

# Critical Race and Ethnic Studies 2024-25 NEWSLETTER



Signs pepper the Barn at the base of campus during protests against the genocide in Palestine.

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## CREC Chair's Letter

Dear CREC Community,

As we embark on another year together, I am hopeful that you all found some expansive moments this summer to nurture yourself, rest, heal, and to reconnect with loved ones. This is especially critical as we continue to navigate and respond to new laws and policies that affect the social justice mission of CREC. It is during the most trying times that this support and camaraderie are needed most. As we return from summer, I want to linger on the joyful note we ended last academic year after feeling uplifted by the solidarity, vision, and conviction of our students and faculty fighting to free Palestine from a globally supported genocide. This is not a singular issue but one that demands collaboration with other movements such as BLM, abolition of the police, prisons, military, and border regimes, the war in Sudan, the ongoing settlement of Indigenous lands, and so many more. The commitment to learning during a time when many of our students and faculty moved their energy to the people's university was inspiring, hopeful, and full of joy. At the same time, we realize that many of you return holding the stress and pressures of the arrests, displacement from the campus and your homes, and the disciplinary approach towards our graduate teaching assistants. As a department, we will continue to support the university mission to protect academic speech, to teach diverse perspectives as the present exerts pressure on the past, and to give voices to those with fewer outlets for expressing their perspectives.

On to some wonderful news about CREC. Our department is growing this year in many directions. We are proud to welcome two new faculty: Dr. M. Ty, whose varied research helps us think critically about the rise of the environment as a deeply racial conception, while lingering in the awe of decolonial ecologies where human and the more-than-human dance inseparably, and Dr. Josen Diaz, a scholar of Critical Filipinx Studies, who considers the entangled questions of (neo)colonialism, liberalism, and authoritarianism in the Philippines and the Filipino diaspora. See more about their research and classes in the pages that follow!

We also have several new CREC babies who have joined us this year!! Congratulations to Jennifer Mogannam and baby girl Jenin, micha cardenas and little Ocean Nova, Kriti Sharma and baby Ashoka Bodhi, and Jenny and Marisol's new addition to the CREC family, Nico Simone. Finally, Josen Diaz is expecting a newcomer to her family any minute!

In winter quarter, we hope to invite you to our NEW CREC OFFICE in Humanities I, Suite #403! Our staff are thrilled to soon be in person so come by, say hello, and pick up some newly arrived CREC swag! Keep an eye out for an invitation to our new space for an open house party, winter TBA.

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We are excited about our diverse course offerings this year including courses that will count towards our Science & Justice minor, expected to officially launch fall 2025. We will continue conversations with students and faculty to identify new areas of programmatic development, such as Middle Eastern Studies in CRES.

I also want to thank our leadership team this year for their service: Iokepa Casumbal-Salazar will serve as Undergraduate Director and fahima ife will continue as Black Studies Director. We are also thrilled to welcome our new CRES graduate representative, Stephanie Valadez, a CRES DE who joins us from the Music Department. And we are also thankful for our incredible staff: Taylor Ainslie (Manager), Dejon Barber (Assistant Manager and Program Coordinator), and Domingo Canizales (Undergrad Advisor & Administrator for the Center for Racial Justice (CRJ)).

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2024-25 academic year and to send our colleagues, students, and community our hope for a fiercely transformative year.

In Solidarity and Community,  
Felicity Amaya Schaeffer

## Introducing New Faculty

**Iokepa Casumbal-Salazar** joined the department as an Assistant Professor in January 2024. Iokepa teaches courses on Indigenous politics, settler colonialism, popular culture, intersectionality, and decolonizing methodologies. His research is comparative and relational, focusing on Kanaka Maoli political thought & praxis, as well as Indigenous social movements beyond Hawai'i. Other scholarly interests include Indigenous critical theory, Native feminist theories, postcolonial studies, critical race and ethnic studies, and science and technology studies. Iokepa's book manuscript examines the politics and poetics of Kanaka 'Ōiwi struggle to protect Mauna a Wākea and the movement to stop construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope atop the mountain summit.

**Melisa Casumbal-Salazar** joined the department as a lecturer in January 2024. Dr. Melisa Casumbal-Salazar (siya/she/they) is a Tagalog-Ilokanx born & raised in the Washington, D.C. area to post-1965 migrants. She teaches



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creative writing workshops for CRES that center the work of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Arab & Muslim, Pacific Islander & Asian, feminist, queer & trans, immigrant & undocumented writers. Her literary work embraces experimental & decolonial poetics, & examines the imbrication of white & brown patriarchy, & structural & family violence, in the Philippine diaspora. Her scholarly work includes publications on manggá (mango) in Philippine literature, conceptions of indigeneity in the Philippines, & Cordillera indigenous women's participation in land & water defense during the Martial Law era. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science, an M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies, & an M.F.A. in Creative Writing. Find her recent poems in *Epiphany*, *Kaleidoscoped*, *Hot Pink* & the Nightboat Books anthology *Permanent Record*. She is at work on a poetry collection titled *amihan & dagat eat kamayaan / the north wind & ocean eat with their hands*.

**Josen Masangkay Diaz (she/they)** writes and teaches about race, gender, colonialism, and authoritarianism. Her book, *Postcolonial Configurations: Dictatorship, the Racial Cold War, and Filipino America* (Duke University Press, 2023), analyzes the formation of Filipino American subjectivity through a study of U.S.-Philippine cold war politics. Her writing appears in *Social Text*, *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*, *Signs*, and *Journal of Asian American Studies*, among others. She serves as a section editor for *Lateral*, editorial board member for the *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*, and *Feminist Pedagogy Journal*, and board member for the Association for Asian American Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Literature from UC San Diego and was previously faculty at the University of San Diego and fellow with the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA. She is a founding member of the Asian Solidarity Collective, a grassroots organization in San Diego dedicated to political education and solidarity movements.



**M. Ty** studies how global ideas of race influence environmental knowledge and dispossession. At the same time, their teaching and research gather resources for counter-colonial ways of making sense with our socio-ecological surrounds. As a cultural theorist, Ty writes about the fringes and fissures of critical theory; experimental poetics of color, particularly in their visionary refusal of the brutalities of coercive legibility; the afterlives of scientific racism; the disaster of border regimes and their carceral supports; and contemporary art that comes out of queer and trans practices of survival. They regard laughter as a gateway to abundance.



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## Minor in Science and Justice in Development

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, now due to launch **Fall 2025**. 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.

Several Science and Justice minor courses are being offered this year, ahead of the minor's official launch: **CRES 185**, "Race, Gender, Science" in Fall, **CRES 12**, "Science and Justice: A Critical Intro" in Winter, and **FMST 125**, "Race, Sex, Tech" in Spring.

## Samoan Community Development Center Visit to UCSC

On April 9, 2024, forty youths and staff from the Samoan Community Development Center visited our UCSC campus. This program was generously supported by CRES and many other campus organizations. This was the first time that a Pasifika (Pacific Islander) group visited this campus to learn about higher education and they had a wonderful experience. At the end of the day, the youths shared a Samoan language song called "Fa'afeta'i" or a song of deep gratitude with all of us. Their sharing of this song was their honoring of our Pasifika protocols of gratitude and reciprocity and the beautiful song was their gift for our UCSC community to thank us for hosting and welcoming them to our campus. It was a profound and touching moment and all of us had tears in our eyes. Thank you to Professor Fui Numeitolu and to our UCSC communities for coming together to create these changes in our campus community.

Pictured right: Pasifika students and faculty organizers for the Samoan Community Development Center campus visit. Fuifuilupe Numeitolu, center.



## 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](#). Some highlights include:

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**Sophia Azeb** received a 2024 Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association Teaching Excellence award! Last year, she was also busy giving a variety of talks and keynotes: “[Race and the Question of Palestine](#)” panel with Marc Lamont Hill and Abigail Balkan in March, an interview on “[Campus Uproar](#)” with Zach Samalin from WBUR Radio Open Source with Christopher Lydon, and the keynote address at the UC Berkeley Decolonization and the Afterlives of Fanon Conference in May. Sophia will be teaching a new course, CRES 134, “The Afro-Arab World,” in Winter quarter.

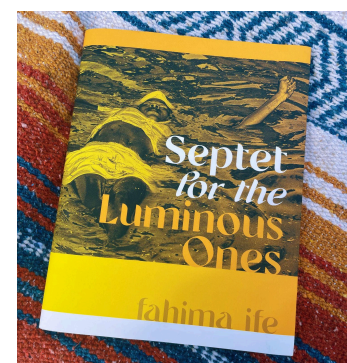
**micha cárdenas** (CRES/Performance, Play, and Design) was elected to the National Council of the American Studies Association. Her book, *Poetic Operations*, received the Honorable Mention for the 2023 ASA DH Caucus Book Prize.

**Camilla Hawthorne** (Sociology/CRES) published [The Black Geographic: Praxis, Resistance, and Futurity](#) (co-edited with Jovan Scott Lewis). She was also awarded a Stanford Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) fellowship for 2024-2025. Camilla will be on sabbatical in 2024-2025.

**Christine Hong** (CRES/Literature) participated in [Ending the Korean War: Political Education and Permanent War](#) at the University of Maryland, College Park and *Disrupting Permanent War: An Anti-Imperialist Detour of the National Mall*, Washington, DC in April 2024. She also received a UC Online Award to develop CRES 153, “A Radical History of the Korean War,” which was first offered in summer 2024. As the Director of the [Center for Racial Justice](#), Christine also organized the second Summer Institute, “Localizing Ethnic Studies: Grassroots Struggles and Community Accountability” in July at the Resource Center for Nonviolence. She will be teaching a new course on “Demilitarizing the University” in Spring quarter.



**fahima ife** published her second poetry collection, [SEPTET FOR THE LUMINOUS ONES](#) (Wesleyan University Press, 2024), which was reviewed in [The Poetry Foundation's](#) Harriet Blog (and other places), she published a chapbook, [ABALONE](#), (Albion Books, 2023). Keep an eye out for information about her book tour taking place later this year!



**Marisol LeBron** organized the [2024 Puerto Rican Studies Association \(PRSA\) bi-annual conference](#) that took place over three days in August 2024. The theme, “Scales of Solidarity,” considered the role of solidarity in building a freer and more just world. During the conference there were panels, workshops, film screenings, performances, amazing food,

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and a *bombazo* that brought musicians from around California to participate. PRSA also collaborated with the Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery to mount an exhibit focused on Puerto Rican communities in California curated by Aurora Levins Morales.

**Jennifer Mogannam** is a UC President's Mellon Early Faculty Fellow and a UCSC pre-tenure faculty writing fellow for the 2024-25 academic year. She recently published a new article titled "[Feminist Intifada: Palestinian Women Through a Century of Organizing](#)" in *Radical History Review*. She has worked tirelessly to support and educate during this period of accelerated genocide of Palestine, speaking to the current moment and historicizing it through teach-ins, podcasts, talks, camp visits, and community organizing. Mogannam will be teaching CRES 101, "Research Methods and Writing in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies" and CRES 173, "Palestine: A History From Below" in Spring 2025.

**Fuifuilupe Niumeitolu** participated in a book manuscript workshop at the American West Center at the University of Utah (photo, left to right: Prof. Annie Fukushima, Prof. Vince Diaz, Prof. Charles Sepulveda, Prof. Kehaulani Vaughn, Prof. Maile Arvin). She also participated in Planting Pasifika & Healing Our Communities, Roundtable & Poetry Reading on February 10, 2024 alongside Lee Kava (Tongan), Ponipate Rokolekutu (Fijian), Alissa Takesy (Federated States of Micronesia), Jean Melesaine (Samoan), Loa Niumeitolu (Tongan), Kim Shuck (Cherokee Nation), and Gregg Castro (Ramaytush Ohlone). This program was a celebration of partnerships and relationships between Pasifika/Oceania communities with Filoli Historic House & Gardens and California Native communities. Filoli Gardens currently hosts a historical Pasifika/Oceania Garden that grows traditional plants---taro, kumara, si and meloni. The garden is a space for learning: Indigenous Pasifika languages, histories, cultural protocols, traditional ecological knowledges and practices, food sovereignty and for cultivating good relations with our Native California relatives. This project is a collaboration between Filoli Historic House & Gardens with faculty representing CRES at UCSC, Critical Pacific and Oceania Studies at San Francisco State University, Pacific Islander Initiative at the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford Pacific Islander Student Association.

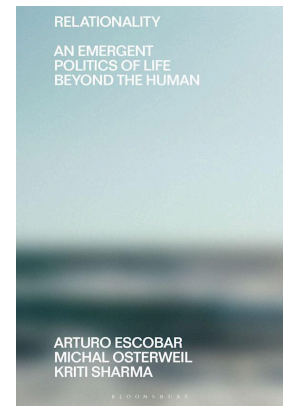


**Felicity Amaya Schaeffer** (FMST/CRES) received an honorable mention for the American Studies Association's 2023 John Hope Franklin Prize for the best book in American Studies published during 2022 for her book, *Unsettled Borders: The Militarized Science of Surveillance on Sacred Indigenous Land*. She also co-authored with Neda Atanasoski a

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chapter, “Good Technology is a Portal to Other Worlds,” in *The Good Robot: Why Technology Needs Feminism* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024).

**Kriti Sharma** co-authored the recently published book *Relationality: An Emergent Politics of Life and the Human* (Bloomsbury UK, 2024) with Arturo Escobar and Michal Osterweil. In this book, the authors contend that the key to constructing livable worlds lies in the cultivation of ways of knowing and acting based on a profound awareness of the fundamental interdependence of everything that exists – what they refer to as *relationality*. This shift in paradigm is necessary for healing our bodies, ecosystems, cities, and the planet at large.



**Alice Yang** (History/CRES) continues to serve as chair of History. She also co-directs the [Center for the Study of Pacific War Memories](#) and Oral History for the [Okinawa Memories Initiative](#). Alice curated the *Never Again is Now: Japanese American Women Activists and the Legacy of Mass Incarceration* exhibit at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose this summer and early fall. Alice was [interviewed by KOED](#) on World War II restrictions on Italian Americans. She continues to conduct oral histories for Densho: the Japanese American Legacy Project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the California Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. She also published the essay “Remembering Japanese American Mass Incarceration at Manzanar’s National Historic Site” in *Conversations in the American Landscape: History, Place, and Justice*. In winter, she is teaching HIS 80Y: “Memories of the Pacific War” with Alan Christy History and a new freshman seminar, HIS 90A: “The Nuclear Pacific.”

## CRES Staff News

### Dejon Barber at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity

Assistant Manager Dejon Barber attended the 36th Annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) in O’ahu in May 2024. Dejon appreciated the opportunity to engage in professional development with more than 4,000 attendees and hundreds of workshop options. She found it reinvigorating to be in community with so many like minded individuals who are committed to creating and sustaining institutional change, including everyone who attended from UCSC.

Pictured right: Dejon Barber (center) with Kylie Rachwalski, Experiential Learning Coordinator (left), and Maya Woolfe, Assistant Director of Student Achievement (right).





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## 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!

### CRES Undergraduate Accomplishments

Two CRES majors were offered 2024-2025 Humanities Public Fellowships as part of the Employing Humanities initiative! **Makayla Nored** was selected as a fellow with the Santa Cruz Poetry Project, and **Jadyn Polk** was selected as a fellow with Save Our Shores.

**Serena Ramirez** received a THI Undergraduate Public Fellow position with the Community Foundation. THI's Public Fellowships connect students in the humanities to projects in the community, with the aim of mutually benefiting students and organizations.

**Emma Baltadano-Bañales** received a CRES research/travel grant to attend the first-ever California Lowrider Holiday:

“As a Chicana who was born into and grew up in the lowriding community, attending the first-ever California Lowrider Holiday in Sacramento, California was a dream come true. This opportunity allowed me to be in community while learning more at the same time. I was fortunate to attend with my little sister which made this experience all the more special. Together we interacted with local vendors and organizations such as Brown Issues, infamous to the Chicano community. While walking around we had several encounters with different photographers who took our picture which ended up being featured on the official California lowrider holiday Instagram page. Lowrider legends such as the original creator of the lowrider logo were highlighted at this event which took place in-front of Capitol Mall. The significance of this holiday is to honor the lift of the 1980s cruising ban which criminalized cruising impacting the lowrider community. This event will continue to happen annually in two locations, Sacramento and Los Angeles.”



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## Undergraduate Representatives

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. We will be announcing the 2024-2025 Undergrad Reps soon!

## Graduate Representative

**Stephanie Valadez** is a PhD student in Cross-Cultural Musicology, with a Designated Emphasis in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. Her research is focused on music, dance, and ritual practices of indigenous communities in the Valley of Mexico, Nahuatl linguistics and poetics, cultural production, reinterpretation and appropriation of indigenous expressive culture, colonialism, and decolonial practices. In addition to her academic work, Valadez serves on the UCSC Graduate Student Association Executive Board as the External Vice President. In this role, she serves as a board member of the UC Graduate and Professional Council and as the voting representative of the UC Santa Cruz graduate student body in UC system-wide meetings and decisions. In her free time she practices danza in the Mexica community and performs with the Mecate Ensemble and the Mariachi Ensemble at UCSC.



She recently received the award for “Best Presentation of the Arts Division” for her talk at the 2024 Graduate Symposium, titled “(Mis)translation and Appropriation: Indigenous Resilience in Colonial Reverberations.” Congratulations, Stephanie, and thank you for serving as the 2024-2025 grad rep!

## 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 2024 recipients include **Leonard Butingan, Robin Gabriel, Boyeong Kim, Johannes Juzmich, Lalu Ozban, and Marina Segatti**. Congratulations!

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## Congratulations to our Graduated CRES DEs!

CRES is so proud of all of our 2023-2024 CRES DE graduates: **Lani Hanna** (Feminist Studies), **Theresa Hice-Fromille** (Sociology), **Kelsey McFaul** (Literature), **Gabriel Mindel** (History of Consciousness), and **Erick Msumanje** (Film)!

**Lani Hanna** (Feminist Studies) is co-editing a book on Cuba's political design organization OSPAAAL and Tricontinental magazine/bulletin. The book, *Armed by Design*, comes out in Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English in January 2025 through Common Notions Publishing. **Theresa Hice-Fromille** (Sociology) is now Assistant Professor of Geography at The Ohio State University. **Gabriel Mindel** (History of Consciousness) is currently visiting faculty on the MFA in Visual Studies at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

## 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...

### FALL 2024

#### **CRES 179A - Critical Filipinx Poetics: A Workshop for Reading and Writing Poetry (Melisa Casumbal-Salazar)**

Students will explore the aesthetic and critical engagements of Filipina/o/x poets, analyze authors' prosody and craft, and explore thematization of migration, family, violence, culture, history, and agency. How do Filipinx poets address racialization, gendering, sexuality, class, and citizenship? What are their commitments to place, the divine, multilingualism, and the natural world? Students also write and workshop poems.

### WINTER 2025

#### **CRES 12 - Science and Justice: A Critical Introduction (M. Ty)**

We will learn to critically analyze the entanglements of technoscience with systemic injustice, and to creatively imagine and practically enact new ways of producing knowledge – including new approaches to science and technology – that support the mutual flourishing of the broadest possible range of lives.

#### **CRES 134 - The Afro-Arab World (Sophia Azeb)**

This course accounts for the racial heterogeneity of the “Middle East.” Ranging from the Maghreb, the Levant and Gulf, the Middle East is also a political construct of myriad

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histories and processes of enslavement, displacement, racialization, domination and resistance. Many of these processes precede European colonization, merged with imported Euro-American racial ideologies, and continue to reverberate in the region. This class will focus specifically on how blackness as a racial, cultural and political identity is forged, understood and contested along this vast terrain, attending to how articulations of Black being and blackness continue to be translated and lived to this day.

### **CRES 179C - Artist Workshop (Melisa Casumbal-Salazar)**

Students will create compelling nonfiction essays combining personal experience, research, & narrative craft. How do we address settler occupation, colonial extraction, carceral violence, migrant dehumanization, climate crisis, misogynist assaults, & anti-trans & anti-queer hatred, while also celebrating solidarity, culture, & connection? We examine creative nonfiction forms such as the flash essay, memoir, braided essay, reported essay, & hybrid essay.

### **CRES 206 - Studying with Ancestors (M. Ty)**

This graduate seminar is an experiment in reclaiming a small patch of the university as a space for studying with ancestors. We will reflect on how practices of ancestral relation have informed anti-colonial rebellions and subsequent struggles against racial capitalism. We will also investigate how European colonial modernity reproduces itself through the brutal regulation of ancestral knowledge. A transnational archive of art, seed, film, and social theory will guide students in thinking collectively about their own practices of study –and how they might channel or divert the currents of the past.

### **SPRING 2025**

### **CRES 173 - Palestine: A History from Below (Jennifer Mogannam)**

Offers a chronological trajectory of more than 100 years of Palestinian history from the diverse perspectives of Palestinians as knowledge producers in the transnational community. (GE Code: ER)

## **Interested in Majoring in CRES?**

We would love to welcome you to our community! 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.



**Scan Me!**