

# *Critical Race and Ethnic Studies*

## 2023-24 NEWSLETTER



*CRES major Yitong Lei presents at the 2023 Senior Celebration held at the Resource Center for Nonviolence, June 16, 2023*

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## CRES Chair's Letter

Welcome to the new academic year! I am honored to continue the strong leadership in CRES as I begin my three-year chairship within such a crucial and vibrant department. This is an exciting and trying time for CRES. Our department is growing in areas of critical concern: First in Indigenous and Pacific Islander Studies with the hire of Fuifuilupe Niumeitolu and Brittani Orona (who will join us next year) who both center ecological land-back perspectives in their research and teaching. Second, we continue to build in Arab and Middle Eastern Studies with the hire of Jennifer Mogannam, and third, is a forthcoming minor in Science and Justice anchored by the hire of Kriti Sharma who brings poetic vision for alternative worlds into scientific inquiry. These new hires merely extend the many intersecting conversations and courses for our undergraduate and graduate students.

As we grow as a department, attracting bold students into our classrooms and struggles, we find ourselves in need of responding to various battles. Critical Ethnic Studies has a long tradition of careful dialogue and activism with Black, Indigenous, and Immigrant peoples facing the ongoing displacement and dispossession of their bodies and lands. CRES stands with our colleagues who face a cauldron of backlash for daring to support dialogue towards the goal of a demilitarized Palestine. We condemn the ways public criticism shuts down freedom of speech and see these attempts as akin to what is happening in Florida and Texas where our colleagues find themselves faced with governmental backlash for merely using the words race, sex, and gender fluidity in the classroom. We see how important our work is during a time when books that pertain to the lives of our students and community are banned at an increasing rate. We model a future where the many challenges of our time must be led by the least amongst us – those who refuse to be silenced and who offer centuries of wisdom of survival against the greatest forces of power trying to close in from all sides. With the determination of our ancestors, we follow the spirit of the winged animals who seek light in the darkest times to help us find what is just beyond the horizon.

In solidarity,

Felicity Amaya Schaeffer

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## Introducing New Faculty

**Jennifer Mogannam** is an Assistant Professor in the department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies and an affiliate of the Center for the Middle East and North Africa at UC Santa Cruz. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Ethnic Studies at UC San Diego and an MA in Arab and Middle Eastern Studies from the American University of Beirut (AUB). Prior to the tenure-track, she was a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Davis in the departments of Anthropology and Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies and received the 2023 UC Davis Excellence in Postdoctoral Research Award.



Jennifer is a critical, cross-disciplinary scholar of oral history, ethnography, and cultural criticism. Her work examines 20th and 21st century Palestinian and Arab transnational movements and third world solidarities, with an eye for analyzing movement praxis for liberated futures. This work intervenes in the critical study of refugees, borders, colonialism and imperialism, global scales of race and indigeneity, and resistance and is grounded in transnational, women of color, indigenous, and Palestinian methods and lenses of liberation.

Jennifer's current book project frames the stakes and limits of revolution for the stateless, the refugee, and the citizen as defined by active participant narrations of revolution in 1970s Lebanon. Her publications, which speak to borders, imperialism, Marxist thought, social movements, and refugees, have been placed in *American Quarterly*, *Critical Ethnic Studies*, *Social Identities* and *Amerasia*, with more in the pipeline. She also has an ongoing, collaborative *Borders are Obsolete* project, co-created with Dr. Leslie Quintanilla, that seeks to challenge border systems through illuminating grassroots work to circumvent them.

**Fuifuilupe Niumeitolu** is a Tongan/Oceanian/ Pacific Islander, story-teller, community organizer and scholar. She received her PhD at the University of California, Berkeley in 2019. She was born in Nuku'alofa, Tonga and was raised in Tonga, Hawai'i, and Utah and she currently



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makes her new home in Huchiun, the occupied Lisjan Ohlone ancestral territory now known as Oakland, California. Numeitolu was recently a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Native American Studies at the University of California, Davis. She is on the organizing committee of OCNC (Oceania Coalition of Northern California), The Tongan Women Scholars' Koka'anga Collective and she is a part of the Sogorea Te Land Trust, the first Indigenous women-led Land Trust in the U.S. that facilitates the repatriation of Indigenous land back Indigenous peoples. Her research interests are: Tongan Studies, Oceania/Pacific Islands Studies, Oceanian Social Movements for Decolonization and Self-determination, Mormon and Religious Studies, California Indian Studies, Repatriation and Protection of Indigenous Sacred Sites in California and Oceania. Numeitolu's book project is titled, *The Mana of the Tongan Everyday: White Terror and the Desecration of the Sacred*.

Fui will be teaching an upper-division elective and graduate seminar in spring quarter.

**Kriti Sharma** is a microbial ecologist and philosopher whose work bridges biology, philosophy, and art to re-tell "the story of life" not as struggle and scarcity, but as radical interdependence. She is Assistant Professor of Critical Race Science and Technology Studies in CRES, and the author of *Interdependence: Biology and Beyond* (Fordham University Press, 2015) and the forthcoming *Relationality: An Emergent Politics of Life Beyond the Human* with co-authors Michal Osterweil and Arturo Escobar. Dr. Sharma completed her PhD in Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her postdoctoral research in geobiology at Caltech. Her field- and laboratory-based research on microbes in deep sea sediments in seagrass meadows elucidates how these carbon-sequestering organisms can mitigate climate change, and offer teachings on making brave transitions into the unknown. Dr. Sharma will work closely with the Science & Justice Research Center to help develop the new Science & Justice undergraduate minor. Her transdisciplinary laboratory in the Earth and Marine Sciences Building will bring together multispecies collectives around the question of how to transition beyond the dominant bio-economic vision of life and the human.



Kriti is teaching CRES 185A - *Race, Gender, Science*, in fall; a senior seminar, CRES 190N - *Science/Fiction and the Possible*, and Science and Justice graduate seminar in winter; and the core course for the forthcoming Science and Justice minor in spring.



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## Exciting Developments

Welcome [Sam Ikehara](#), UC Presidential Postdoc. Born and raised on O'ahu, Sam Ikehara writes and teaches about race, the environment, and legacies of war. She earned her Ph.D. in American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. As of Fall 2023, she will be a UC President's and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in CRES. Her current book project, *Atmospheres of Relief: Air and Militarism in the Pacific Ocean*, investigates air across Asia and the Pacific Islands as a site of U.S.-Japanese interimperial violence that is actively contested through movements for demilitarization and sovereignty built around air, breath, and wind.



**Recruitment in [Critical Filipinx Studies](#).** CRES has been authorized to conduct a search in critical Filipinx studies this year! This is the first-ever search explicitly dedicated to critical Filipinx studies at UC Santa Cruz in its entire almost six decade history. This milestone is a testament to how vibrant, powerful, and dedicated our community is, with our deeply moving students leading the way. The search is currently accepting applications with the initial review date of November 6! Please help us get the word out far and wide.

**Development of a Minor in Science and Justice.** CRES has been in collaboration with faculty from across campus and the Science and Justice Research Center (SJRC) in developing a minor in Science and Justice, due to launch Fall 2024. Biomedical innovation, species extinction, toxic ecologies, healthcare reform, algorithmic injustice, and many other contemporary matters of concern provoke questions that traverse multiple intellectual, institutional, and ethico-political worlds. Science and Justice scholars generate modes of inquiry that address these enormous challenges to support livable worlds. Housed in CRES, this minor will draw on the strengths of faculty from Engineering, Physical and Biological Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts. The minor will offer students an opportunity to learn the transdisciplinary field of science and justice studies while at the same time receiving training in their major discipline.

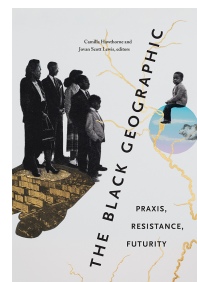
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## Faculty Updates

To learn more about the amazing and wide-ranging scholarship being done by our diverse CRES faculty, we encourage you to visit their [faculty profile pages](#).

**micha cárdenas** (CRES and Performance, Play, and Design) published "[Reenvisioning Humanity](#)" in *Texte Zur Kunst*, Issue No. 131. In her review of Wangechi Mutu's solo exhibition at the New Museum, cárdenas encounters Mutu's strangely anthropomorphic sculptures. Employing the concept of the "alterhuman" – a term that rejects the teleology of posthumanism and takes into consideration how antiblackness shapes both the aesthetic and scientific discourses that underlie claims to knowledge about, for instance, the line between human and animal – cárdenas explains the ways in which Mutu challenges onto-epistemological boundaries with her art. Mutu's alterhuman creatures invite viewers to review the boundaries of the human and the limits of our ethical systems, as well as the limits of our solidarity and empathy.

**Camilla Hawthorne** (Sociology) published articles "Toward a relational theorization of racisms" (Symposium: Ann Morning and Marcello Maneri's *An Ugly Word*), *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (2023) 1-9 and "Black Mediterranean geographies: Translation and the mattering of Black life in Italy," *Gender, Place & Culture* (2022), 1-24. The Italian translation of her monograph was published in 2022 (*Razza e cittadinanza. Frontiere contese e contestate nel mediterraneo nero* (Pisa, Astarte Edizioni, 2023)). Her work was also the anchor of the "[Black Mediterranean Geographies](#)" special issue of the journal *Geographica Helvetica*. Her co-edited volume with Jovan Scott Lewis, *The Black Geographic: Praxis, Resistance, Futurity*, is officially in print! Camilla received the 2022 Italian Scientists and Scholars in North America Foundation Young Investigator Award for Innovation in the Study of Italian Culture.



**Christine Hong** (CRES and Literature) was promoted to Full Professor in addition to receiving a successful career equity review! This review acknowledges her amazing research achievements, her transformative teaching, and her leadership and program-building. She is the recipient of the [2022 Mary C. Turpie prize](#) which recognizes "outstanding abilities and achievement in American studies teaching, advising, and program development." Christine successfully applied to and received the Andrew W. Mellon

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Humanities in Place Grant for “Santa Cruz, Reconsidered: The Local as Ethnic Studies Curriculum,” co-PI Jenny Kelly.

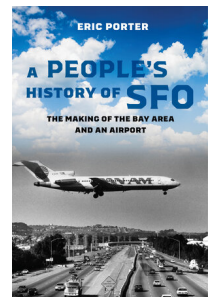
**Jenny Kelly** (Feminist Studies/CRES) published her first book, *Invited to Witness*, in January 2023. Following its publication, she’s done [numerous interviews](#) in *Jewish Currents*, on *Imagine Otherwise*, *Tourism Geographies*, *THI*, *New Books Network*; Talks: Keynote, E3W Sequels Conference, UT Austin (March 2023), “Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Palestine,” Detours Roundtable, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Toronto, May 2023. She will also be working with Christine Hong on the “Santa Cruz, Reconsidered” project funded by the Mellon grant. Finally, Jenny was the recipient of the [2022-2023 Dizikes Faculty Teaching Award!](#)



**Jennifer Mogannam** (CRES) was invited for several talks including: "Anti-Imperialist Feminism" at George Mason University, the New Directions in Palestinian Studies 2023 Workshop at Brown University offering a talk called "Women of the Revolution: Palestinian Decolonial Praxis and Gendered Labor in Civil War Lebanon," the "Palestinian Feminism: A Grammar for Decolonization" workshop at Cornell University, and two radio interviews for International Women's day for KPFA for the "Transnational Feminism" episode and SWANA Region Radio's "Women Revolutionaries and Feminist Icons in the SWANA Region" episode. Jennifer received the 2023 UC Davis Excellence in Postdoctoral Research Award and the 2023-24 Mellon Foundation/UC-HSI Humanities Initiative Award.

**Fuifuilupe Niumeitolu** (CRES) is part of the Melon Working Group on Oceania:/Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Utah.

**Eric Porter** (History and History of Consciousness) published his book, [A People's History of SFO: The Making of the Bay Area and an Airport](#).



**Alice Yang** (History) is completing her manuscript *Stop Repeating History: Japanese American Women, Memories of the World War II Incarceration and Contemporary Transnational Antiracist Activism, 1941-2021*. Last year, she published an article on Japanese American protest against family separation policies at Fort Sill in *Public History Weekly*. She also gave a presentation on women’s activism at the Association for Asian American Studies and served as discussant for a panel on Revisiting the Archives at the Berkshire Conference on Women's History. She participated in a Watsonville Is In The Heart Advisory Workshop and conducted oral histories for Densho’s Restarting an Oral

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History Program on the Japanese-American World War II Incarceration and Its Aftermath. She continues to serve as Oral History Director for the Okinawa Memories Initiative. She just recently was interviewed for podcasts by MSNBC and [NPR](#) and gave a public talk on reparations for the Claremont colleges.

## CRES Student News

### Opportunities for Undergraduates

The [Judy Yung Memorial Scholarship](#) supports Asian-, Asian diasporic-, Pacific Islander-, and Pacific Islander diasporic-related research geared toward the preservation of oral histories and engagement of local community archives. Preference is given to CRES majors, Black Studies minors, and CRES designated emphasis students. Keep an eye out for the call for applications in winter quarter!

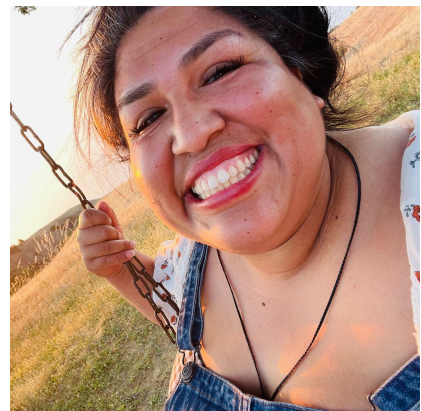
### Undergraduate Representatives

**Jamie Hindery** (CRES/Education) and **Keiko Utsumi** (CRES) are serving as the 2023-2024 undergraduate representatives for the year. Undergrad reps help spread the word about the CRES major and Black Studies minor. They attend faculty meetings, participate in faculty searches, and represent the undergraduate student perspectives to the department.

### Graduate Representatives

**Anny L. Mogollón Rojas** is a CRES and Feminist Studies DE from the Literature department. Her research looks at the representation of domestic workers in U.S. literary and cultural production and is especially interested in domestic worker self-representation. Other research interests include digital organizing and activism, migration and labor, Latinx/e representation in media, and environmental racism.

**Em Padilla** (They/Them) is a CRES DE from the Feminist Studies Department. Their research examines the relation between military policies on Trans inclusion, the Trans Latinx soldiering experience, and Trans masculinity/femininity as they emerge and exist in and out of national institutions and socio-cultural sites. They aim to better understand the





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intersection between Latinx and Trans (national) identities and how this intersection plays into national sentiment, identity and, ultimately, the concept of inclusion and its history. Their dissertation project revolves around the above-mentioned topics as well as an ongoing analysis of existing and incoming anti-trans and Queer legislation.

## Opportunities for CRES Designated Emphases

CRES has a vibrant Designated Emphasis (DE) program, with graduate students from 14 departments across 3 academic divisions. Keep an eye out for future “Works in Progress” events and graduate student spotlights, which feature the research of our DEs.



## DE Research and Travel Grants

The CRES program provides small grants (up to \$250) to graduate students who are conducting research and/or traveling to conferences. More information on the application process can be found here: <https://cres.ucsc.edu/graduate/de-opportunities.html>

The 2023 recipients include **Gabe Evans**, **Amrit Kaur**, **Melody Nixon**, **Yuki Obayashi**, and **Marina Segatti**. Congratulations!

## Congratulations to our Graduated CRES DEs!

CRES is so proud of all of our 2022-2023 CRES DE graduates! We graduated a strong cohort of 11 students. Among our graduates are...

**Christian Alvarado** (History of Consciousness) is the President's and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of African American and African Studies at University of California, Davis.

**Theresa Hice Johnson** (Sociology) will be joining The Ohio State University's geography department as an assistant professor in the fall!

**Jane Komori** (History of Consciousness) recently accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at UBC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research\* Council of Canada) during the academic year 2023-24. In August 2024, Jane will begin a position as the Provost's Distinguished Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor of Labor, Migration, and Racial Capitalism in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

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**Uriel Serrano** (Sociology) is a postdoctoral scholar at UC Irvine's Department of Informatics. He is developing his dissertation project into a book manuscript tentatively titled Policing Youth, which addresses the scale and pace of criminalization and policing in Los Angeles. Uriel is also working with Professor Roderic Crooks on an NSF-funded interview-based study exploring how community organizers in working-class communities of color use data in their political mobilization.

**Ka-eul Yoo** (Literature) is currently in her first year as a UC president's postdoc at UC Irvine and has accepted a position in the Department of Global and International Studies at UC Irvine. This position will begin in fall 2024.

## **New CRES Courses**

With so many new hires joining the CRES faculty, the CRES curriculum is growing by leaps and bounds! Some of our new and exciting courses this year include (but are not limited to)...

### **Fall 2023**

#### **CRES 185A - Race, Gender, Science (Kriti Sharma)**

In this course, we will think critically and creatively together about the ways in which science as a practice and a way of knowing gives rise to particular and perhaps peculiar ways of experiencing bodies as individual, raced, gendered, and even 'specied'. We will explore a variety of issues in contemporary science and technology, with an emphasis on body and embodiment - that is, ways of knowing and experiencing the body within and beyond science, and within and beyond race and gender.

### **Winter 2024**

#### **CRES 115 - Frantz Fanon: Resistance, Revolution, and Decolonization (Sophia Azeb)**

In this course students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the intellectual, political, and critical thought of 20th century Martiniquan psychoanalyst, writer, and revolutionary Frantz Fanon. Students will closely read several of Fanon's most noted works, including Black Skin, White Masks, A Dying Colonialism, and The Wretched of the Earth, as well as thinkers Fanon student and engaged in these works. This class will also engage

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contemporary interpretations of Fanon's transnational, emancipatory thought and practice from scholarly, aesthetic, and political organizing perspectives.

### **CRES 151 - After the Human: Race, Gender, and Technology (micha cardenas)**

As Sylvia Wynter and many of the other authors we will read this quarter will point out, the definition of the human has historically excluded racialized peoples, gender non-conforming people, indigenous people, disabled people, and even at times cisgender women. In this class, we will study the intersection of science and justice to understand how the border of the human is used to reinforce anti-blackness, xenophobia, transphobia, and many other forms of social oppression.

### **CRES 190N - Science/Fiction and the Possible (Kriti Sharma)**

Science and technology promise to revolutionize society – and indeed, in many ways, they do and have. But what if social revolutions are key to true innovations in science and technology? In this class, we will read speculative fiction in order to exercise imagination of what technoscience could be in more just sociopolitical formations. Reading fiction also enables us to critically analyze the promises and limitations of our own current world and its scientific, technological, and political constraints in contrast.

### **CRES 190Y - Solidarity (Jenny Kelly)**

This course will consider different moments in movement work – for example, solidarity with Palestine, #NODAPL, Mauna Kea, Black freedom struggles, ACT UP, trans liberation and beyond – to explore the failures and liberatory potential of solidarity. We will read theoretical mediations on solidarity, thinking through what it means to study solidarity. We will also consider how solidarity can require risk, danger, and loss. Most importantly, we will study what it means to craft horizontal networks of care in the face of the ceaseless demands to (re)produce hierarchical ones.

**...and more to come in Spring 2024!**

## **Events of Interest**

Below are some of the Fall events organized by the Center for Racial Justice and other campus units that may be of interest to you. Check out the [CRES website](#) and the [Center for Racial Justice website](#) for the most up to date information!

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### October 3-December 15

The Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery at Cowell will show Alice Yang's exhibit "Never Again Is Now: Japanese American Women Activists and the Legacy of the Mass Incarceration." This exhibit highlights how women's historical memories helped win redress, challenged racial and gender stereotypes, promoted intergenerational ties, and developed coalitions with other communities fighting discrimination based on race, national origin, religion, immigration status, gender, and sexual orientation.

Come to the opening reception on **October 7!**

### October 13, 2023 - 6:30pm - Two Birds Books

*Atoms Never Touch* Book Launch with micha cárdenas

Jumping to alternate realities sounds great, if you're in control. But what if you're not? What if you're propelled away from the people and places you love the most in the blink of an eye? And what if these involuntary journeys happen because your neurochemistry is different, and your brain works differently?

### October 19th, 2023 - 4:00pm - Humanities 1, room 210

### October 20th, 2023 - 10:00am - Humanities 2, room 259

Center for Racial Justice presents: Peggy and Jack Baskin Intersectional Feminisms Series  
Event 1: Rana Jaleel "The Work of Rape"

### November 1, 2023 - 12:00pm - Humanities 1, room 210

Center for Cultural Studies Colloquium Series with Jennifer Mogannam  
"Gendering Revolution: Palestinian Praxis, Labor, and Decolonization"

### November 9th, 2023 - 12:00pm - Merrill Cultural Center

Center for Racial Justice presents: Peggy and Jack Baskin Intersectional Feminisms Series  
Event 2: Ronaldo Wilson "Carmelina Figures and Virgil Kills: A Play Date"

## Interested in Majoring in CRES?

Current UCSC students interested in majoring in CRES, adding CRES as a second major, or declaring the Black Studies minor can make an appointment with one of the CRES advisors: **Domingo Canizales**, or **Dejon Barber**. Appointments can be made on Slug Success or by scanning the QR code to the right. We encourage you to email [cres@ucsc.edu](mailto:cres@ucsc.edu) with any major or minor questions.

