Florida to mitigate genetic decline. While genetic rescue is often suggested as a means of ameliorating the effects of small population size, its long-term efficacy is understudied.

For Rice's whales, we found significant inbreeding and a complex demographic history, with migration from an unknown distantly related population. Concurrently in pumas, our results indicate that the genetic rescue strategy doubled the average genome-wide genetic variation and reduced inbreeding. Understanding the genomic health aids in conservation plans for these rare and endangered whales, while insights into genetic rescue effects in pumas inform strategies for reducing small population effects and preserving genetic diversity. These findings not only benefit the management of these specific species but also have broader implications for the conservation of genetically threatened species worldwide.



Kendall Calhoun  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UC Los Angeles

### Conserving California's Wildlife Communities in the Age of Megafire

Anthropogenic global change continues to create novel challenges for ecosystems globally. Megafires, or fires that far exceed the severity and size of historic wildfires, are powerful examples of this phenomenon. California has become emblematic of the potential consequences megafire may induce on local ecosystems as the scale and frequency of megafire continues to escalate within the state. Despite the current trend, there is a rich history of fire being used to steward several of California's fire prone ecosystems, and prescribed burning may potentially be one of the best tools to mitigate future megafires in certain ecosystems. Historic and community collected data on species occurrence and conflict can be leveraged to inform the development of new management plans that consider the consequences of changing fire regimes. By curating a broad network of biodiversity monitoring data, I analyze how the distributions of Californian mammal and bird species assemblages change following megafire and identify species that may potentially be vulnerable to future megafire events. Specifically, I quantify the impact of fire severity on species occupancy and community richness. I also collaborate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to quantify the relationship between fire, drought, and incidents of human-wildlife conflict. Through this work, I will identify landscape features and management practices that enhance the resilience of at-risk species and ecological communities to global change to advise how to mitigate human-wildlife conflict following these major disturbances. Understanding the regional implications of severe wildfire on wildlife species will continue to be essential for developing effective conservation strategies in a changing world, and the insight we gain from this work will inform management of similar fire-prone systems globally that are impacted by megafire and other climatic disturbances.

MeeJung Ko  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley

Wrap to heal: biological basis of oligodendrocyte plasticity in psychedelic medicine

Psychedelic medicine has shown great promise for treating psychiatric disorders, yet its detailed biological mechanisms are unclear. Oligodendrocytes - a type of glial cells that produce myelin - play a critical role in mood regulation and circuit connectivity, while expressing the primary targets of psychedelics. Here, the present study hypothesized that oligodendrocytes and their plasticity are part of an essential mechanism for psychedelic drug effects. Using behavioral assays, immunohistochemistry, human embryonic stem cells (hESC)-based assays, and functional imaging in awake behaving mice, we discovered that a psychedelic compound, DOI, induces myelination and oligodendrocyte  $Ca^{2+}$  activities in the mice hippocampus and hESC-derived oligodendrocytes. Furthermore, we confirmed that the formation of new myelination is crucial for robust psychedelic behavioral effects using transgenic mice. The study presents the first evidence that demonstrates the psychedelic-mediated modulation of glial plasticity, uncovering a novel mechanism that advances our comprehension of the drug's effects on brain function.

Jennifer Yonan  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, UC Irvine

PTEN deletion in adulthood triggers growth of mature neurons and the formation  
of a seizure prone circuit

Phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN) is an important negative regulator of the mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR) pathway responsible for cell growth during development. In humans, loss or diminished PTEN activity triggers mTOR overactivation and is associated with epilepsy and autism spectrum disorders. Developmental PTEN deletion models attribute these outcomes to the formation of aberrant circuitry. Here, we explore the consequences of PTEN deletion on connectivity and function within the hippocampal dentate gyrus of the adult brain. The approach uses transgenic mice in which the PTEN gene is deleted via Cre-induced recombination and neurons lacking PTEN are marked by expression of tdTomato. Following unilateral injections of AAV/Cre into the dentate gyrus, there is dramatic growth of PTEN deleted granule cells involving increases in dendritic arbors, dendritic spines and expanded axonal terminal distributions leading to increased connectivity with PTEN expressing synaptic partners. Importantly, despite dramatic growth of granule cells, the laminar specificity of incoming and outgoing projections is maintained. Continuous EEG monitoring revealed onset of electrographic and behavioral seizures beginning around 10 weeks post deletion. Our results reveal that dramatic growth of mature granule cells following PTEN deletion in a small region of the dentate gyrus of one hemisphere is sufficient to lead to adult-onset temporal lobe epilepsy. Current work aims to uncover mechanisms underlying mTOR-related dysfunction.

Desi Delgadillo  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Medicine, UC Los Angeles

Happy Gut, Happy Mind: Discovering Links between the Gut Microbiome  
and Psychological Wellbeing

Microbes permeate virtually every surface of the planet, including the human body. These non-human organisms have shaped human evolution from its origin with emerging research suggesting that they play crucial roles in not only physiological but psychological processes. While there is notable work examining interactions between an array of detrimental psychological factors such as adversity, depression, anxiety and gut microbial composition, research investigating positive psychological constructs in relation to the gut microbiome is exceedingly sparse. In this talk, I will present my program of research which showcases (1) the gut microbiome as it relates to stress-resilience across three types of stress (perceived, physiological, and stressful life events), (2) the role of the gut microbiome in relation to both high and low arousal positive emotions in healthy adults, and (3) the exploration of links between positive emotions, prosocial behaviors, and markers of health in the gut microbiome and cardiovascular function in mother child dyads. I will also discuss the trajectory of my future research in which I plan to design interventions that test whether it is possible to harness both the therapeutic properties of gut microbes and positive psychological processes to cultivate a mutually beneficial synergy between the mind and the gut microbiome.

# **GROUP IV**

Iris

**Marcella Gomez**, systems biology and biological control  
**Nathan Kaplan**, Number Theory, Arithmetic Geometry, Combinatoric

## **Audience**

**Mei-Chu Chang**, combinatorial number theory  
**Roby Douilly**, Earthquake Seismology  
**Robert Fofrich\***, Climate change risks and mitigation  
**Priyanga Ganesan\***, Functional analysis, operator algebras and quantum information theory  
**Gil Goffer\***, Geometric groups theory  
**Benjamin Idini\***, Space missions, physics of stars and planets, physics of earthquakes  
**Kathleen Johnson**, Paleoclimate, climate science, geochemistry, environmental justice  
**Nathan Kaplan**, Number Theory, Arithmetic Geometry, Combinatorics  
**Drew Lucas**, Ocean and climate science  
**Chams Eddine Mballo^**, Flight Mechanics and Control, Design and safety analysis of eVTOL  
**Allison Moreno**, Ocean Sciences/ Marine Biogeochemistry  
**Igor Pak**, Discrete Mathematics  
**Renata Pirani^**, Molecular biology, evolution, ecology, herpetology  
**Javier Alan Quezada\***, Water treatment, renewable energy, electrochemistry  
**Colleen Robichaux\***, Algebraic combinatorics and computational complexity  
**Nadia Sae-Lim^**, Paleoclimate, stable isotopes in water, climate change, biomarkers  
**Aomawa Shields**, Climate and Habitability of Extrasolar Planets, Astrobiology  
**Antonio De Jesus Torres Hernandez^**, Discrete geometry, Data analysis, Optimization  
**Thaiesha Wright**, Biomaterials, protein-polymer conjugation, polymer synthesis  
**Jingwen Yao**, Brain MRI, Neurodegenerative diseases, Brain tumors

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

## GROUP IV

Iris

- 9:00 – 9:10     **INTRODUCTIONS**
- 9:10 – 9:50     **Filipe Pereira**  
(*Physical Oceanography. Biological Oceanography. Computational Fluid Dynamics. Plankton Ecology*)  
Understanding the Interconnections between Physical and Biological Processes in the Ocean
- 9:55 – 10:35   **Tessa Cookmeyer**  
(*Strongly correlated electrons, spin liquids, quantum materials*)  
The search for a Kitaev spin liquid: predicting experiments and engineering its realization
- 10:35 – 10:40   **BREAK**
- 10:40 – 11:20   **Devontae (Tae) Baxter**  
(*Galaxy formation and evolution*)  
From Voids to Clusters: The Profound Influence of Environment on Galaxy Evolution
- 11:25 – 12:05   **Harold Jimenez Polo**  
(*Commutative Algebra, Semiring Theory, Commutative Monoids*)  
A Goldbach Theorem for Polynomial Semirings
- 12:05 – 1:05    **LUNCH**
- 1:10 – 1:50     **Denae Ventura Arredondo**  
(*Combinatorics, graph theory, polytopes, combinatorial geometry, Ramsey theory, extremal graph theory*)  
Counting colored solutions to linear equations
- 1:55 – 2:35     **Lea Kenigsberg**  
(*Traces in Floer Theory*)  
Torsion, string topology, and fixed point invariants.
- 2:35 – 2:45     **BREAK**
- 2:45 – 3:25     **Jane Wu**  
(*Computer Vision, Computer Graphics, Robotics*)  
Reconstruction from Recognition and Retrieval
- 3:25 – 4:00     **Wrap-up and Networking**
- 4:00             **FREE TIME!**

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

Filipe Pereira  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego

Understanding the Interconnections between Physical and Biological  
Processes in the Ocean

Life on Earth, as we know it, depends on a delicate balance fueled by the sun's energy and how this energy is distributed across the planet: The Climate. The ocean is a major driver of our climate and, therefore, understanding the physical and biological processes governing it is of crucial importance, particularly in the scenario of the present Climate Crisis. A useful proxy to understand such phenomena and how they can affect human life is the phytoplankton. These microscopic algae are the base of most marine food webs and have an important role in the Carbon cycle. They live at the mercy of the ocean currents, being strongly affected by the environmental conditions they face on the way, such as light and nutrient availability, and temperature. The focus of my research is to investigate and understand the interconnections between biological and physical processes, for example, how physical processes in multiple scales can affect the distribution of phytoplankton, and also, how biological processes can reciprocally modify the physical properties of the ocean. Using in situ and remotely-sensed observations and models of the Brazil Current in the South Atlantic, I will introduce oceanographic concepts and demonstrate how one can use idealized models with reduced physics and ecology to gain insights into the scales of processes governing the distribution of phytoplankton in our oceans and potential use of such studies for more pressing issues of our times, such as harmful algal blooms (HABs).

Tessa Cookmeyer  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, UC Santa Barbara

The search for a Kitaev spin liquid: predicting experiments and engineering its realization

Naturally occurring magnets called lodestones have long been known to attract iron, but it is only recently that we understand why some materials are magnetic: under the right circumstances, at the atomic level there will be a periodic arrangement of local magnetic moments, called spins, which can align with each other at low temperatures yielding a bulk magnetic moment. However, we know that some elemental compounds, such as He, remains a liquid (at ambient pressure) no matter how low the temperature goes. This observation begs the question of whether a similar phenomenon can occur in materials with spins.

A “spin liquid” would be such a material that never obtains a magnetic order even at zero temperature. Theoretical descriptions of these phases reveal novel properties, such as topological order, fractionalized excitations, and emergent gauge fields, which could be useful in quantum computing. Although spin liquids are known to exist in one-dimension (1D), the confirmation of a 2D or 3D material that exhibits spin liquid physics is still highly debated.

Even theoretically, it was an open question whether such a phase was the true ground state of a 2D or 3D system until the exactly solvable Kitaev model was introduced. Remarkably, not long after it was demonstrated that the Kitaev spin liquid could be found in certain compounds, and thus the search for a Kitaev spin liquid material began. Now, numerous candidate materials exist but it remains challenging to compare predictions with experiment.

In this talk, I will detail my work predicting the outcome of thermal transport and inelastic neutron scattering experiments on realistic Kitaev spin liquid candidates. Although my work does not favor the interpretation of  $\text{RuCl}_3$ , a leading Kitaev material candidate, as being in the Kitaev spin liquid phase, it provides another pathway towards detecting a Kitaev material. If time allows, I will additionally discuss my recent work proposing to engineer a Kitaev spin liquid in a quantum simulator as a more controlled platform to explore such physics.



Devontae (Tae) Baxter  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Astronomy & Astrophysics, UC San Diego

## From Voids to Clusters: The Profound Influence of Environment on Galaxy Evolution

Galaxies reside in diverse environments, ranging from isolated voids to densely packed clusters. These environments significantly impact their evolution. Isolated galaxies, typically spirals, are rich in atomic and molecular hydrogen and actively form stars. In contrast, galaxies in dense regions tend to be elliptical, are relatively gas-poor, and exhibit little to no star formation – a state commonly referred to as "quenched" or "quiescent."

A key question in galaxy evolution is understanding the physical processes in dense environments that drive the transformation of star-forming spirals into gas-depleted, quenched elliptical galaxies. This presentation explores recent efforts to elucidate these mechanisms by exploring how the efficiency (or timescale) of this transformation evolves with time and varies across distinct galactic environments, such as galaxy groups and clusters.

Additionally, I will address the puzzle surrounding the epoch at which environmental effects first became crucial in shaping galaxy evolution. Unlocking this mystery lies in studying "protoclusters", the nascent, uncollapsed progenitors of massive galaxy clusters. Upcoming observatories like the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope will observe and characterize vast samples of protoclusters dating back to a period when the universe was roughly 2-3 billion years old, providing invaluable insights into the early stages of cosmic structure formation and its influence on galaxy evolution.

Harold Polo  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Mathematics, UC Irvine

### A Goldbach Theorem for Polynomial Semirings

The celebrated Goldbach conjecture has stood as one of the most intriguing unsolved problems in mathematics. In modern terms, the conjecture asserts that every even integer strictly greater than 2 can be written as the sum of two prime numbers. The scope of investigations surrounding the Goldbach conjecture has expanded beyond its original formulation, inspiring researchers to explore analogous ideas for classes of polynomial rings. In this talk, we prove an analogue of the Goldbach conjecture for Laurent polynomials with positive integer coefficients, and we discuss other analogues for classes of polynomial semirings. This presentation is based on joint works with Nathan Kaplan and Sophia Liao.

Denae Ventura  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Mathematics, UC Davis

Jesús De Loera<sup>H</sup>, Denae Ventura<sup>H\*</sup>, Jack Wesley<sup>V</sup>

<sup>H</sup>Department of Mathematics, UC Davis

<sup>V</sup>Department of Mathematics, UC San Diego

\*Corresponding author: [deventura@ucdavis.edu](mailto:deventura@ucdavis.edu)

### Counting colored solutions to linear equations

Ramsey theory is the study of the appearance of unavoidable monochromatic patterns in large enough arbitrarily colored structures. This can be studied on the positive integers where a natural question arises: how large must the integer  $n$  be so that any coloring of the positive integers from 1 to  $n$  contains a certain monochromatic substructure? One such structure can be a solution set of a given equation. In 1927, Van der Waerden proved that any coloring of the positive integers must admit a monochromatic solution to the equation  $x+y=2z$ . Later on, Schur proved that there exists a minimum positive integer  $s$  such that for any 2-coloring of the integers from 1 to  $s$  there is a monochromatic solution to  $x+y=z$ . We call  $(x,y,z)$  a Schur triple if it is a solution to  $x+y=z$ . An interesting problem is to count the number of monochromatic Schur triples in any 2-coloring of the integers from 1 to a large enough  $n$ . Long-standing computation tools and techniques have been used to optimize this number. In this talk, we will discuss the use of these techniques along with Datskovsky's method to minimize the number of monochromatic triples associated to the equation  $ax+ay=z$  in the interval 1 to  $n$ , where  $n$  is large enough and  $a$  is at least 2. We will briefly mention two other research problems in collaboration with my advisor Jesús De Loera, chancellor's fellow Antonio Torres Hernandez, Luze Xu, Daniel Quinn and Jillian Eddy.

Lea Kenigsberg  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Mathematics, UC Davis

Torsion, string topology, and fixed point invariants.

In this talk we will explore smooth manifolds, which are a generalization of spheres, doughnuts, and their higher-dimensional counterparts. Such objects can be classified using a wealth of algebraic and geometric structures and their associated invariants. I will describe a fascinating connection between invariants arising in string topology, algebraic  $K$ -theory, and fixed point theory. This will then be used to prove that the non-homotopy invariance of the string topology coproduct is characterized by the trace of the Whitehead torsion.

Jane Wu  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, UC Berkeley

## Reconstruction from Recognition and Retrieval

Objects manipulated by the hand (i.e. manipulanda) are particularly challenging to reconstruct from in-the-wild RGB images or videos. Not only does the hand occlude much of the object, but also the object is often only visible in a small number of image pixels. At the same time, two strong anchors emerge in this setting: (1) estimated 3D hands help disambiguate the location and scale of the object, and (2) the set of manipulanda is small relative to all possible objects. With these insights in mind, we present a scalable paradigm for handheld object reconstruction that builds on recent breakthroughs in large language/vision models and 3D object datasets. Given an RGB image and estimated 3D hand, we train a transformer-based model, MCC-Hand-Object (MCC-HO), that jointly infers 3D hand and object geometry. In conjunction with MCC-HO, we propose Retrieval-Augmented Reconstruction (RAR), a method for automatically retrieving object models using large language/vision models to improve network-inferred geometry. After the object is retrieved, iterative closest point (ICP) or other point cloud fitting techniques can be used to rigidly align the template mesh with the estimated geometry from our network. Experiments show that our model outperforms existing state-of-the-art methods for handheld object reconstruction. To demonstrate the scalability of our approach, we additionally use RAR to obtain ground truth 3D hands and objects for previously unlabeled images in the 100 Days of Hands dataset.

# **GROUP V**

Skyview – Main Lodge

**Kelly Lytle Hernandez**, Carceral State, houselessness, black radical theory  
**John Saucedo**, Intervention science, health disparities, psychology, HIV

## Audience

**James Doucet-Battle**, Health Disparities, Race, Genomics, African Diaspora/Transnational

**Victor Ferreira**, Cognitive Psychology and Language Processing

**Stephanie Jones\***, Race and geography

**Samuel Lamontagne\***, Hip Hop / Black Music / African Diaspora

**Kimberly Martin\***, health, healthcare, dismantling racism, prejudice, intergroup relations

**Dania Matos**, Law

**Michael Moses**, higher education, critical race theory, academic professional development, qualitative methods

**Tianna Paschel**, Race, social movements, black feminism, Latin America and the Caribbean

**Mercy Romero**, built environment, art, archives and documents of Black/Latinx arts and social movements

**Deborah Southern\***, Pervasive whiteness in higher education organizations

**Tiffany Willoughby-Herard**, African Politics, Feminist Theory, Black Thought, Political Theory

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

**GROUP V**  
Skyview – Main Lodge

- 9:00 – 9:10     **INTRODUCTIONS**
- 9:10 – 9:50     **Jamaal Muwwakkil**  
*(Sociocultural Linguistics, political discourse, language and race, higher education)*  
"I'm Black, but...": Racial Socialization in Black Undergraduates (Non)Identification Discourse
- 9:55 – 10:35    **Christiana Kallon Kelly**  
*(education, gender, race, politics, Africa & the African diaspora)*  
Education for Legitimacy: How Schooling for Black African Girls Restored Sierra Leone's International Reputation
- 10:35 – 10:40   **BREAK**
- 10:40 – 11:20   **Mia Dawson**  
*(Race, policing, housing, movement for abolition, human geography)*  
Abolition and the everyday life of Sacramento's carceral housing crisis
- 11:25 – 12:05   **J.J. Manson**  
*(Labour, housing, and transportation)*  
Indigeneity in urban communities: Recognition, misrecognition, and the spatial-economic experiences of Indigenous persons in the Vancouver region of British Columbia
- 12:05 – 1:05    LUNCH
- 1:10 – 1:50     **Megan Burkhardt-Reed**  
*(language development, cognitive development, social learning in infancy, parent-child interaction)*  
From Babbling to First Words: Understanding the Emergence of Communication in Infancy
- 1:55 – 2:35     **Palashi Vaghela**  
*(Communications)*  
Title: Writing the Surpayana: Towards a Dalit Method of Reclaiming the Stranger
- 2:35 – 2:45     **BREAK**
- 2:45 – 3:25     **Caleb Dawson**  
*(ethnic-racial identity development, critical consciousness, ethnic-racial socialization, culturally relevant teaching practices)*  
Enriching Latinx Adolescents' Ethnic-Racial Identity Development as a Pathway to Resistance
- 3:30 – 4:10     **Bernardette J. Pinetta**  
*(ethnic-racial identity development, critical consciousness, ethnic-racial socialization, culturally relevant teaching practices)*  
Enriching Latinx Adolescents' Ethnic-Racial Identity Development as a Pathway to Resistance
- 4:10 – 4:30     **Wrap-up and Networking**
- 4:30             **FREE TIME!**

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

Jamaal Muwwakkil  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Education and Information Studies, UC Los Angeles

“I’m Black, but...”: Racial Socialization in Black Undergraduates’  
(Non)Identification Discourse

Institutional discourses about Black student participation in the University of California tend to tell an oversimplified story about Black undergraduates and the places they come from, the lives they have lived. This imagined Black community is discursively static, whereas the population of students comprising the Black community is diverse and ever-changing. An underexplored proportion of these Black students are those who were socialized apart from Black community, resulting in a dearth of scholarship on their process of racial identity development. As part of my larger research program to use linguistic anthropology to shed light on race and identity in US university contexts, in this talk I bring theories of racial socialization into dialogue with theories of language socialization, and identify three distinct chronotopes of Blackness that are communicated to many non-community identified Black undergraduates in California prior to entry into the UC system: colormute socialization, “Sundays and holidays” socialization, and anti-African American socialization.



Christiana Kallon Kelly  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of African American Studies, UC Los Angeles

Education for Legitimacy: How Schooling for Black African Girls Restored Sierra Leone's  
International Reputation

Drawing on qualitative and ethnographic evidence from Sierra Leone, this presentation examines how access to tuition-free secondary schooling for Black African girls was used by the state as a tool of public diplomacy in ways that sustained racial difference and reproduced gender inequalities. In recent years, Sierra Leone emerged as a regional and global “success story” of education and gender equality following the implementation of the 2018 Free Quality School Education (FQSE) Program. The FQSE emphasized the “radical inclusion” of adolescent girls, and more specifically pregnant teenagers and young mothers, in schools and communities as the foundation of a new national development strategy. I demonstrate how political elites in Sierra Leone appropriated and engendered long-standing western ideas of schooling as a means of controlling and reshaping the sexual practices of Black African girls to restore power and state legitimacy post-civil war (1991-2002) and post the 2014 Ebola outbreak. But while the FQSE and supporting education and gender reforms were instrumental in challenging global perceptions of Sierra Leone as a “failed state” in “crisis”, I argue that the overemphasis on schooling and sexuality reproduced racial and gendered imperial logics of marginalization for secondary schoolgirls that reinforced their exclusion from social and political life in Sierra Leone. This work draws on longer genealogies of Black feminist research on state policing of Black women and girls’ bodies and contributes to more nascent studies of racialization in international development.

Mia Karisa Dawson  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
History, UC Los Angeles

Abolition and the everyday life of Sacramento's carceral housing crisis

The movement for abolition has articulated a rejection of policing and prisons as an organizing principle towards a complete dismantling of racial capitalism. In this paper, I argue that a focus on housing develops and advances this broader goal of the movement. Through ethnographic work in Sacramento with those most impacted by policing, incarceration, and housing precarity, I argue that the widely acknowledged housing crisis can be more aptly named a carceral housing crisis, in which the punishing and destabilizing functions of policing and incarceration participate centrally. In describing the everyday life of the crisis, I document close encounters between a carceral system of jails, police, courts, and probation offices with a housing system defined by predatory capitalism, precarity, and misguided state interventions. I then consider the experience of an autonomous living experiment in Sacramento that ejected policing in conversation with abolitionist and anarchist theories of housing. I conclude by arguing for abolitionist housing practices that reject private ownership and tenancy in favor of occupant control and collective self-government, direct action, and mutual aid. I argue that such abolitionist housing can be developed through prefigurative everyday actions and mass movement.

J.J. Manson  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
American Studies, UC Davis

Indigeneity in urban communities: Recognition, misrecognition, and the spatial-economic experiences of Indigenous persons in the Vancouver region of British Columbia

This talk seeks to answer the question: how do Indigenous persons who live in the Vancouver region of British Columbia conceptualize and enact work and their economic lives? Using exploratory, qualitative research with Indigenous persons who live in the Vancouver region of British Columbia, I find that Indigenous residents faced multiple forms of dispossession, alienation and misrecognition (classist, racist, and ableist, etc.) that negatively impacted their work and economic experiences. I also find that Indigenous residents used multiple economic discourses (such as solidarism, cosmopolitanism, and relationality) and practices (such as quitting their jobs, working in the gig economy, and engaging in traditional economic practices) to understand and overcome their dispossession, alienation, and misrecognition, and to build community in distinct ways. To this end, I conducted semi-structured interviews with these Indigenous persons, which were analyzed using modified critical theory concepts (recognition, objectification, misrecognition, alienation and colonial dispossession). I conclude this talk by focusing on how Indigenous persons' urban spatial-economic experiences have produced novel descriptive and normative insights. Informed by these insights, I discuss how Indigenous persons who live in urban communities can obtain the resources (land, homes, living incomes, and recognition) they need to overcome dispossession, alienation, and misrecognition, and to become the persons they want to be.

Megan Burkhardt-Reed  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Communication and Psychology, UC Los Angeles

From Babbling to First Words: Understanding the Emergence of Communication in Infancy

Language is an integral part of everyday life and human connection. Although many species have means of communicating, language is an exceptional human-specific trait that allows us to share our ideas, thoughts, and feelings with others. Intuitively, language seems like an effortless skill for most children to acquire, but the production of intelligible and meaningful utterances is a complex process. Like other aspects of human development, language development is characterized by variation. At any given time 7- 8% of children has had a disorder related to voice, speech, or language. One of the greatest challenges to the early identification and the successful treatment of speech and language disorders is understanding the wide variation in when children start speaking and how they progress (within a given language). In this talk, I will present my initial and current research studies which together form the basis for my program of research. I will discuss conducting naturalistic observational studies that demonstrate individual differences in infant language development. Specifically, I have employed quantitative observational research methods to systematically evaluate how infants, babble, speak, and gesture, and the ways caregivers respond, across infancy and early childhood, which has strong theoretical and methodological contributions for discerning how and when children use them. Understanding these individual variations in developmental patterns of use can help us distinguish early risk factors from natural variation and better guide diagnosis and treatment. The knowledge that has resulted from this work and may reasonably be expected to result from future endeavors may also help inform our understanding of the origin and evolution of human language by providing a description of evolving linguistic complexity.

Palashi Vaghela  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Communications, UC San Diego

Writing the Surpayana: Towards a Dalit Method of Reclaiming the Stranger

The epic Ramayana is often invoked by Hindus in India, especially in the Hindi-speaking belt, as a story of the victory of good over evil. An often sidelined but a crucial character in this story is Surpanakha, is a Rakshasi (demoness) who disguises herself to pass as a pleasing Upper Caste/Aryan woman who proposes marriage to Lord Ram. I read Surpanakha against the grain of Savarna interpretation to position her “ethnographic encounters” as moments of embodied caste agency. I analyze the figure of the “stranger” by diving into the affective and embodied nature of Surpanakha’s encounter with Ram. I follow this by analyzing my own experiences of being a stranger while studying caste in nominally casteless (Brahmanical) spaces. I propose a Dalit method that reclaims the figure of the stranger from being a source of risk to a figure that takes risks reveal mappings of caste in casteless spaces through four embodied registers: disclosure, passing, embodiment and rejection. By performing a Dalit theorization of Surpanakha and her navigation of caste interactions, I make a methodological provocation to Dalit and Adivasi scholars to take inspiration from her to “study up” (Nader 1972, Gusterson 1997) Brahmanical cultures.

Caleb Dawson  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Sociology, UC Merced

### Trauma Pouring: The Uses, Costs, and Risks of Re-Telling Racial Trauma

What's the use of telling stories about trauma to people in power? And how does it feel to tell such stories? In this presentation, I conceptualize “trauma pouring” as recounting experience of trauma for the sake of redress and I detail the uses, costs, and risks of this storytelling for Black Campus Leaders at a progressive and elite public university. The presentation emerges from data collected for a three-year political ethnography of antiblackness at a university and the experiences of Black Campus Leaders (n=107) who contest it. I analyze fieldnotes, documents, and seventeen interviews surrounding three listening sessions about antiblackness in 2020 and 2021, during which Black Campus Leaders voiced grievances and calls for change to administrators. Drawing on scholarship in Black studies and the sociology of emotions, race, education, I demonstrate how Black Campus Leaders regarded trauma pouring as useful for indicting administrators for tolerating black suffering, sensitizing administrators to feel bothered about black suffering, and mobilizing administrators to help mitigate further harm. I also reveal how trauma pouring is costly as an exhausting expense of emotional labor and risky as there was no guarantee that they would benefit from their disclosure. I argue that trauma pouring presents a scenario in which activists suffer when trying to end the suffering of others.

Bernardette J. Pinetta  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Social Welfare, UC Los Angeles

Enriching Latinx Adolescents' Ethnic-Racial Identity Development  
as a Pathway to Resistance

Growing up in a society that promotes eurocentrism, repudiates Latinx communities, and gaslights those who challenge these norms, can cause distorted views Latinx youth have of themselves and their ethnic-racial community. How youth of color form attachments to and the feelings they have towards their ethnic/racial group (i.e., ethnic-racial identity) have been associated with a host of academic, social, and psychological outcomes, suggesting that youth who express strong feelings of affirmation towards their ethnic/racial group can better adjust within multiple contexts. In this talk, I will discuss how Latinx youth explore and construct their understanding of what it means to be "Latinx" (e.g., ethnic-racial identity) and how this knowledge forms the basis of how they interrogate and challenge systems of oppression. Specifically, I will illustrate how Latinx adolescents' ethnic-racial identity is shaped by the cultural and racialized messages they receive through their everyday observations, interactions, and experiences at home, school, and community settings. Study 1 is a quantitative inquiry into how parents facilitate early adolescents' emergent participatory citizenship via their ethnic-racial identity processes. Study 2 is a qualitative case study that elevates best practices for facilitating Latinx youths' ethnic-racial identity and critical consciousness. Finally, Study 3 draws on participatory research methods to explore how *critical inquiry groups*, small youth facilitated forums, can serve as vehicles for Latina's intersectional ethnic-racial and critical race consciousness development. I will conclude by discussing the implications for how families, educators, and practitioners can enrich Latinx adolescents' ERI development in ways that raise their critical awareness of social injustice and empower them to enact positive social change.

# GROUP VI

Alumni Room

**Leisy Abrego**, Central American Studies; Latinx Studies; International migration; Gender; Families  
**Amalia Cabezas**, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Media & Cultural Studies

## Audience

**Abigail Andrews**, immigration, gender, political mobilization, state violence

**Javiera Barandiaran**, Environmental Justice

**Roderic Crooks**, critical data studies, science studies, human-computer interaction, library and information st.

**Xing Gao**<sup>^</sup>, structural racism, place, and health equity

**Cristina Gomez-Vidal**<sup>\*</sup>, Social determinants of health, marginalized populations, climate threats

**Alexander Huezo**, Environmental Justice, War on Drugs, Ethno-territorial rights, Migration, Latin America

**Lilly Irani**, technology, governance, critical gender studies, surveillance, labor, anthropology

**Rudy Mondragon**<sup>\*</sup>, Performance of Resistance and Activism in Sport, Racial Capitalism, Labor

**Mirian Martinez-Aranda**, Immigration, immigration detention, surveillance, and race & ethnicity

**Blanca Ramirez**<sup>^</sup>, Immigration; Occupations

**Giovanni Ramos**<sup>^</sup>, Mental health inequities among racially and ethnically minoritized groups

**Pamela Riviere**<sup>\*</sup>, computational linguistics

**Annie Ro**, Immigrant health, quantitative methods, health disparities, social determinants of disease

**Tye Rush**<sup>^</sup>, Voting rights, electoral systems, race/ethnic politics, political representation

**Daphne Taylor Garcia**, Decolonizing philosophy

**Cynthia Vazquez**<sup>\*</sup>, Border Studies, Indigeneity, Settler-Colonialism, and Critical Education

**Salvador Zarate**, Labor, gender, race, ecology

<sup>\*</sup>current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

<sup>^</sup>current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow



**GROUP VI**  
Alumni Room

9:00 – 9:10 **INTRODUCTIONS**

9:10 – 9:50 **Nancy Morales**

*(Transnational Migration and Children of Indigenous migrants, Women of Color Feminisms, Indigenous Queer Studies, Settler Colonialism, Indigenous Research Methodologies)*

Indigenous Latinx Resurgence: Indigenous women Rebuild their Homes based on Guelaguetza Values in Oaxacalifornia

9:55 – 10:35 **Julio Orellana**

*(Political Economy of Migration; Central American Studies; Migration Studies; Latinx Studies; Labor; Race)*

Guatemalan Labor Migrants and Latinx Material Conditions in Greater Los Angeles

10:35 – 10:40 **BREAK**

10:40 – 11:20 **Oscar Fabian Soto**

*(Globalization, The Global Political Economy, Radical Criminology, Marxism, Barrio Pedagogy, Mass Incarceration, Immigration)*

The Political Economy of Digitalized Warfare: Global Capitalism, Digitalization, and the Spatial Social Control of Poor Working Class Barrios

11:25 – 12:05 **Randeep Singh Hothi**

*(Media, Religion, Diaspora, South Asia, Sikhism, Caste, Multi-Sited Ethnography, Global Studies, Semiotics, Critical Theory, Philosophy)*

New Televisual Experiments: The Mass Mediation of Sikh Diaspora, Memory, and the Political

12:05 – 1:05 **LUNCH**

1:10 – 1:50 **Shazeda Ahmed**

*(artificial intelligence, tech policy, Islamophobia, surveillance, China)*

Challenging Technological Jingoism: State-Firm Coproduction of China's Social Credit System

1:55 – 2:35 **Juan Manuel Rubio**

*(environmental history, labor, environmental justice)*

Veins of Conflict: Bodies and the Environment in Peru's Copper Circuit, 1880 – 1930

2:35 – 2:45 **BREAK**

2:45 – 3:25 **Isabella Restrepo**

*(Criminalization, foster care, Latinx Studies, youth, feminist studies, abolition, carceral state)*

Carcerality and Care: Interrogating the State as Caretaker of Latina Girls in Foster Care

3:25 – 4:00 **Wrap-up and Networking**

4:00 **FREE TIME!**

\*current President's Postdoctoral Fellow

^current Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

Nancy Morales  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Anthropology, UC Santa Cruz

Indigenous Latinx Resurgence: Indigenous women Rebuild their Homes based on Guelaguetza Values in Oaxacalifornia

Thinking across Native and Indigenous Studies, Feminist Studies, Latinx Studies, Anthropology Studies, this talk draws upon a chapter from my book manuscript in progress, *Oaxacalifornia Futures: Indigenous Women and Indigiqueer Youth*, to examine the different forms of Indigenous governance: cargo (local council appointment) and tequio (community labor) among 1.5 (US-raised) and second generation (US-born) Indigenous Latinx women and queer youth in the Central Coast and Valley regions of California. In this talk, I define key terms: radical resurgence, intersectionality, gendered citizenship, tequio (community labor), cargo (local council appointment), and Guelaguetza intelligence system. These terms serve as a theoretical framework regarding Indigenous Latinx women's and queer youth's radical resurgence strategies, which I coin as Indigenous Latinx Resurgence. I explore how their practices of self-determination, comprising the Guelaguetza knowledge system, build Indigenous Latinx diasporic communities. I anchor my project through an ethnographic case study of Oaxaqueñx Youth Encuentro (OYE), an organization that hosts annual gatherings for Zapotec, Mixtec, and Triqui youth living in California. I argue that tequio is a possible resurgent strategy relevant to Indigenous Latinx Resurgence. In this talk, I will explore how Indigenous Latinx (Mixtec and Zapotec) women, who are former OYE committee members and/or co-founders deploy different forms of tequio (communal labor) that emerge in diaspora. My scholarship moves beyond Indigenous migrant men's political practices through hometown associations and transnational organizations. By shedding light on new generations of Indigenous Latinx women's and queer youths' mobilizing and new tools, these findings can help us better understand what resurgent mobilizing looks like and how it transforms diasporic Indigenous people.

Julio Orellana  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
English, UC Santa Barbara

### Guatemalan Labor Migrants and Latinx Material Conditions in Greater Los Angeles

This presentation examines the complex forces of neoliberalism that shape forced international migration from Guatemala to the U.S. Moreover, the talk draws on the work of Latin American Dependency Theory that examines migration through the prism of uneven development between core and peripheral capitalist economies. The presentation argues that the study of Guatemalan migrants from multiple racial groups (Maya and ladino) within U.S. labor markets provides a material explanation for how members of this population experience forms of exploitation and racialization as a Latinx subgroup. The research is based on approximately 200 face-to-face surveys, 30 qualitative interviews, and over three years of active participant observation in the Greater Los Angeles region with grassroots organizations.

Oscar Fabian Soto  
ADVANCE Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Criminology, Law and Society, UC Irvine

The Political Economy of Digitalized Warfare: Global Capitalism, Digitalization, and the Spatial  
Social Control of Poor Working Class Barrios

This presentation focuses on the links between global capitalism, the hyper-incarceration of poor and racialized working-class communities, and surplus humanity. It explores the social control mechanisms used against poor communities throughout the globe. In an effort to draw out the links between the micro-, meso-, and macro-levels of analysis, I undertake a macro-analysis of the crisis of global capitalism by examining existing data and then I turn to a three year ethnographic research approach with self-identified activists, immigrants, homeless individuals, formerly incarcerated and system-impacted people. I show how the above participants are part of a social control mechanism of surveillance, policing, and criminalization – systems that funnel people into the prison system and that form part of what Robinson calls the global police state. Specifically, I look at Robinson's (2020) militarized accumulation and accumulation by repression in an effort to show how transnational capital is more and more dependent on hyper-incarceration as a means of capital accumulation worldwide. The dissertation calls for a systemic upheaval and a revolution that rallies for the abolition of the prison–industrial complex and the criminal injustice system.

Randeep Hothi  
UCLA Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Asian American Studies Center

New Televisual Experiments: The Mass Mediation of Sikh Diaspora, Memory, and the Political

My book project, entitled, *Sikhism Will Be Televised*, finds that British-based Sikh television stations have become globally influential precisely in their attempts to call a globally dispersed diaspora to practice their tradition. My ethnographic findings build on two years of multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork, in which I follow behind-the-scenes decision-making practices through which community leaders, activists, and exegetes think through media production, circulation, and reception at four Sikh television stations based in the UK (Birmingham) and operating out of US, Canada, and India — Sikh Channel, Sangat TV, Akaal Channel, and KTV. These non-profit community-operated institutions issue variegated programming twenty-four hours-a-day seven-days-a-week, presenting a unique opportunity to examine the political, social, and cultural complexity by which diasporas strategically resist cultural domination and produce counter-public media ecologies. I find that Sikh television stations exhibit two kinds of politics that can be in tension with one another — a liberal multicultural struggle for recognition in the diaspora and an ethno-nationalist struggle for self-determination in Punjab; I find that Punjabi-speaking media producers articulate strategic rhetorics of docility and resistance to garner quite different forms of belonging in the diaspora and homeland, respectively, whereas a new generation of English-speaking activists based in the UK, US, and Canada now question the very terms through which Sikhism is translated and these politics are articulated. Findings help scholars conceptualize sovereignty grounded in ego-loss, or the evacuation of possessive self-individuation. *Sikhism Will Be Televised* examines these tensions by contextualizing Sikh televisual cultures within larger post-colonial and multicultural political regimes. In revealing the intertwined relationship between race and religion as modern categories, this monograph maps the limits of post-colonial and liberal multicultural regimes of managing cultural difference, in doing so exploring the conceptual and affective decolonization of Sikh cultural forms.

Shazeda Ahmed  
Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Center on Race and Digital Justice & Bunche Center for African American Studies, UC Los Angeles

Challenging Technological Jingoism:  
State-Firm Coproduction of China's Social Credit System

Since 2014, China's government has worked with tech companies to build its social credit system, an information-sharing project to eliminate behaviors that violate Chinese administrative law. Tax evasion, academic plagiarism, and food safety scandals fall within this system's purview, and are punished through public blacklists designed to shame people into legal compliance. Through qualitative field research, my dissertation investigated how tech firms co-produced the system's infrastructure while balancing their own interests. Major tech companies resisted orders from government bodies they deemed to be unauthoritative, experimented with internal user rating systems to preempt impending laws, and designed narrowly tailored data-sharing channels for state monitoring of their platforms. My work shows how the system's reliance on technological solutionism ultimately made it ineffective at its own purported goals of strengthening social trust.

I attempt to disrupt narratives of the social credit system as emblematic of complete state control, in contrast to the literature on 'digital authoritarianism.' I conclude by showing how ongoing misrepresentations of social credit within the United States have become fodder for what I refer to as technological jingoism: over-securitization of economic, political, and social issues related to technology that ultimately produces aggressive, nationalistic, and short-sighted policies.

Juan Manuel Rubio  
UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Global Studies, UC Santa Barbara

Veins of Conflict: Bodies and the Environment in Peru's Copper Circuit, 1880 – 1930

In the early twentieth century, when the world underwent a massive process of electrification, industrial copper mining engulfed the central highlands of Peru. This talk examines how Indigenous migrant workers, who were forced to work for Peruvian mine owners and transnational companies, resisted hazardous working conditions and polluted environments. Drawing from feminist theory and disability studies, Rubio conceptualizes these struggles as unfolding within a body-environment continuum, referred to as transcorporeality. Through this lens, he argues that different kinds of bodies (the bodies of workers, bodies of water, the body of Indigenous communities, and animal bodies) became interconnected sites of contention in the early twentieth century. By framing these struggles through a transcorporeal framework, Rubio sheds new light on the origins of the labor movement in Peru, engages more deeply with Indigenous struggles, and offers points of transnational articulation for struggles over labor, health, and environmental justice.

Isabella Restrepo  
President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Ethnic Studies, UC San Diego

Carcerality and Care: Interrogating the State as Caretaker of Latina Girls in Foster Care

This paper excavates the experiences of Latina foster girls with helping services mandated by the state and centers what I term transcarceral care to refer to the state's deadly inclination to expand carcerality through helping programs. Transcerceral care refers to interventions, placements, and programs meant to modify the behaviors of racialized youth, under the guise of care, through therapeutic and other services offered to foster youth. This paper critically examines the language used by state officials in California court transcripts regarding parental rights, to argue that the state weaponizes care rhetoric to mask its use of carceral logics.