

ETHNIC STUDIES AT 51: SPECIAL ALUMNI EDITION



**A Newsletter of the
Ethnic Studies Department**

**FALL 2020
EDITION**

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WELCOME TO ETHNIC STUDIES AT 51:

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**DR. JUANA
MARÍA
RODRÍGUEZ**
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L-R Profs. Rodríguez, Huhndorf, Choy, Coronado

Welcome to the 51st year of Ethnic Studies at Berkeley. Last March, when we gathered together to honor the Department's 50th Anniversary, we could barely imagine the confluence of events that would transpire in the following months—a global pandemic that brought into sharp relief the social inequities that surround us and resurfaced xenophobic and racist tropes of foreign disease and contagion—world-wide uprisings to protest anti-Blackness and police brutality that have been met with increased state violence and repression—and the continued environmental devastation that has left us with apocalyptic skies while exacerbating the everyday crisis of health care, housing, and food insecurity. Every day the message is clear: racism, and all of its ugly consequences, is the toxic

air we breathe.

As usual, people of color are on the front lines, continuing to work the fields that put food on our tables; caring for the sick and dying; and risking their own health to serve as delivery drivers, cashiers, gas station attendants, and service workers. As schools close, parents everywhere struggle to provide a meaningful education for their children, exacerbating structural inequities that have generational consequences. As death tolls rise, the elderly,

the disabled, the poor, and the unhoused among us hear hateful messages that suggest their lives are disposable. Even as we

“Every day the message is clear: racism, and all of its ugly consequences, is the toxic air we breathe.”

continue to do the work we do, every day we also worry about our own loved ones, near and far, and our hearts break with the loss of life that surrounds us.

In this moment of so much despair and injustice, as a department, as a community, and as the inheritors of 50 years of collective struggle, Ethnic Studies at Berkeley remains determined to imagine and build a more livable, dignified, and just future for all of us. The global challenges of the moment have served as a powerful reminder of the urgency

of the unceded Ohlone land we occupy, and our department's unique role in advancing a greater understanding of Native American and Indigenous issues in the University and in the world. Even in this moment of crisis, many of us are searching and finding more purposeful ways of resisting the rising tide of state violence against Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and racialized populations in prisons, in detention centers, in the streets, and in every corner of society. These are obligations and commitments we undertake with love in the spirit of mutual

"In honoring the Department's 50th Anniversary, we recognize the incredible courage and commitment of the Third World Liberation Front, the vibrant legacy of activism in which our department is rooted."

of the work we do as scholars and as activists, and the power of coming together collectively to do it. As a community, we have been on the front lines of developing creative mutual aid projects, establishing community-based forms of support, forming multi-racial alliances to protest injustice, and speaking out to highlight the long arc of history that has brought us to this moment. As students, as faculty, and as a diverse community, we are also taking time to reflect on anti-Blackness in our own ethnic communities and taking action to build stronger alliances with the global Black Lives Matter movement. We are also thinking longer and harder about the obligations we have to the Indigenous communities

liberation.

Despite the personal, political, and global challenges that confront us, our students remain at the heart of all we do. As we have moved to a remote teaching environment, our incredibly committed team of instructional faculty have found creative and dynamic ways to deliver a rich and robust learning experience to the hundreds of students that we serve. And all of us in the department have tried to go the extra mile to make sure that in a time of so much anxiety, students have the resources, support, and compassion they need to learn and grow. It is with this spirit of strength, resilience, and creative collective determination that we begin another Fall semester in Ethnic Studies at Berkeley.

Our newsletter this year begins in this present moment of turmoil but reaches back to remind us of that as a Department we emerged out of the fire of political rage and willed activist determination not unlike the present. Last year, as a Department and as a community, we spent a lot of time reflecting on what this Department has meant to each of us as teachers, students, and social justice warriors. In honoring the Department's 50th Anniversary, we recognize the incredible courage and commitment of the **Third World Liberation Front**, the vibrant legacy of activism in which our department is rooted. We also celebrate the accomplishments and the excellence of our faculty, our students, and our alums. These outstanding achievements include two MacArthur Awards, a Pulitzer Prize, and two Guggenheim to name a few. **Viet Thanh Nguyen**, an Ethnic Studies undergraduate alum has snagged all three of those prizes; Ethnic Studies Ph.D. alum Josh Kun also won the MacArthur "genius" award; and our own **Shari Huhndorf** won the Guggenheim in 2018, the highest recognition conferred for scholarly or creative excellence.

In our classrooms, on our campus, and in the world, our faculty work to make a difference. Profs. **Beth Piatote** and **Shari Huhndorf** both serve on the UC-wide Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Advisory Committee, a committee doing the restorative work of returning Indigenous bones and artifacts to their rightful tribal homes; Prof. **Laura Pérez** is the new Director of the Latinx Research Center where she has redefined the mission of that Center to make

it more interdisciplinary and more hemispheric; while Prof. **Christian Paiz** is working with Cal Bears in the Desert Alumni to offer academic support and mentorship to the mostly first generation students from his own home community in the Coachella Valley. As we have adjusted to the urgencies of the moment, Prof. **Catherine Ceniza Choy** is speaking out on media platforms such as the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, NBC News, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer about the pandemic, racial scapegoating, and risks to essential workers;

"The truth is our faculty, students, and our alums do outstanding work every day...they do the urgent work of living life grounded in the principles of a commitment to an ethical engagement with the world, a guiding tenet of our Ethnic Studies community."

Prof. **Keith Feldman** redesigned his Spring class to help students adjust to their new social realities, publishing "Seldom Recorded and Hardly Recognized: An Anthology of Pandemic Writing by Ethnic Studies students at UC Berkeley," to showcase student experiences and senses during the COVID-19 pandemic; and Ethnic Studies lecturer **Hatem Bazian** helped organize a food drive for Bay Area communities. Our dedicated staff, our stellar crew of award-winning lecturers, our lauded faculty, our inspired graduate students, and the many outstanding undergraduate students we serve—remind me every day of all the ways that Ethnic Studies at Berkeley is unique on this campus and in the world. Through the outstanding work of our dedicated Student Advisors, **Dewey St.** and **Laura Jimenez-Olvera**, the Department proudly sponsors courses that specifically

target transfer students, previously incarcerated students, returning students, student parents, undocumented students, and veterans, making sure these populations get the academic resources they need to succeed at Berkeley, now more than ever. This is some of the often invisible work that those of us in Ethnic Studies do for our students, our campus, and the many communities we engage.

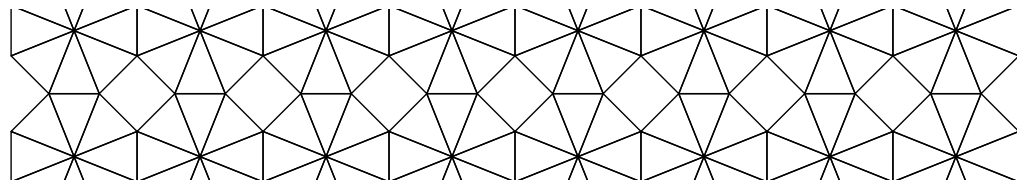
Being exceptional, setting the bar on what constitutes outstanding impactful research,

is something our Department has been doing for five decades. The truth is our faculty, students, and our alums do outstanding work every day, they work with the unhoused, the incarcerated, and the undocumented; they make videos, posters, podcasts, sound tracks, and murals; they work in classrooms, clinics, corporations, and courts; and equally important, they do the urgent work of living life grounded in the principles of a commitment to an ethical engagement with the world, a guiding tenet of our Ethnic Studies community. In the pages that follow, we highlight some of the outstanding achievements of some of our many Ethnic Studies graduates and the vibrant new directions of impactful, field-defining research, teaching, and public service that this intellectual legacy helped spark.

As I begin my second year as Chair, this process of looking back isn't just about celebrating a historic department that has influenced so many, as a proud graduate of the Ph.D. program in Ethnic Studies at Berkeley, this moment of reflection is also deeply personal. In Ethnic Studies, I found a place where my passion for intellectual inquiry, my political commitments, and my community investments could thrive. Today, I try to channel the lessons I learned as an Ethnic Studies scholar into my classroom, into my writing, and into the work I do every day.

Like many of you, I found a home in the Ethnic Studies Department, a place to grow as a scholar, as a teacher, and as a human being working for a more just, more humane, and more peaceful future. As we look to the next fifty years, I know that the Ethnic Studies Department at Berkeley will continue to be a home for vibrant intellectual exchange grounded in a foundational commitment to education for the public good and developing bold responses to the contemporary challenges that we face as an institution and as a society. In honoring 50 years of Ethnic Studies, I invite you to join me in affirming our collective belief in the power of ideas and action to ignite new possibilities for a future that is ours to envision.

NEWS



After six years of sustained fundraising by the Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies program, Ethnic Studies is proud to announce the establishment of the new **Asian American Research Center** (AARC). The goal of the AARC is to create a preeminent research center for the study of Asian Americans in national, hemispheric, and global contexts. It will bring together a vibrant, innovative, and dynamic assemblage of scholars, researchers, policy-makers, community organizers, and cultural producers to address a multiplicity of interests and concerns. The Center will raise public awareness of Asian American/diaspora issues and advance cutting-edge research, develop innovative curricula, and promote community-campus engagement. We are particularly elated to announce that Professor **Michael Omi** will serve as the inaugural Chair of the Center. Professor Omi brings decades of groundbreaking scholarship, intellectual rigor, institutional knowledge, and a deep commitment to public engagement. His leadership will invigorate a social justice vision, inspire broad involvement, and help establish a solid foundation for the Center's growth and aspirations.

The Ethnic Studies Department is delighted to welcome Assistant Prof. **Sara Mameni** to our department's faculty. Prof. Mameni's research explores contemporary transnational art and visual culture in the Arab/Muslim world with focus on racial discourse, transnational gender politics, militarism, oil cultures, and extractive economies. Prof. Mameni impressed the committee, and all who met her, with her talent for engaging students, her commitment to intellectually imaginative interdisciplinary ethnic studies scholarship, and her warm and generous nature. Trained as an Art Historian at UC San Diego, Prof. Mameni was a post-doctoral fellow at UC Santa Cruz before serving as the Director of the Aesthetics and Politics MA program at the California Institute for the Arts.

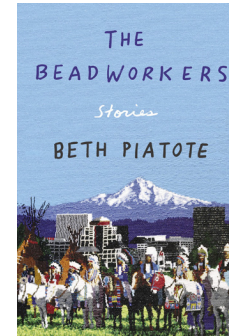
I am also delighted to report that UC Berkeley has announced that it will be dedicating six new faculty positions to establish Berkeley as an international center of excellence in Native American and Indigenous Studies. This new cluster initiative, spearheaded by Profs. **Shari Huhndorf** and **Tom Biolsi**, will bring new faculty positions to our Native American Studies program and help address our curricular needs in situating the centrality of this history and this scholarship to our Ethnic Studies Department.

Our Department will also form part of the vibrant new Latinxs and Democracy Cluster that will bring five new faculty positions to the campus, including a new hire within the Chicano Studies Program! Thanks to **Laura Pérez** and **Ramón Grosfoguel** and our campus partners at the Latinx Research Center for their role in crafting this successful proposal.

The Ethnic Studies Department also welcomed three new staff members— **Sandra Benjamin Richmond**, Director of Administration for the Administrative Cluster that includes African American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and Ethnic Studies, has brought her boundless energy and deep institutional knowledge to keep all the wheels turning (virtually and otherwise) in our corner of Barrows Hall. **Lauren Taylor**, our new Academic Personnel Coordinator is entrusted to cross all the "t"s and dot all the "i"s to make sure everyone gets paid on time, and we remain on the right side of compliance issues. Finally, **Keyva Kendall**, our Program Administrator is the bright and sunny face that would be greeting us every day in Barrows, and is now working hard to make sure that everyone and everything stays connected in this new remote environment.

NEW BOOKS

In the midst of all of this disaster, nurture your spirit, spark your mind, and rethink your relationship to language by making time for **Prof. Beth Piatote's** beautiful mixed-genre creative work *The Beadworkers* published by Counterpoint Press.



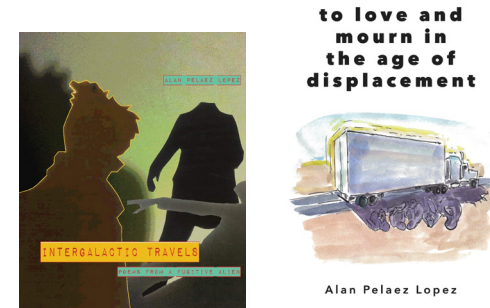
This gorgeous collection has been recognized and short-listed for a number of high-profile national prizes including the 2020 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Short Story Collection; the 2020 Aspen Words Literary Prize; and the 2019 Northern California Independent Booksellers Association Golden Poppy Award.



Check our department's events page for upcoming symposiums to celebrate the launch of an exciting and timely new volume in Asian Diaspora

Studies edited by Professor **Lok Siu** and her co-editor Khachig Tölölyan: *Chinese Diaspora: Its Developments in Global Perspective*, published by The Zoryan Institute.

Congratulations to two stellar Ethnic Studies lecturers, **Harvey Dong** and **Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani** for their monumental achievement in co-editing the anthology, *Mountain Movers: Student Activism & the Emergence of Asian American Studies* published by UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press. This important work of Asian American archival history received the Bronze Award for the category West Pacific: Best Regional Non-Fiction Book from the Independent Publishers Book Award.



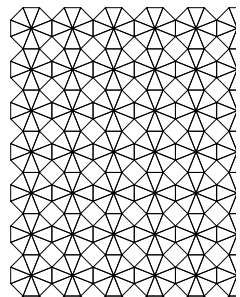
Ethnic Studies graduate student and award-winning poet **Alan Pelaez Lopez** published, not one, but two poetry collections in 2020!! These are: *Intergalactic Travels: poems from a fugitive alien* (Operating System 2020) which was a finalist for the 2020 International Latino Book Award and *to love and mourn in the age of displacement* (Nomadic Press 2020). Their poetry has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and "Best of the Net," and has been selected to appear in *Best New Poets 2019* and *Best American Experimental Writing 2020*.

AWARDS & PRIZES

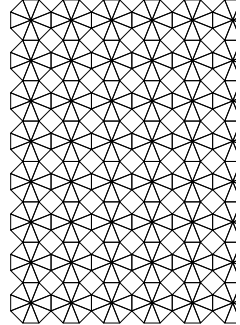
Professor **Khatharya Um** was awarded the 2020 **Chancellor's Award for Advancing Institutional Excellence and Equity**. This prestigious university-wide award is presented annually to a distinguished faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley based on outstanding contributions in advancing the

University's mission to create an inclusive environment, serving the needs of our increasingly diverse state, and addressing inequalities in society and the pathways to resolving them. Prof. Um's contributions to Southeast Asian American Studies and Critical Refugee Studies through her research, teaching, mentorship,

and service have made local, national and global impact by advancing international research into the conditions affecting refugees world-wide while simultaneously contributing to making our campus a much more welcoming space for this underserved community.



L-R top to bottom:
Althea Grannum-Cummings, Dewey St. Germaine, Jeannie Imazumi, Cindy Andallo, and Laura Jimenez-Olvera Receive UC Berkeley Service Awards



Ethnic Studies' very own founding Librarian **Lillian Castillo Speed** is deservedly featured as part of the campus' **150 Years of Outstanding Berkeley Women**. Lily's commitment, dedication, and vision is evident in the thriving community space and archival center that is the Ethnic Studies Library which today offers robust collections in Chicano/Latino Studies, Asian American Studies, Native American Studies and Comparative Ethnic Studies.

In 2020, Prof. **Catherine Ceniza Choy** and Dr. Linn Normand (University of Stavanger) received a Peder Sather Grant Program Award for their research project, "Exhuming immigrant voices from the past: a critical archival study of the Bancroft Library."

Associate Professor Raymond Adjunct Professor Telles received

the 2019 **Social Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award**. An accomplished filmmaker, Ray's recent accomplishments include a nomination of the PBS documentary he co-produced, "Dogtown Revisited," for a 2017 News and Documentary Emmy Award, and the national broadcast of "Pedro E. Guerrero: A Photographer's Journey" on the American Masters series (PBS).

Congratulations to our outstanding lecturers who make magic happen in our classrooms everyday! **Pablo Gonzalez** and **Victoria Robinson** received the **Berkeley Changemaker Technology Grants 2020**, designed to bring together diverse groups across campus to engage in technology innovation that positively impacts the Berkeley of the future. While **Gregory Choy, Harvey Dong,**

and **Pablo Gonzales** were named **Creative Discovery Fellows** which supports instructors and students to exercise their creativity in ways that challenge existing assumptions, beliefs, and power structures; that propel discovery and meaningful self-reflection; and that contribute to and strengthen Berkeley's mission as a public institution. We can't wait to see what dynamic pedagogical projects these innovative professors produce!

Longtime Ethnic Studies staff members **Jeannie Imazumi, Dewey St. Germaine,** and **Laura Jimenez-Olvera** each received **UC Berkeley Service Awards**. **Jeannie** celebrated 40 years at Cal, while new-comers **Dewey** and **Laura** each celebrated 25 years serving our students. Thank you for all you do!

GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

This year marks Prof. **Raúl Coronado's** last term as Head Graduate Advisor, and his dedication to providing our graduate students the mentorship and professional training they need is evidenced in their numerous accomplishments. The Graduate Student Achievements for 2019-2020 include:

Angela Aguilar was awarded the Complimentary and Alternative Medicine and Integrative Medicine Special Interest Group Graduate Student Paper Prize by the Society for Medical Anthropology

Claire Chun received the In Sik Moon Scholarship from the Korean Canadian Scholarship Foundation

Sierra Edd received the Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships and the 2020 UC Berkeley Outstanding GSI Award

Marcelo Garza received the Lili Fabilli and Eric Hoffer Essay Prize for his essay "Con Confianza;" Marcelo will be starting a visiting Assistant Professor position at Harvard.

Rachel Lim received the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship and the Korean Center Award

Alan Pelaez Lopez received the Ethnic Studies Teaching Fellowship

Ngoc-Mai Phan received the Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship and the 2020 UC Berkeley Outstanding GSI Award

Melanie Plasencia received the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

Sonia Suarez received the Berkeley Connect Fellowship

Sarah Ashley Whitt received the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of History at UC Riverside, and accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Global and International Studies at UC Irvine

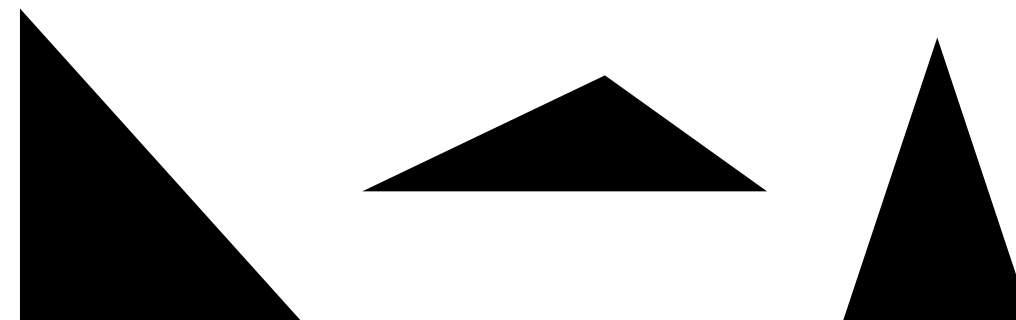
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

The Department celebrates all of our 2020 Undergraduates, their determination and spirit of perseverance in the face of so many obstacles is both humbling and inspiring. Each year, the department honors a few graduates for exceptional achievement. This year those award recipients are:

- Voulette Hattar**
2020 Departmental Citation
- Megan Xotchilt Espinoza Hernandez**
Theresa Cha Fellowship
- Chelsea Lee**
The Ling-Chi Wang "Empowering Community" Leadership Award



Class of 2020 Undergraduate student Chelsea Lee



OUR FABULOUS ETHNIC STUDIES LIBRARIANS ARE HERE TO HELP!



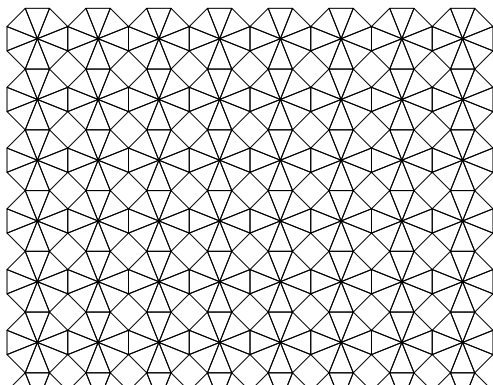
Head Librarian, Chicano Studies Librarian
Lillian Castillo-Speed
csl@library.berkeley.edu



Asian American and Comparative Ethnic Studies Librarian
Sine Hwang Jensen
shj@berkeley.edu



Despite campus-wide orders to keep buildings closed, our Ethnic Studies librarians are still here to help virtually. You can reach out to a librarian for help by e-mailing them or scheduling a Calendly appointment which can be held remotely. Please see <http://eslibrary.berkeley.edu/> for more details and announcements.



Native American Studies Librarian
Melissa Stoner
melissa.s.stoner@berkeley.edu



Ethnic Studies Liaison, Main Library
Corliss Lee
clee@library.berkeley.edu

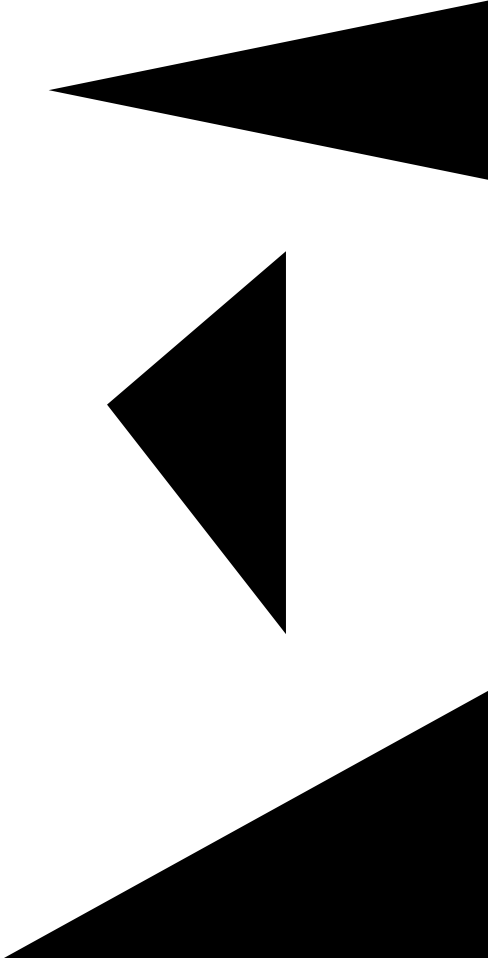


THIRD WORLD LIBERATION FRONT EXHIBITION



In 1969, one of the longest student-led strikes in UC Berkeley history gave birth to a movement that has lasted for five decades. The strike was organized by the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF), a coalition of African American, Asian American, Chicana, and Native American student organizations. Inspired by liberation movements at home and abroad and the 1968 San Francisco State College TWLF strike, Berkeley's TWLF demanded a Third World College and envisioned a radical and relevant education taught by and for people of color. The TWLF strike marked a turning point in UC Berkeley history, leading to the establishment of the Departments of Ethnic Studies and African American Studies and reverberating at universities and schools across the country. The legacy of the TWLF has inspired generations of students and fifty years later, the struggle for a liberatory education is as critical as ever. This exhibit tells this story through archives from the Ethnic Studies Library and The Bancroft Library.

The 50th Anniversary of the UC Berkeley Third World Liberation Front Strike. The exhibit was curated by librarians and archivists Sine Hwang Jensen, Nathaniel Moore, Lillian Castillo-Speed, Melissa Stoner, Corliss Lee, and Marjorie Bryer with special assistance from Aisha Hamilton and Gisele Tanasse. For more information on viewing archives and resources related to the Third World Liberation Front, visit guides.lib.berkeley.edu/twlf.



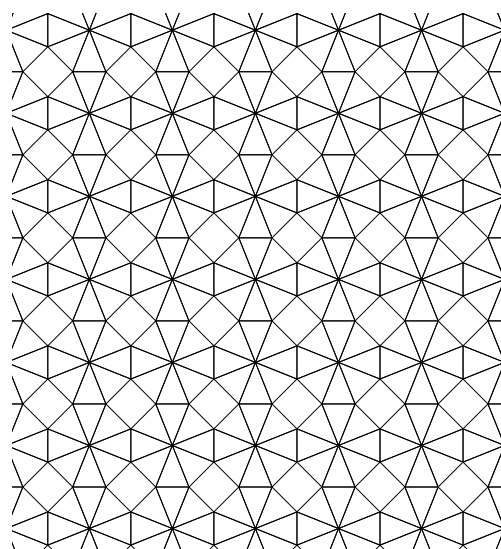
UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI ▲ ▲ ▲ UPDATES



Mari Bandoma Callado, Class of 2006, Ethnic Studies Major and Education Minor

I am a Senior Associate Attorney at Dolan Law Firm, PC. I represent workers in wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, whistle-blower and human trafficking cases. I also represent individuals injured and families of loved ones who have died due to the fault of others, including elder abuse and neglect lawsuits. Since 2017, I have been selected as a "Rising Star" in the Northern California edition of SuperLawyers magazine, a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. I have served on the board of the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California since 2013 and am currently its President-Elect. I will become FBANC's President in June 2020. I also serve on the Consumer Attorneys of California's Diversity Committee and the California Employment Lawyers Association's Education and Women's Committees. I am the chair of the National Filipino

American Lawyers Association's Plaintiff's Bar Affinity Network and a co-founder of the Pinay Powerhouse Collective. I regularly volunteer at the Legal Aid at Work's Workers' Rights Clinic and at the Alameda County Bar Association and the Oakland Public Library's Lawyers in the Library Legal Clinic. Examining history from people of color's point of view, learning about my fellow Ethnic Studies majors' experiences and aspirations, and obtaining an internship with the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach for my upper-division requirement reaffirmed my interest in becoming a trial attorney who represents marginalized members of my community. The specialized knowledge of the history and experiences of underrepresented minorities is extremely beneficial as a plaintiff-side attorney as diverse groups based on race and ethnicity have historically been under-represented in the plaintiffs' bar and the state bar in general.



Ruben E. Canedo, Class of 2011, Ethnic Studies and Social Welfare Double Major and Education Minor

I am the Director of Strategic Equity Initiatives at UC Berkeley and Co-Chair of the Basic Needs Committee at the UC Office of the President. My major achievements include co-founding the Undocumented Student Program at UC Berkeley and across the UC system; the UC Berkeley Basic Needs Committee, Food Pantry, and Basic Needs Center; the UC System Basic Needs Committee; and UC Basic Needs Model. I also co-founded the California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance and National #RealCollege Community. Being an Ethnic Studies major during the recession generation that experienced the 82% fee hike, steep departmental cuts, and statewide student mobilizations changed my academic and post-grad life. We had to learn how to navigate day-to-day life challenges, institutional attacks to our department and internal ethnic studies department challenges,

and organizing with campus and statewide coalitions in defense of both public higher education+the people and departments disproportionately affected. I was exhausted. I was heartbroken. I was trained. I was fem/mentored. I was loved. I was prepared to contribute in meaningful ways to institutional and systems change efforts for the rest of my post-grad life. Ethnic Studies introduced me to decoloniality, third world feminist theory, and world-systems theory. Ethnic Studies taught me that theory isn't enough. Ethnic Studies shaped my commitment to learning and applying both healing and transformative justice frameworks, pedagogies, and ways of being. These are essential to, embody and sustain in generative ways, the theories it taught me. I am very clear that I am able to be where I am, contribute how I do, and move with the values that I do today -because of the experiences and lessons that being an ethnic studies major provided. I look forward to our continued questioning and directional guidance: how are we contributing to the healing and transformations needed to move with and towards justice and liberation?



Alexis Darrell Castro, Class of 2014, Ethnic Studies and Sociology Double Major

I am a consultant in the California

State Senate for the Select Committee on California-Mexico Cooperation, chaired by Senator Ben Hueso, who represents all of California's border with Mexico. I work on analyzing and drafting legislation related to agriculture, appropriations, bi-national and federal affairs, border-related matters, climate change, the environment and environmental quality, energy, government and finance, parks, and ports. I also staff the Select Committee on California-Mexico Cooperation, Joint Committee on Climate Change Policies, and Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water while managing the Senator's budget priorities. Recent accomplishments include working to secure \$15 million dollars to address cross-border pollution in the Tijuana River Valley, as well as organizing multiple committee hearings to convene stakeholders, policymakers, and subject matter experts to highlight issues of particular concern between California and Mexico. These topics include ways to address barriers to improving public health in the border region, increasing bi-national cooperation to support cross-border students, growing a bi-national economy, and supporting cross-border tourism. Ethnic Studies radically shaped my understanding of how to navigate institutions that were not created with individuals like me in mind. It is because of Ethnic Studies that I have the tools, knowledge, and confidence to know that my lived experience is just as important, if not more so, to other types of experience when it comes to drafting and negotiating policy to get at the root cause of issues faced by marginalized communities. I know all too well

the human cost of some of our most dire public problems and Ethnic Studies taught me how to contextualize the need for public policy solutions that center the most marginalized communities.



Son T. Chau, Class of 2011, Ethnic Studies and American Studies Double Major

I am a Philanthropy Advisor at Silicon Valley Community Foundation. I received the inaugural Pacesetter Award from the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute in recognition of outstanding public service leadership in Silicon Valley in 2015. In 2017, I earned a Master's of Public Administration at New York University, and a Certificate in Project Leadership at Cornell University. I served as a Relationship Manager at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and received the 2018 Young Leader Fellowship at Philanthropy. Ethnic Studies helped me to understand the importance of not only critical analysis but also organizational leadership to effect social change. As a student, I instilled the values of justice and equity and continue to practice them in my work in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. It equipped me with the frameworks



SFMOMA, L-R ES Grad Students Fernanda Cunha Rivera, David Pham, Gregoria Grigsby-Olson, Juana María Rodríguez, Sierra Edd

to work with diverse people, personalities, and processes. As a result, I have had the opportunity to develop my career focused on improving organizations that serve society. Today, I am committed to bridging the divide that exists between donors and nonprofits and influencing the ways in which charitable resources are distributed in Silicon Valley. Ethnic Studies allowed me to bring my full self -my family, history, identity, and culture -into the classroom. Likewise, I continue to bring my full self to the workplace. I learned the power of narrative, in addition to hard data and facts, to compel others to do the right thing. And I have since not only used my mind but also my heart in the projects and programs I manage. I am grateful to have been a student in Ethnic Studies where I realized my own capacity to be and do the best I can for a better world.



Mary June G. Diaz, Class of 2010, Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies Double Major

I am a Health Care Lobbyist for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) California. I am proud to work for a union that represent 700,000 nurses, healthcare workers, janitors, social workers, security officers, in-home caregivers, school and university employees, court workers, and city, county and state employees. Our mission is to set statewide priorities and exercise power to

increase economic fairness for working people, ensure high quality services and create a well-funded, equitable, just and prosperous California.

My education in combination with my diverse experiences as a student scholar and community organizer across various settings have made me aware of social inequities and economic inequalities affect all communities. All of these have prepared me to develop policy solutions that benefit the communities that had supported and provided me with opportunities and resources to excel.

My Ethnic Studies education provided me the lens in which I view the world everyday. Through Ethnic Studies, I learned about the root causes and the potential policy solutions to the larger social justice issues I encountered. My experiences organizing with underprivileged and underrepresented students



of color to ensure access and diversity in college admissions, as well as organizing domestic immigrant homecare workers for basic rights and labor protections have undoubtedly shaped my life.



Jesse Dutton-Kenny, Class of 2013, Ethnic Studies Major and Native American Studies Minor

After my time at Cal I went on to get a Master's degree in Museum Studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder where I specialized in collections care and indigenous art histories. In graduate school I curated my first exhibit of basketry from indigenous communities all over North America called *Weaving the World Into a Basket*. I currently work as a Museum Preparator, which means I fabricate and install exhibitions, at the San Francisco International Airport Museum. I've worked on nearly 40 exhibitions at SFO over the years including works by major artists like Ruth Asawa and Isamu

Noguchi. Working in the museum world is truly a thrilling career and every day incompletely different. Ethnic Studies helped prepare me for my life and career after Berkeley by giving me the critical thinking skills and theoretical background to tackle graduate school and approach museum work from a decolonial perspective, as museums are inherently colonial spaces. Knowing that I wanted to specifically work with contemporary indigenous arts, my background in Ethnic Studies and Native American Studies helped to shape my perspective on how best to work with artworks in museum collections as well as living Native artists. I'm thankful for the education I received and know that it continues to shape the museum professional I am today.

Cynthia Eagleton, Class 1988, Ethnic Studies Major

I am teacher at San Mateo Adult School. I currently teach ESL and do website and social media for the school. I've also done a lot of advocacy for Adult Education with students, other advocates around the state, the union, and various organizations and alliances committed to Adult Ed. I run the Adult Education Matters blog (<http://adulthoodeducationmatters.blogspot.com/>).

My time in the Ethnic Studies department was a chance to immerse myself in learning real truth about our world. I'm so glad that the ES Department existed—nothing to take for granted!—and that I could study in that department and learn not just facts and figures but a way to think about our world, questions to ask, perspectives to take, attitudes of attention that I carry to this day.



Jacklin Thảo My Hà, Class of 2019, Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies and Integrative Biology Double Major

I am a Youth Consultant at Banteay Srei where I support the young women and girls who come to The Spot as well as our various programs and Teen Clinic. I am also a youth counselor at Asian Health Services' Specialty Mental Health division where I support and provide psycho-education to middle and high school youth through the Improving Wellness of Asian Youth (IWAY) program. Through Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR), I am a certified Sexual Assault Advocate where I help staff the 24/7 hotline and accompany victims and survivors to hospitals for sexual assault exams and police stations for interviews. After graduating, I presented at conferences such as Stanford's Listen to the Silence and the Asian Pacific Islander Issues Conference on the impact that rape culture has on the disproportionate number of black and brown youth being bought and sold. Through Banteay Srei, I have held a series of workshops that address the cycles of family violence and how our Asian American cultures have perpetuated this abuse and

toxicity. Now, I am working on developing a variety of resources addressing abusive adolescent relationships and how to be an ally to young women. I continue to volunteer with the Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Research Group (AAPIHRG) at UC Berkeley as a Coordinating Council & Alumni Advisor. I have had the honor of being able to co-coordinate our Certificate in Asian American Community Health (CAACH) program, the nation's first undergraduate certificate focused on Asian American community health. When I was applying to college, I had no idea that Ethnic Studies existed nor did I ever imagine that I would one day major in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies. After taking Professor Harvey Dong's Introduction to the History of Asians in the US course and being a part of the Asian Pacific American Theme House (APATH), I quickly found myself drawn to the rich history, activism, and continuing advocacy work of Asian Americans then and now which had been largely invisible in my education previously. Taking this knowledge out of the Ivory Tower and into the community, I have been able to hold spaces to engage the community in conversations around how our history, stories, and experiences intersect with health. Health is holistic; being able to understand the intersections of identities, oppressions, privileges, assimilation, marginalization, and current diverse, complex, and challenging issues that our communities face has made me a better advocate and provider for our community.



**Molly Higgins, Class of 2009,
Asian American Studies Major**

I'm currently a Digital Services Librarian at the Congressional Research Service, which is a part of the Library of Congress where we do research for Congress members, their committees, and staff. I'm proud of my day job, but I'm equally proud of the work I do to make my profession more diverse and equitable outside of my job. I'm an active member of the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, and serve as co-chair for their Media and Publicity Committee. This means that I coordinate a team of a dozen librarians who review books by APA authors, interview APA authors, and support the web and social media efforts of our organization. I'm also a professional trainer on microaggressions and implicit bias in libraries. Ethnic Studies helped me develop a critical lens for looking at the world that I still value deeply. It taught me to think deeply and use intersectionality, allyship, and justice as the foundations for how I act in the

world. Ethnic Studies has been a huge part of my professional journey. Straight out of undergrad, I spent two years teaching Asian American Studies and digital storytelling to high school students. Since then, I've worked with Asian American Studies departments as a librarian and my research as a librarian often centers around issues of representation and equity. Ethnic Studies has opened opportunities for me, and I incorporate it into my work.



**Abraham Ignacio, Jr., Class of 1994,
Ethnic Studies Major**

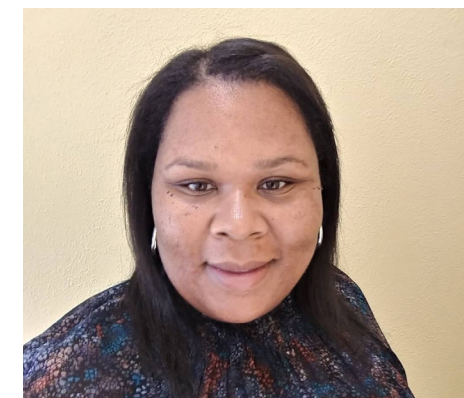
I am currently the Librarian for the Filipino American Center (FAC) at the San Francisco Public Library. I am responsible for collection development and programming for the center. One of the major initiatives of the FAC is the biennial Filipino American International Book Festival held here at the Main Library. "The only gathering of its kind and with this level of continuity in the Filipino diaspora, the book festival enables Filipino writers from diverse 'homes,' genres, and generations to come together and share their works in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, as well as their unique writing experiences." The next festival will be happening on October 16-17, 2021. I cannot say enough about my academic years at Cal and the Ethnic Studies program. The intellectual



Prof. Khatharya Um, Annie Fukushima, Juan Herrera, Vernadette Gonzalez, Fufui Niumeitolu, and 50th Anniversary Co-Chair Prof. Lok Siu

training I received through Ethnic Studies has prepared me to be an effective librarian for the San Francisco Public Library in general and the Filipino American Center in particular. "All are Welcome" is our library system's credo. It is a perspective that I bring to work everyday. Another project that I was part of was the publication of *The Forbidden Book: The Philippine-American War in Political Cartoons* in 2004, which was co-authored by myself, Enrique de la Cruz, Jorge Emmanuel, and Helen Toribio. The late Professor Howard Zinn commented that "the brutal war waged by the United States against the Filipino people at the turn of the century has been shrouded in darkness for along time, the truth concealed from generations of Americans. *The Forbidden Book* brings that shameful episode in our history out in the open, with a wonderful combination of crystal-clear text

and extraordinary cartoons. The book deserves wide circulation." My coursework in Ethnic Studies laid the groundwork to create this contribution to the historiography of the US-Philippine War, Philippine History, Filipino American History, and United States History.



**Chandalyn Cheree Jones,
Class of 2004, Ethnic Studies Major**

I am an Assistant Principal at Miramonte Elementary School. I was promoted to Assistant Principal in November 2019. Ethnic Studies has helped me understand how to relate to all

different kinds of people. Ethnic Studies has helped me to be more understanding and how to show respect for different cultures. I learned how to not judge people because I know I don't know their whole history, but I do know that we all have powerful histories that will impact many futures.



**Wayne Silao Jopanda,
Class of 2014, Ethnic Studies and Political
Science Double Major**

I am currently a Cultural Studies

PhD Student at UC Davis and the Associate Director for the Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies at UC Davis. Since graduating from UC Berkeley's Ethnic Studies department, I spent four years in the Washington D.C. area working in education advocacy and advising. During this time, I also organized around Filipinx migrant labor rights and labor trafficking, learning directly from the Washington, D.C. chapter of GABRIELA D.C. a Filipina women's rights and migrant rights organization. After this time in the east coast, I started my PhD program at UC Davis' Cultural Studies program studying the history of U.S. imperialist education in the Philippines and its connection to the current experiences of Filipinx students and educators in higher education. In 2018 I helped found the Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies at UC Davis, one of the first grassroots organized Filipinx Studies research centers in the U.S. I currently serve as the center's Associate Director and I established the Bulosan Internship program that now serves over 45 students from a variety of academic disciplines. Last year I served as conference chair for our first annual Bulosan Filipinx Studies Research Conference, bringing together Filipinx scholars, activists, performers, and community organizations to share their research, narratives, and work with the greater community. Recently I co-authored the chapter "Transpacific Freedom Dreams: The Radical Legacy of Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes" in *Filipino American Transnational Activism: Diasporic Politics Among the Second Generation*, edited by Dr. Robyn M. Rodriguez, the inaugural book for Brill Publishers'

Southeast Asian Diasporas Series. EthnicStudiesprovidedanessential space for me to learn and unlearn my previous understanding of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and other related intersectional identities. My Ethnic Studies courses centered the narratives of the historically marginalized through a decolonial education, helping me feel more comfortable when engaging topics on race, sexuality, gender, and class. Ethnic Studies and Asian American Studies were the first academic spaces that taught about my community's history and collective struggles. Dr. Catherine Ceniza Choy's Filipino American History course served as the first space in which I even discussed my Filipino identity within the context of U.S. imperialism, migrant labor, and how these connect to my family's migration narrative. Through my time in these courses I developed a political consciousness that has helped me better serve my community and further challenge my own personal growth as a scholar, activist, and community member. I continue to sharpen this consciousness to this day, owing a lot of my own political awakening to the Ethnic Studies field. Ethnic Studies became my home away from home during my undergraduate career. As a first-generation college student and child of working-class immigrants, Ethnic Studies provided me with the history, language, and theory to better understand and analyze my family's lived experiences. Ethnic Studies taught me that research can be grounded and centered within the community, focused on improving conditions for historically marginalized communities, while ensuring that those same communities hold

power and ownership of the process. My time as a UC Berkeley ethnic studies student allowed me to reflect on what scholar activism looks like and how some of the most pivotal lessons live outside of the classroom, outside of academia.



**Kristine Kwok, Class of 2001,
Asian American Studies Major and
Spanish Minor**

I am a Behavioral Health Provider (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) at Marin Community Clinics in San Rafael, CA. I received my Masters in Social Welfare with a specialization in Community Mental Health at UC Berkeley in 2005. I was hired as a temporary Field Consultant for UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare for the Spring 2018 semester, and it was a proud and nostalgic moment to return to the campus after so many years away. In 2018, I was elected to the Board of Directors, serving as Vice President for Finance, for the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and I am serving a 3-year term until 2021. My undergraduate degree in Ethnic Studies created the foundation of social justice for my social work career. My undergraduate studies

taught me the power of organizing for social justice through studying the Civil Rights Movement and the 1969 Third World Liberation Front. I was able to experience being part of a social justice movement when I participated in the 1999 Third World Liberation protests in response to budget cuts and the loss of faculty members in the Ethnic Studies department. When I graduated with my BA in 2001, I wanted to continue the fight for social justice for immigrant communities and I got a job as a Spanish-speaking case manager at Asian American Recovery Services in San Jose, California. After getting my MSW from UC Berkeley, I continued the social justice value of advocacy for vulnerable immigrant communities in various social service settings throughout the Bay Area, settling down in San Rafael in 2014. My Ethnic Studies education has helped me focus my career on advocating for the needs of the primarily Latino & Vietnamese Canal District in which I work. When I was a supervisor at a county mental health clinic in the Canal District, I participated in the Cultural Competency Advisory Board, Vietnamese Providers Group, and Latino Providers Group; and supported the latter two in providing free annual community events such as Lunar New Year and Day of the Dead. For all of the staff and MSW interns I supervised at this clinic, I emphasized cultural competency and linguistic capacity to best meet the needs of the clients. I am now a Spanish-speaking Behavioral Health Provider. I provide trauma-focused short-term psychotherapy. And I find my foundation in Ethnic Studies to be a solid one for my daily work.



**Jennie Hang Lu, Class of 2012,
Comparative Ethnic Studies Major**

I am a Lead Organizer with National Nurses United, the largest and fastest-growing union of registered nurses in the country, where I have organized across the US for the past seven years. I am currently leading the team of organizers at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where NNU is supporting nurses' efforts to organize for improved patient care and socioeconomic justice in the Baltimore community. I have led and directly supported thousands of nurses from diverse backgrounds and political ideologies in their struggle to win collective bargaining rights and build power against an increasingly hostile and corporatized healthcare industry. I owe much of my career to the Ethnic Studies department, where I majored in Comparative Ethnic Studies. I studied sociopolitical systems, social movements, revolutions, and their respective challenges—all of which are exemplified within a union organizing campaign. Through my education, I was finally able to articulate my anger towards injustice and integrate the concepts of how rage has historically been channeled into

organizing for justice. I was also able to cut my teeth as a student organizer against austerity measures at UC Berkeley. This "field work" taught me what can't be easily transferred through texts: the value of connecting with people; the creativity needed to develop tactics, strategies, and direct actions; the grit in struggle necessary to win; and the joy of solidarity.



**Thomas Meagher, Class of 2006,
Comparative Ethnic Studies Major**

I'm currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Memphis. I serve as a secretary for the Caribbean Philosophical Association. Ethnic Studies was an ideal preparation for my professional and academic future. It gave me a life-long commitment to interrogating human reality in light of problems evident once one takes seriously the multifaceted elements of phenomena of racialization and colonization. It taught me the meaning of rigor outside of narrow Euro-centric conceptions thereof and beyond the limitations of disciplinary chauvinism. I simply would not be the philosopher, scholar, and teacher that I am today if not for my groundings in Ethnic Studies.



Gabriela Monico, Class of 2013, Ethnic Studies Major and Education Minor

I am a former undocumented student. I currently work as a paralegal at the Law Office of Helen Lawrence, which provides legal representation for detained and non-detained individuals in removal proceedings. I recently applied to law school and have been accepted to many of my top choices, including Yale, Harvard and Berkeley. In July 2020, I will be publishing a book chapter through Duke University Press. The book is titled "We Are Not Dreamers: Undocumented Scholars Theorize Undocumented Life in the United States". Studying Ethnic Studies as an undergraduate student at Berkeley was a formative experience; it helped define my identity and commitment to working with underserved communities. Ethnic Studies also exposed me to high-quality scholarly work and opportunities that sparked my interest in academic research, which I hope to continue pursuing.



Daniel Mora, Class of 2009, Ethnic Studies Major

I am a Juvenile Probation Officer by day and an artist by night. I am currently writing a film. My YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiQeDHRZ3o> will feature most of my work, include a snippet of my one man play. My film will be featured here when it is completed early next year. In high school, I had several community mentors who all graduated as Ethnic Studies majors. For me, that was my dream to also obtain an Ethnic Studies degree, which I did. Ethnic Studies continues to be the foundation of my career and personal being. It provided me with an abundance of views about how we are all interconnected and nothing stands alone.



Julissa O. Muñoz, Class of 2014, Ethnic Studies Major

Shortly after graduating from

Berkeley, I attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education where I earned an Ed.M. in Prevention Science and Practice. While at HGSE, I was nominated and selected as the 2016 Intellectual Contribution Award Recipient. Upon completing my master's degree, I moved to Chicago where I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. in Human Development and Social Policy at Northwestern University. I am now a doctoral candidate studying learning and education within carceral settings, specifically at a Midwest juvenile detention center, where I spend time learning with and from incarcerated youth. My work is greatly informed by my undergraduate experiences including the time I spent tutoring and co-teaching in San Quentin through the Teach in Prison program and the Prison University Project, as well as organizing alongside Bay Area justice warriors at Legal Services for Prisoners' with Children. As an education researcher, I aim to understand how learning environments are designed and implemented, but more importantly how young people experience learning and education while in confinement. I recently taught my first college course—a social science methodology course where women conducted their own research within the prison—through the Texas Prison Education Initiative at the University of Texas, Austin at Lockhart Correctional Facility for Women. When I think about the person I am today and everything that I have done in the last ten years, I have Ethnic Studies and its faculty and staff to thank. I came to Ethnic Studies my junior year in college, after two years of pre-med and public

health course work. Although I was doing fine academically, I was unhappy and unsatisfied with what I was learning. That's when I signed up for my first Ethnic Studies course and my worldview changed forever. Thereafter I made the switch to ES and there I rediscovered my love for learning. That summer I studied abroad with Profe Muñoz who exposed me to Afro-Latinidad and for the first time I saw myself in history. My 4th year I met Professor Feldman who was the first professor to encourage me to do research which I later did under his guidance and mentorship. With his help and that of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, I conducted an interview study with formerly incarcerated women which undoubtedly put me on the path I'm on now. My desire to one day be a professor is almost partially informed by the amazing professors that have inspired and mentored me along the way. While my Ph.D. is in a different field, Ethnic Studies continues to inform my work. My pursuit for justice and people's liberation is grounded in the things I learned in Barrows Hall alongside brilliant classmates, faculty, and staff (shout out to Dewey). I hope to one day honor the teachings of those who came before me.



Suzanne Renee Nunn, Class of 2004, Native American Studies Major

Since graduating from Cal, I have worked in tribal governments in a variety of positions including Legal Aid assisting community members with housing and custody issues, Economic Development handling business and agriculture leases, General Counsel's Office handling tribal probate and land issues, and Tribal Deputy Prosecutor handling domestic violence cases. After my tenure in tribal communities, I had the opportunity to work as an attorney at the National Indian Gaming Commission assisting tribal communities with regulating their gaming operations. Currently, I work in Washington DC for the Department of the Interior. I am an Attorney-Adviser with the Office of the Solicitor, Division of Indian Affairs. In my role as legal adviser, I provide legal advice to various federal agencies on relevant statutes and legislation, policy papers and regulations. I function as liaison between the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of the Special Trustee, the Office of Hearings and Appeals and other Interior agencies to assist in the implementation and interpretation of tribal probate issues. In addition, I work with the Assistant Secretary-

Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal communities to draft and implement tribal regulations that enable tribes to lease trust land for business, residential, agriculture and wind & solar energy leases.

My career trajectory is a direct result of my education and experience in Cal's Ethnic Studies/ Native American Studies program. I chose law school and earned my Federal Indian Law specialization because of the program; my first opportunity to work in tribal governments was the result of networking through one of my Native American Studies instructors; my passion and desire for working in Indian Country is rooted in my exposure to the Ethnic Studies/ Native American Studies program at Cal. My experience at Cal's Ethnic Studies program provided me with a unique perspective that allows me to contribute invaluable assistance to empower tribal community members and tribal leadership through economic development in the ultimate goal of tribal sovereignty and self-sufficiency.



Marisa Villegas-Ramirez, Class of 1997, Chicano Studies Major & Education Minor

I teach comparative Ethnic Studies at Madison Park Academy in East Oakland, an Oakland Public

School. I am also designing the school's first Chicana/o Studies course to be taught next year as a dual-enrollment college course. I am one of the founding co-facilitators for the Oakland Unified School District Ethnic Studies Design Team and a current member, and a member of the #SaveCAEthnicStudies committee. I have served as a teacher representative to the Oakland Education Association teacher's union for the past 20 years. I also participated in last year's strike as a strike captain and publicity spokesperson for OEA and CTA. In 2017, I was one of the OUSD Teacher of the Year Finalists. I have presented on my experiences as an Ethnic Studies educator at conferences and workshops including Ethnic Studies: Essential for Democracy (National Council for the Social Studies) and Ethnic Studies in the Bay: Ethnic Studies and the History-Social Sciences Classroom (UC Berkeley History-Social Science Project). I will be completing my second Masters in Chicana Chicano Studies at San Jose State University in May 2020 (the first was in Education with a Focus on Equity and Social Justice from SF State in 2015). And I will be joining the Peralta dual-enrollment program to teach college courses at Oakland high schools. The ever-changing discipline of Ethnic Studies has pushed me to grow in my praxis as an educator. These connections have helped me to define my trajectory and have had a lasting impact in shaping me into the educator that I am today. The knowledge that I gained while in the program formed the foundation of my curriculum when I began as a new teacher

for the Oakland Unified School District. I took what I had learned at CAL and adapted it to meet the needs of the 20 Chicanita/os in my classroom, and my passion for designing Ethnic Studies-based learning experiences and curricula grew from there. My years in the Chicano Studies program allowed me to bring pride and dignity into a school and district that served 100% brown and black students in deep East Oakland who were previously receiving Eurocentric curricula and rarely saw teachers that looked like them or grew up in communities similar to their own. As a life-long learner, I have come to realize that Ethnic Studies is ingrained in everything I am and do. Through this constant interaction with Ethnic Studies, and in living life through an Ethnic Studies lens, I have been able to connect more deeply with my students and work to develop a passion within them to connect with their own identities and purpose in life. Chicanismo has guided me in my decision-making process and has led me to this juncture in my life and career. As I continue to become who and what I am meant to be, I hold on to all that I learned in the years I attended CAL and formed my personal philosophies of education and community action. Without my experience as a community college transfer student and one of only a few Chicana single parents attending this incredible institution of learning in the 90s, I don't think I would feel as human as I now do when connecting to my students and parents. My own story reminds me that each and every one of my students also has a story, and that their stories can also lead them on a path of their choosing, similar to and just as

blessed as my own. I am proud to know that this journey began with my decision to attend UC Berkeley.



**Barbara Jane Reyes, Class of 1999,
Ethnic Studies Major**

I am the author of *Gravities of Center* (Arkipelago Books, 2003); *Poeta en San Francisco* (TinFish Press, 2005), which received the James Laughlin Award of the Academy of American Poets; *Diwata* (BOA Editions, Ltd., 2010), which received the Global Filipino Literary Award in Poetry; *To Love as Aswang* (Philippine American Writers and Artists, 2015); and *Invocation to Daughters* (City Lights Books, 2017); and *Letters to a Young Brown Girl* (BOA Editions, Ltd., 2020). I am an Adjunct Professor in Philippine Studies at the University of San Francisco. I received my MFA in Creative Writing from SFSU in 2004. As an author and educator, I am interested in discussing power with a critical eye to form and language —patriarchy, post-colonialism, decolonization, and institutional racism are very much at the core of my writing and teaching. These are concepts I would not have learned about critically, if not for Ethnic Studies. In 2011, I created the Filipina/Pinay

Literature course in the Yuchengco Philippine Studies Program at the University of San Francisco; it is the only course of its kind in this country, continuously offered since 2012, and fulfilling university core/breadth requirements. I am currently developing a Filipinx Latinx Literatures course.



**Debra Schwartz, Class of 2012;
Native American Studies Major**

I resumed my undergraduate studies as an adult after my son Zach graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Geography. The initial excitement I felt with my son's acceptance to UC Berkeley was somewhat offset by my regret at not fulfilling my own scholastic interests as a young adult. I registered at my local community college and my eventual acceptance to UC Berkeley was simply unbelievable. I chose Native American Studies as my major. In 2012, I graduated with high distinction with membership in Phi Beta Kappa Society. By 2012 I'd spent over thirty years daily hiking Mt. Tamalpais and surrounding open spaces, and eight intense years learning about the natural and cultural history of the Earth, the United States and California. To continue my happy existence as a peripatetic scholar I founded my own guided hiking service, Tam Hiking Tours (<https://tamhikingtours.com/>), to provide beautiful guided hikes

that included historical, natural and cultural information. I also joined the board of the Mill Valley Historical Society. I'd learned quite well the power of the oral tradition through Native American Studies. And personal accounts of historical events had been pivotal to my understanding the "truth" behind our countries' history. I relished the opportunity to take charge of the MVHS oral history program. I am proud to say our oral history program is presently flourishing and my interviews are available online through the Mill Valley Public Library. I am also in charge of the MVHS First Wednesday Speaker series at the Mill Valley Library. It is gratifying to offer our community (at no charge) the opportunity to hear from and meet with luminaries, authors, artists, environmentalists, and, on occasion, UC Berkeley professors. UC Berkeley gave me the tools to do so professionally and in ways I never could have imagined. I feel I have lived two lives... the one before UC Berkeley and the one after UC Berkeley. I am eternally grateful I was given the chance to finally realize my abilities and am living proof that it's never too late to begin again. Go Bears!



**Lakshmi Sridaran, Class of 2005,
Ethnic Studies Major**

I am the Executive Director of South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national non-profit based in Washington, D.C. that fights for racial justice and advocates for the civil rights

of all South Asians in the United States. I just started as ED this month after serving as the Policy Director for the organization for the last five years. Last semester I had the great honor of teaching a course on "South Asian American intersectionalities and solidarities" at the University of Maryland, Department of Asian American Studies. I modeled the entire course on readings and lectures from UC Berkeley ethnic studies classes taught by my mentors—Professors Victoria Robinson, Robert Allen, Ron Takaki, and Ramon Grosfoguel. And, the very first thing I did on the very first day of the class was show the video of the UC Berkeley TWLF strike in 1999. Upon graduation, I moved to New Orleans, LA following Hurricane Katrina to be part of local and Black-led organizations and movements fighting against displacement after the storm. This led me to pursue graduate school in urban planning, especially after those seeds were initially planted by Professor Ananya Roy, who was in the UC Berkeley Department of City and Regional and Planning during my time as an undergraduate. The lessons of organizing with Bridges, serving as a CalSERVE senator, majoring in Ethnic Studies, and working in New Orleans shaped my desire and ability to help lead racial justice work in my own South Asian community through SAALT. Ethnic Studies provided me the political touchstone I needed to come back to the South and now the East Coast where movement work looks and feels very different than California. It also enabled me to learn the powerful histories of other communities of color to find inspiration, and eventually a pathway for racial justice in my own

community, which I had previously found to be lacking. What I learned during my time as an Ethnic Studies major at Cal guides me in every meeting, every conversation, and every action I take. It gave me the powerful lens through which I evaluate everything.



Maura Sullivan, Class of 2012, Native American Studies and Art History Double Major

Haku Haku! I am a member of the tribal nation Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation in what is now Southern California. I am currently a PhD student in linguistics at Tulane university in Bulbancha, unceded Chittimacha territory in what is now called New Orleans, LA. I am the director of the Just Transitions program and Ocean Protectors campaign director for Sacred Places Institute, a Native led organization based in California that uplifts Native nations and indigenous peoples' lands, cultures and waters. We have a series of projects and I am currently raising awareness regarding the destructive effects of oil and gas extraction from Native Communities. My graduate work in linguistics is addressing our heritage language of Šmuwič and our revitalization efforts. My pursuit of a PhD in linguistics is

centered on decolonial praxis that is anchored in my community and my heritage as a Chumash person. I am currently part of the planning committee for the third annual Indigenous Symposium at Tulane which features the tribes and communities of the Gulf South. I was also able to assist my advisor in creating the first ever introduction to Native American studies class at Tulane which is part of a new Native American studies minor. In 2018 I became a fellow with the Mellon Fellowship for Community Engaged Scholarship where I am developing a project with my community language program. My time at Berkeley in courses as well as the connections I made with other students continue to inform my work in a social justice framework. It helps me understand the trauma we deal with as people of color living in colonization. I stay connected to students I met while in the Native American Recruitment and Retention Center. I am currently trying to create a similar space at Tulane where there is no Native student union presence. I think often of my time at Berkeley and my formative years in the Ethnic Studies department. Being able to take African-American research methodology as well as classes centered on Native American studies and feminism were all so important for me as a young native woman.



Caro Vera, Class of 2014, Ethnic Studies and Chicano Studies Double Major
I am a Transportation Planner and

an Advisory Board Member of Investing in Place, a community-based organization committed to advancing transportation equity in the Los Angeles area. I received my master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning at UCLA in 2017. Ethnic Studies provided the critical lens for how I approach my career in transportation planning. Systems of power fundamentally affect and have affected the ways in which cities are planned. The critical lens I learned in Ethnic Studies at Cal helps me ensure that I take an equity-based approach to urban planning. As a graduate student at UCLA in Urban Planning, my Ethnic Studies background helped me create important and critical dialogues around race, equity, and access for Los Angeles communities. Ethnic Studies, combined with my lived experience of growing up in South Central Los Angeles, has been integral to my career as a Transportation Planner. It's important that urban planners in Los Angeles and major cities understand the way that historic negligence by city government, like disinvestment in low-income communities, and purposeful negligence, like redlining, impact the way our cities are shaped today. Without a deep understanding of how historic inequitable and racist policies have impacted city and planning policies, we will continue to author policies and city plans that create inequitable cities. My Ethnic Studies education has been just as important, if not more important, than my graduate education in Urban and Regional Planning for my career.

GRADUATE ALUMNI UPDATES



Graduate student Marcelo Garza posing a question to a full house at the 50th Anniversary Celebration



Arturo Aldama, Graduation Year: 1996
I chair the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and I am an affiliate faculty member of the Department of Women and Gender Studies. My recent achievements include co-editing *Performing the US Latina and Latino Borderlands*

(Indiana University Press, 2012) with Chela Sandoval and Peter J. Garcia. I am also the editor with my brother Frederick Aldama of *Decolonizing Latinx Masculinities* to be released in September 2020 in the University of Arizona Press Latinx Pop Culture series. It includes a chapter by former classmate Alberto Ledesma. My ethnic studies training has given me the epistemic frames to read the world and its visual, music and filmic texts. My dissertation committee was an amazing collective embodiment of mentoring and cutting-edge brilliance. The ethnic studies experience provided a deep and profound space to decolonize and think about decolonial spaces of culture, creativity and resistance.



Jason Oliver Chang, Graduation Year: 2010
I am an Associate Professor of History and Asian American Studies and the Director, Asian and Asian American Studies Institute at the University of Connecticut. I am the author of *Chino: Anti-Chinese Racism in Mexico, 1880-1940* (University of Illinois Press, 2017), and the recipient of the 2018 Koontz Prize for Article of the Year from the *Pacific Historical*

Review. My preparation in Ethnic Studies at Cal connected me to an intellectual and political tradition that has guided me through my research and profession. I would not be where I am today without my education in Ethnic Studies. As an interdisciplinary field organized by decolonization, anti-racism, inclusion, feminism, and liberation, Ethnic Studies at Cal gave me the tools to critically evaluate the condition of my own scholarship and pushed me to continually improve the work by asking better questions. These same tools inform my work as a professional within institutions of higher education to address transparency, human rights, mental health, and equity. Ethnic Studies has also shown me that my interest in the arts is a key platform to mix methodologies, build programs, and communicate to broader audiences. Ethnic Studies at Cal showed me the personal value and reward of pursuing strong scholarship, creative expression, and committed action.



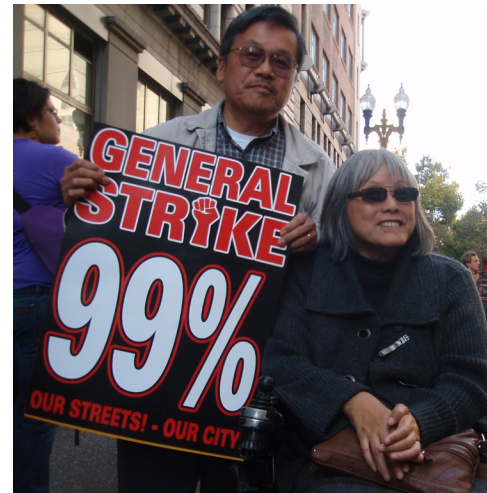
Michael Chang, Graduation Year: 2001
I am a Civil Rights Attorney for the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights and a lecturer in UC Berkeley's Ethnic Studies Department and Asian

American Studies program. I am the author of *Racial Politics in an Era of Transnational Citizenship: the "Asian Donorgate Controversy" in Perspective* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2004). I am also a commissioner on the City of Berkeley's Police Review Commission and co-chair of the civil rights committee of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area. My Ethnic Studies education has provided me with the intellectual framework to understand the social and cultural levers on legal processes and outcomes. My Ethnic Studies training has provided me with analytical tools relevant to lawyering, in particular an awareness of the importance of maintaining an open mind to differing viewpoints. That perspective has led me to government civil rights enforcement lawyering, which requires a firm handed application of due process principles.



Olivia Chilcote, Graduation Year: 2017
I am an Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies at San Diego State University. I was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of History at UC Riverside for spring and fall 2020 to complete my book manuscript.

In spring 2019, I received the Exceptional Service Award from San Diego State University for my work as Faculty Advisor to the Native American Student Alliance. For 2018-2020, I was selected as a fellow for a mentoring and professional socialization initiative through Duke University's Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in the Social Sciences called the Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Advancement. I am a Luiseño scholar who works closely with my family, my tribe, and our culture and history to bring knowledge back to my community and to bring our unique perspective to a larger audience. My idea of scholarship is one that is supported and nurtured in a field like Ethnic Studies. As a professor, my Ethnic Studies and Native American Studies education prepared me to teach from non-dominant perspectives and to encourage students to think critically about colonial structures and histories. I was drawn to Ethnic Studies because it is grounded in the lived experiences of those who have been largely ignored or exploited in academic research, and because Ethnic Studies values multiple ways of knowing in the world. My Ethnic Studies professors and mentors encouraged me to analyze and reflect on my own position within the academy and to undertake my scholarship with a level of integrity and care that does justice to the marginalized histories that are foundational to our field. I believe Ethnic Studies scholars want to make the world a better and more just place for everyone through our scholarship, our activism, and our unwavering commitment to social change.



Harvey Dong, Graduation Year: 2002
I am a continuing lecturer in Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies at UC Berkeley. I use my community work experience to bring life to my Asian American history, Chinese American history and Contemporary Issues courses. Many of my students have gone on to work in social justice causes. In 2016, I received the American Cultures Ronald Takaki Teaching Award and, in 2018, I received the UC Berkeley Chancellor's Public Scholar Faculty Fellowship. My recent endeavors include: development of an online Asian American Community and Race Relations class; co-editor and contributor to the recent UCLA Asian American Studies Center release *Mountain Movers: Student Activism and Emergence of Asian American Studies*; the use of videography in oral history teaching, student-learning and research; and the promotion and publishing of Asian American/ethnic studies-related books through Eastwind Books of Berkeley. I currently work with students in oral history projects to support and learn from community organizations including the Oakland Asian Cultural Center and the Chinese Historical Society of America.



P. Gabrielle Foreman

I hold an endowed chair at Penn State University and appointments in English, African American Studies and History. I'm the founding faculty director of the award-winning Colored Conventions Project (ColoredConventions.org), which brings 19th-century Black organizing to digital life. Soon I'll also be co-directing the Center for Black Digital Research which we also will call #DigBLK. Most of the work I'm most proud of has been done with collectives and partners. I spent a great deal of my career in Los Angeles where I was part of a collective called ASchAYE, Action for Social Change and Youth Empowerment. Co-founded with non-profit professionals and youth activists in grassroots social change sector, our project, Youth Radicalizing Boards (YRB), linked powerful young people of color with activists and experts across ages, sexualities, races and activist sectors. Since 2012, I've worked with choreographers, poets and composers to bring my research on 19th-century figures such as early Black writer and entrepreneur Harriet Wilson, the enslaved potter/poet David Drake, and the first Black woman editor in North America, Mary Ann Shadd Cary, to larger audiences. I also write articles and books and enjoy that too. Being an Ethnic Studies graduate and a Ford

Foundation Fellow have been instrumental to my world view and professional life. As a result of this academic acculturation, I've worked across disciplinary boundaries and comparatively and have considered community partnerships and collective project building to be part of my central vision. I've never been particularly interested in approval from those in traditional disciplines. I think that came from knowing that Ethnic and Black Studies were my central audience/home/colleagues even when I was housed elsewhere. Freedom from seeking that sort of approval gave me permission to do more innovative work that kept me intellectually alive, accountable and motivated. Being an early member of the Ethnic Studies PhD program also made me attentive to larger institutional issues and the important work that could be done within institutions--and beyond them. I worked with Barbara Christian, Ron Takaki, Earl Lewis, Margaret Washington, Genaro Padilla and Cherrie Moraga and Richard Yarborough who were visiting scholars when I was there. They were generous beyond measure and invested in students as people not just as scholars. I hope my work honors their legacies.



Annie Isabel Fukushima, Graduation Year: 2012

I am an Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies in the School for

Cultural & Social Transformation at the University of Utah and the author of *Migrant Crossings: Witnessing Human Trafficking in the US* (Stanford University Press, 2019). My book was published with a “scholar’s press”, sitting among some amazing scholars in ethnic studies including my chair, Dr. Evelyn Nakano Glenn. I continue to stay connected with the department, finding that my committee members continue to be amazing resources for navigating the academy. Ethnic Studies was central to my training and commitment to community-based research. Since graduating, I have served as an expert witness on human trafficking and immigration cases for a range of courts –immigration, civil, and criminal. My scholarly activism has led to research collaborations with students to conduct studies on the Latino labor experience in Utah, and on housing for survivors of violence across the US (Louisiana, California, New York, and South Dakota). I also continue to work with a long-time collaborator, friend, and alumna of Ethnic Studies, Dr. Dalida Maria Benfield, on Migratory Times (migratorytimes.net), a global art, research, and education initiative.

American Studies and the Director of the Honors Program at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. I am the co-editor of the book *Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Hawai’i* (Duke University Press, 2019) and the author of the forthcoming book *Empire’s Mistress, Starring Isabel Rosario Cooper*. Ethnic Studies deeply informs the content and critical framework of the intellectual projects and teaching that I take on as an academic. An Ethnic Studies education shaped the principles that guide my interaction with the university as an institution, and my conduct and responsibilities as a non-Indigenous Asian settler ally on occupied lands.



William Gow, Graduation Year: 2018

I am a lecturer in the American Studies program at Stanford University where I teach courses in American Studies, Asian American Studies, and History. My training in Ethnic Studies provides a strong foundation for what I do now. I often think back on the first graduate seminar I took in Ethnic Studies taught by Elaine Kim. Readings from that course by Jodi Melamed, Michel-Rolph Trouillot, Mike Murase, Linda Tuhiwai Smith, and others have all made it in some form into

my courses. My syllabus for my course “Los Angeles: A Cultural History” draws on my research on LA Chinatown and its relationship to Hollywood in the 1930s, which I did partly under the mentorship of my dissertation advisors, Cathy Choy and Shari Huhndorf. I was honored to receive the Vicki Ruiz Award from the Western Historical Association for Best Article on Race in the North American West for my 2018 essay in *Pacific Historical Review* entitled “A Night in Old Chinatown: American Orientalism, China Relief Fundraising, and the 1938 Moon Festival in Los Angeles.” The essay was based on my dissertation research. In addition to the feedback I received from my committee members, Shari, Cathy, Michael, and Weihong Bao in Film Studies, I also work-shopped the essay with fellow graduate students in our Asian American Studies Working Group. The feedback of both my peers and mentors made my analysis stronger and helped see the essay to publication. In all these ways, my training in Ethnic Studies continues to inform both my current research and teaching.



Tasha R. Hauff (Mnikhówožu Lakhóta), Graduation Year: 2019

I am a University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Los



Prof. Laura Pérez at the 50th Anniversary Celebration

Angeles in the Department of Education. My research, teaching, and outreach focus on Indigenous languages and tribal sovereignty. My training in Ethnic Studies has helped me foster a community centered and community-accountable approach to research. In 2016 to 2018, I conducted ethnographic research on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North and South Dakota. With the academic and financial support of Ethnic Studies, I was able to connect with and eventually collaborate with language activists at Standing Rock to conduct research for my dissertation, which is now a book manuscript entitled “Speaking Sovereign: Indigenous

Language Revitalization at Standing Rock.” My forthcoming article in the *Journal of American Indian Education*, called “Beyond Numbers, Colors, and Animals: Strengthening Dakota/Lakota Language Teaching on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation,” examines grassroots efforts to revitalize indigenous language through educational institutions. I contribute to the ever-urgent project of community language revitalization as a principal investigator on a National Science Foundation project called the Lakota Language Capacity Building Initiative at Sitting Bull College.



Tala Khanmalek, Graduation Year: 2015

I am an Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies at CSU Fullerton. I was a postdoctoral research associate in the American Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies Programs at Princeton University for 3 years. My article “Making Generations: Gender, Reproduction, and the

Afterlife of Slavery in Gayl Jones's *Corregidora*" was published in *Frontiers*. I founded a non-academic, community-based project called Sailing for Social Justice, which is now a Sponsored Project of the Detroit-based Allied Media Project. I continue to work on a multi-year oral history project on the work of healing justice practitioners in LA, NYC, and the SF Bay Area. I will participate in the Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation creative writing program this summer. Ethnic Studies has helped me to reconceptualize study as part of a liberatory project and practice that extends far beyond the university. At Cal, my dissertation mentors within and adjacent to ES (namely Keith Feldman, Beth Piatote, and Paola Bacchetta) affirmed my lived experiences, writing, and ideas in a way that still dares me to "create dangerously" in the words of Edwidge Danticat. My ES education has taught me to transgress boundaries, including the boundaries between and within academic disciplines. I have sought post-grad opportunities that are explicitly and intentionally inter/transdisciplinary and feel both proud and determined to consistently situate my work in the liminal space between fields, genres, etc. My ES education has also taught me that literary and other cultural production is a form of theory that can not only reimagine the world but enact otherwise possibilities now.



Alberto Ledesma, Graduation Year: 1996
I am an Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in the Arts and Humanities at UC Berkeley and the author of the book *Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer*, a Book of the Year for the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education and winner of Cal State LA's One Book, One Campus competition for 2019. My degree in ethnic studies has been tremendously helpful for my professional success. Besides providing me with a structural understanding of the way culture, history, power, race, and gender are intertwined factors affecting opportunities and privileges in the US, the skills I learned in critical analysis, synthesis, and culturally competent communication have helped me thrive as a professional in higher education. I also learned how to tackle difficult conversations that are solutions oriented and inclusive of differences. My ethnic studies education has been foundational in shaping the way I see the world and the solutions to issues I believe in. In a country as divided as the United States is, I have an understanding of where these divisions originated and how it is that these fissures continue to be exploited by those in power, something that I can work against.



Amy Lonetree, Graduation Year: 2002
I am an Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz. My scholarly research focuses on Native American history, visual culture studies, and museum studies. My publications include *Decolonizing Museums: Representing Native America in National and Tribal Museums* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012) and a co-authored volume, *People of the Big Voice: Photographs of Ho-Chunk Families by Charles Van Schaick, 1879-1942* (Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2011). I have lectured widely including delivering keynote addresses at the International Association of Genocide Scholars Conference, and the (Un) Silencing the Past: Narratives of Trauma in Comparative Perspective Symposium, sponsored by the United States Holocaust Museum and the University of New Mexico. I currently serve on the Board of the Native American Art Studies Association (NAASA), and I'm the co-chair of the Western History Association 2020 Conference Program Committee. In 2019, I was appointed to the University of California President's Native American Advisory Council that advises UC leadership on issues concerning Indigenous faculty, staff, and students, and the

larger communities we serve. The training I received in Ethnic Studies has served me extraordinarily well throughout my career. The graduate training is rigorous and fosters a sense of independence, along with understanding what it means to be a critically engaged scholar. We learn how to take risks and stand up for the ideas and people we believe in. I found my voice as a scholar and activist thanks to the wonderful community of scholars I was blessed to have worked with, most notably, Professors Ron Takaki and Elaine Kim. My commitment to community-based and collaborative research practices was encouraged and supported by professors in the department. The training I have received is foundational to everything I have done since graduation including my work on decolonizing museums, and producing publications that place Indigenous community perspectives at the heart of the narrative.



Ethel Regis Lu, Graduation Year: 2013
I am a Graduate Advisor for UC San Diego's Department of Cognitive Science. My training in Ethnic Studies has empowered me to approach my work in academic advising and higher education administration with

critical awareness and an open mind. Having been a doctoral student and Teaching Assistant at UC Berkeley has prepared me to mentor and advise undergraduate and graduate students. These have taught me to be profoundly aware of how academic experiences are considerably impacted by factors both in and outside the classroom. As an academic advisor, I meet with students to discuss long-term academic plans, explain major requirements and department policies, and I counsel students on possible career paths, at the same time as I listen to concerns regarding issues affecting their academic performance and personal lives. With an understanding of power, privilege, and difference and how these impact individual and institutional relations, my academic background has guided the ways in which I have responded to potentially volatile or crisis situations with empathy, sensitivity, and professionalism and ensuring that students with academic or personal difficulties received not only appropriate information but also holistic support. And, more broadly, it has also enabled me to recommend thoughtful organizational strategies and develop inclusive programs for student success.



Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, Graduation Year: 1998

I am a Professor of Sociology and Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Southern California. In 2019, I received the Jessie Bernard Award, which is one of the American Sociological Association Career Awards. I was also elected Vice President of the American Sociological Association. Ethnic Studies promotes independence and innovation in thinking, and gives one training that really pushes one to think outside the box. This is to key to success in publications. Ethnic Studies provided me with a solid interdisciplinary training that gives me the foundation I need to draw from multiple disciplines to address questions about gender and migration. I can attribute my funding success to this interdisciplinary training.



Craig Santos Perez, Graduation Year: 2015.
I am an Associate Professor of English at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa and the author of five

books of poetry and the co-editor of five anthologies. Recent work includes the poetry collection *from unincorporated territory [lukao]* (2017) and the anthology *Indigenous Literatures from Micronesia* (2019). I have received the American Book Award, the PEN USA and Poetry Society of America Literary Award, and the Hawai'i Literary Council Award, as well as fellowships from the Ford Foundation and the Lannan Foundation. I serve on the boards of the non-profits Pacific Islanders in Communication and the Pacific Writers Connection. I am a native Chamoru from the Pacific Island of Guåhan (Guam). The Ethnic Studies department helped me prepare for post-grad life through academic and professionalization training, as well as through support from the faculty. Ethnic Studies has shaped my perspective by teaching me the importance of understanding race and ethnicity in the formation of culture and identity, especially in relation to Pacific Islanders.



Eric J. Pido, Graduation Year: 2011
I'm currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University. In 2017, I received tenure in the department and published my first monograph *Migrant Returns: Manila,*

Development, and Transnational Connectivity from Duke University Press. The book received the best book award in the social sciences from the Association for Asian American Studies in 2019. My education in Ethnic Studies transformed my worldview by helping me to reconceptualize my experiences in relationship to those lived by other ethnic communities and understand how these permutations are produced by different, and much larger, prevailing systems. Faculty in the department and on campus helped me to craft a new language for how to express everyday life in ways that are both unique and challenging to the existing public discourse. As such, the expertise that I developed as a result of my doctoral education has afforded me the opportunity to consult with several public and private institutions, including the U.S. Department of Education and Google, as well as a number of universities and institutions throughout Asia, on issues regarding race, immigration, and U.S. society.



Darby Li Po Price, Graduation Year: 1998
I am an adjunct faculty member of Ethnic Studies, Asian American Studies, Native American Studies at Merritt College. Ethnic

Studies prepared me to teach interdisciplinary courses spanning comparative ethnic film, humanities methods, history, literature, mixed race, cyberspace, ethnoecology, comedy, and gender; Asian American film, history, politics, and literature; Native American history, media, literature, and ecology. Beyond teaching, I have applied Ethnic Studies perspectives as a board member for the Native American Health Center; senior analyst of Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity; docent at the Portland Chinatown Museum; in articles in academic journals, edited anthologies, and Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files for the National Archives; in award winning PBS documentary films.



Catherine S. Ramirez, Graduation Year: 2000

I am an Associate Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz and the author of the critically acclaimed book, *The Woman in the Zoot Suit: Gender, Nationalism, and the Cultural Politics of Memory* (Duke University Press, 2009), the first monograph to excavate the participation of women in the Mexican American zoot subculture. I am also the author of several essays on Chicana futurism, a term I coined for Chicana cultural production that attends to cultural transformations resulting from new and everyday technologies. My work on Chicana futurism has helped shape a growing

conversation on speculative fiction, race, gender, coloniality, futurity, and the environment in academia and the art world. My second book, *Assimilation: An Alternative History*, is forthcoming from the University of California Press, and my co-edited volume, *Precarity and Belonging: Labor, Migration, and Noncitizenship*, is forthcoming from Rutgers University Press. I have been awarded fellowships from the Ford Foundation and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. I have also won the Excellence in Teaching Award, UC Santa Cruz's highest teaching honor. From 2013 until 2018, I directed UC Santa Cruz's Chicano Latino Research Center, now the Research Center for the Americas. My professors in Ethnic Studies—in particular, Professors Norma Alarcón and Judith Butler—taught me to think critically. They provided me with the tools to recognize and to study not only difference, but power and inequality. Professor Barbara Christian was a paragon of tenacity, resilience, and style. From her, I learned not to empower those who sought to disempower me. My former classmates continue to inspire and sustain me. When I was a graduate student, they provided me with guidance, moral support, and friendship. They were and remain exemplary colleagues. Ethnic Studies has also shaped my perspective by training me to pay attention to absence and erasure. For example, in my first monograph, *The Woman in the Zoot Suit*, I scrutinize the absence of women zoot-suiters in discourse on the Mexican American zoot subculture. Similarly, in my second monograph, *Assimilation*, I decouple immigration and



Victor M. Rios, Graduation Year: 2005
I am an Associate Dean of Social Sciences and a Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. My publications include *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* (New York University Press, 2011), *Human Targets: Schools, Police, and the Criminalization of Latino Youth* (University of Chicago Press, 2017), and *My Teacher Believes in Me!: The Educator's Guide to At-Promise Students* (co-authored with R. Mireles-Rios, Five Rivers Press, 2019). Scholars in Ethnic Studies were generating nuanced theory and knowledge about society's most pressing issues years ahead of other disciplines. I did not realize this until I joined a sociology department and noticed that just now, fifteen years after my graduate program training, sociology is grappling with ideas that have long been discussed in Ethnic Studies. I have been able to bring in a unique perspective to the field of sociology. The paradigm shift I have pushed in Sociology is to the credit of Ethnic Studies.

assimilation. Doing so allows me to ask what role people who are not immigrants or who are not recognized as real or legitimate immigrants play in defining Americanness.



Juana María Rodríguez, Graduation Year: 1998
Professor and Chair, Ethnic Studies Department at Berkeley

I am the author of *Queer Latinidad: Identity Practices, Discursive Spaces* (NYU Press, 2003); *Sexual Futures, Queer Gestures, and Other Latina Longings* (NYU Press 2014) which won the Alan Bray Memorial Book Prize at the Modern Language Association and was a Lambda Literary Foundation Finalist for LGBT Studies; and co-editor of a special issue of *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* on "Trans Studies en las Americas." I am currently completing a manuscript under contract with Duke University Press entitled, *Put a Life: Seeing Latinas, Working Sex* about visual culture and sexual labor.

Since graduating, I have held faculty positions in English, Gender & Women's Studies, and Cultural Studies, and am now delighted to be back in Ethnic Studies at Berkeley serving as Chair. Being an Ethnic Studies scholar, living largely outside disciplinary constraints, moving queerly through academia, reminds me to write and teach in ways that feed my spirit even as I work to reduce harm and amplify good in the institutions where we labor.



Jen Rose Smith, Graduation Year: 2019

I am a dAXunhyuu (Eyak, Alaska Native) Ph.D. Currently, I am a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Davis in the Native American Studies Department. I will start as an assistant professor in the Geography Department and Program of American Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August 2020. My current book project *Indeterminate Natures: Race and Indigeneity in Ice-Geographies* analyzes colonialism in relation to ice in Alaska and the Arctic. *Indeterminate Natures* argues that ice and Arctic climate as a non-normative terrain shaped how race and indigeneity came to be conceptualized in culture, anthropological and geological sciences, and concretized in law.



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James Sobredo, Graduation Year: 1998

I am a recently retired professor and former Department Chair of Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State University. I served three terms as Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate and as a member of the university budget committee for four years. I co-edited two books on the Manila galleon trade and early economic history of Asia and the Pacific. I also conducted research on violence prevention in the Asian American community, which led to a major article publication in *The American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. My friend and colleague Dr. Alexandre Kimenyi was a leading figure in the anti-genocide movement in Rwanda, so I became heavily involved in the anti-genocide movement globally, which led to several international conferences on genocide prevention at Sacramento State. I am also a photographer and artist. My documentary photography works and fine art photography have been exhibited in art galleries & museums in San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland and my hometown of Stockton. Photography is where my academic and artistic life converge. I currently have a long-term photodocumentary project of Filipinos living and working in Hong Kong and Barcelona. Last year I had a major solo exhibit

at the Anthropology Museum at Sacramento State University and delivered the Dr. George Rich anthropology lecture on the same topic. Professionally, it was other Ethnic Studies post-graduates who proved invaluable in navigating my university career. That network of friends developed at Berkeley lasted throughout the majority of my university teaching career. As I embark on a second career as a journalist and documentary photographer, Ethnic Studies continues to provide an important context in the way I visualize, document and interpret the world. Given the fundamental demographic changes in our society, Ethnic Studies has been an important asset to my career and life.



Tria Blu Wakpa, Graduation Year: 2017

From 2017-2018, I was a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Dance at UC Riverside. I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Worlds Arts and Cultures/Dance at UC Los Angeles, where I am also affiliated with the American Indian Studies Center. I am a scholar and practitioner of Indigenous dance, North American Hand Talk (Indigenous sign language), martial arts, and yoga, and I

perform and publish poetry in a variety of venues. My book project, "Native American Embodiment in Educational and Carceral Contexts: Fixing, Eclipsing, and Liberating," theorizes how and why the U.S. has attempted to manage Native mobilities, and conversely, how Native bodies and movement forms (dance, basketball, boxing, gardening, theater, and yoga) have carried, generated, and transmitted knowledge in educational and carceral institutions on Lakota lands in what is often referred to as South Dakota. I continue to serve as a Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Race and Yoga*—which I co-founded while a graduate student at UC Berkeley—the first peer-reviewed journal in the emerging field of Critical Yoga Studies. In Fall 2019, I curated an exhibition on Tongva lands—what is often referred to as Los Angeles—featuring the beadwork and drawings of Native artists who are currently imprisoned. I received support from UCLA's Center for Community Learning and Institute on Inequality and Democracy for pedagogical projects that bridge the academy and off-campus communities. In Winter 2020, myself-designed, community-engaged course, "Dance: Colonization and Confinement," is collaborating with international-renowned Tongva artists, Tina and Jessa Calderon, whose lands UCLA currently occupies. I gained invaluable educational and professional training in the Department of Ethnic Studies. The praxes of community-engagement and decolonizing methodologies, which I honed in Ethnic Studies, are integral to my research and pedagogy. I continue to be inspired by the work of all of the faculty in UC Berkeley's Department of Ethnic Studies, and in particular,

my dissertation committee members, Drs. Keith Feldman and Shari Huhndorf, and my dissertation committee chair and ongoing mentor, Dr. Tom Biolsi.



Oliver Wang, Graduation Year: 2004

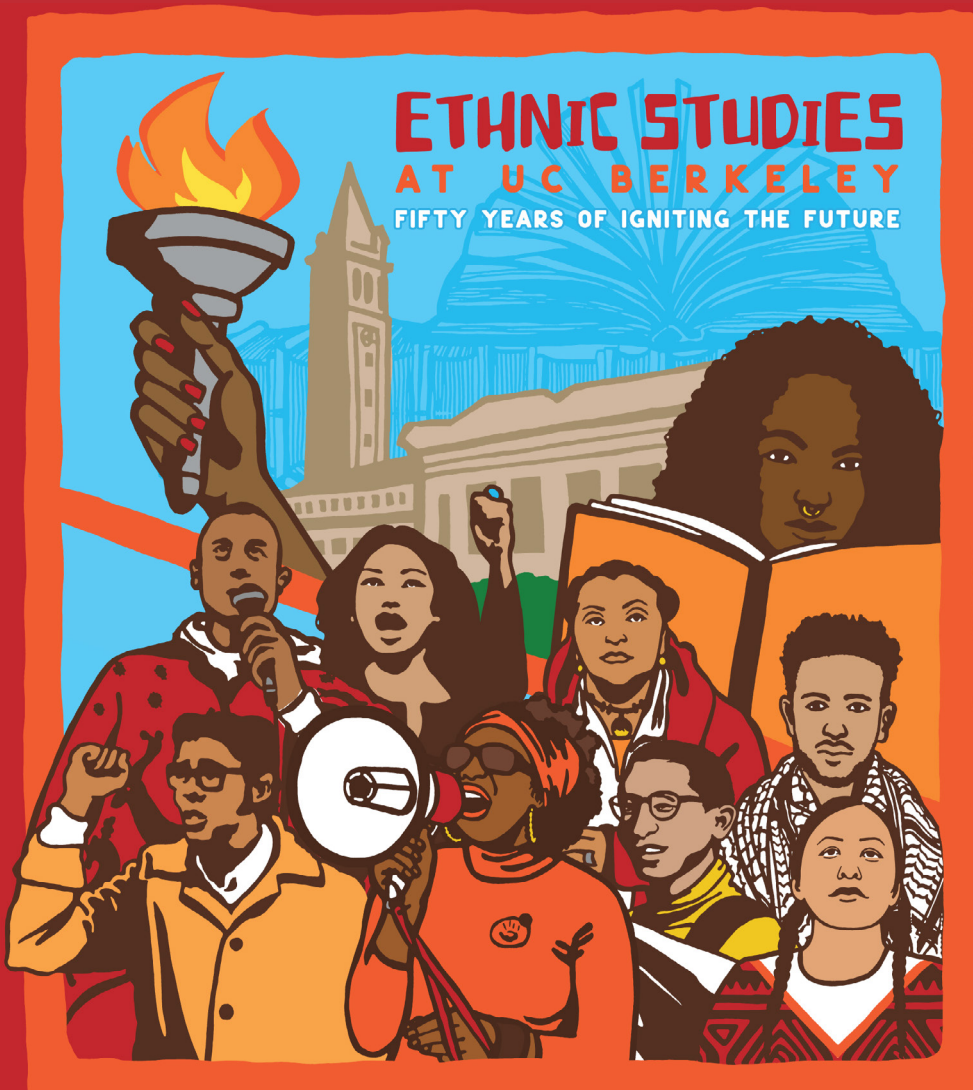
I am a Professor of Sociology at CSU Long Beach. I am currently doing research on Japanese American car culture in Southern California, and the co-host of the Heat Rocks podcast. Ethnic Studies encouraged and enhanced my inherent interdisciplinary sensibilities as both a scholar and writer. It also validated my pursuit of research topics that may not have been embraced in more traditional disciplines. Ethnic Studies shaped the way in which I perceive the world, not just through a lens of race or ethnicity but also around gender, sexuality, class, etc. Especially as someone who studies and writes about popular culture, having ethnic studies training helped to enhance the critical perspective through which I could approach myriad topics.

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The Ethnic Studies Department website can be found at: <http://ethnicstudies.berkeley.edu/>

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The Ethnic Studies undergraduate and graduate alumni profiles were collected and edited by Jacquelyn Serrano (Class of 2020, Ethnic Studies and Art Practice Double Major) and Catherine Ceniza Choy (Professor of Ethnic Studies). Jacquelyn Serrano designed the newsletter and her website be found at: <https://www.jacquelynserrano.com/> Many thanks to the Ethnic Studies alumni who shared their updates with us. Special thanks to Dewey St. Germaine and Latonya Minor for creating the undergraduate and graduate listservs, and to all Ethnic Studies faculty and staff who suggested alumni names and helped with contact information.