

Participant Bios

Sami Abed is a Palestinian-American organizer/activist with a wide range of experience in working on issues of social justice in the Middle East. He is a co-founder and core organizer of the Palestine-Israel Action Committee, a Santa Cruz community-based group that works on the Palestine/Israel conflict in conjunction with the Resource Center for Nonviolence. He has served as an organizer of UCSC's student group, the Committee for Justice in Palestine, for nearly six years.

Xamuel Bañales is a faculty member of the Ethnic Studies program at Northern Arizona University. His research interests include Decolonial Thought, Gender and Sexuality, and Youth Activism and Social Movements.

Boian Boianov is a graduate student in the Anthropology department at UCSC. He has been involved with the Palestine solidarity movement as a student and an activist and is a current member of UCSC's Committee for Justice in Palestine.

Cindy Cruz is an assistant professor of education whose research focuses on youth resistance, pedagogy, and testimonial narratives in urban educational spaces, with particular attention paid to the life experiences of LGBTQ street youth. She is also engaged in the conversation of how we represent youth of color in educational research, where deficit and other culture of poverty models often divest youth and their communities of agency or naturalize discourses of criminalization and poverty.

Gina Dent is an associate professor of Feminist Studies, History of Consciousness, and Legal Studies at UC Santa Cruz. Her forthcoming book *Anchored to the Real: Black Literature in the Wake of Anthropology* is a study of the consequences—both disabling and productive—of social science's role in translating black writers into American literature. Her two current book projects grow out of her work as an advocate for human rights and prison abolition: *Prison as a Border*, on prisons and popular culture, and *Movement in Black and Red: The Life of Charlene Mitchell*, an oral history and memoir.

Carolyn Dunn, PhD. is an American Indian artist of Cherokee, Muskogee Creek, and Seminole descent on her father's side, and is Cajun, French Creole, and Tunica-Biloxi on her mother's. Her work has been recognized by the Wordcraft Circle of Storytellers and Writers as Book of the Year for poetry (*Outfoxing Coyote*, 2002) as well as the Year's Best in 1999 for her short story "Salmon Creek Road Kill", Native American Music Awards (for the *Mankillers* cd *Comin to Getcha*) and the Humboldt Area Foundation.

Corrina Gould is a Chochenyo and Karkin Ohlone woman, born and raised in Oakland, CA, the village of Huichin. She is the mother of three children and grandmother to two. She is the Co-Founder and Lead Organizer for Indian People Organizing for Change, a small non-profit that works on Indigenous people issues as well as sponsoring an annual Shellmound Peace Walk to bring about education and awareness of the desecration of the sacred sites in the Greater Bay Area.

Sandra Harvey is a PhD candidate at UCSC in the Politics department, with a designated emphasis in Feminist Studies. She is currently writing about the production of discourses on black female sexuality in genomics and has collaborated with the CRES student working group since 2012.

Christine Hong is an assistant professor of literature at UC Santa Cruz, where she has organized, with students, faculty, and staff, for Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. Her book project, "Blurring the Color Line: Racial Fictions, Militarized Humanity, and the Pax Americana in the Pacific Rim," examines the racial politics of the Pax Americana, the U.S. military "peace" that restructured the Asia Pacific following Japan's Pacific War defeat.

Michael James has been practicing and developing popular education since 1979. He was mentored by Paulo Freire and Myles Horton, and his projects have been part of an international community of practices that include the Highlander Center of Tennessee and IDEPSCA of Los Angeles, California. He currently trains and assists organizations and educators developing their theory and practice.

Monica Jones is a trans activist and sex worker rights advocate who lives in Phoenix; she is also a student at Arizona State University (ASU) School of Social Work.

Nancy Kim is the Director of the Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center and Associate Managing Director of the Resource Centers at UCSC. A Banana Slug for life, she received her B.A. in American Studies with an emphasis in Ethnic Studies from UC Santa Cruz, and completed her M.A. degree in Asian American Studies from UCLA, before returning to Santa Cruz.

Lara Kiswani is a Palestinian and Bay Area native who has been active on issues of war and militarism, Arab feminisms, student organizing, and immigrant rights. She earned an MA in Education with an emphasis on equity and social justice at SFSU where she examined Palestinian American youth identity, language, and decolonization. She is currently the Executive Director of the AROC (the Arab Resource and Organizing Center) in San Francisco.

Ivan Medina serves as the Organizing Director for the Student Union Assembly at UC Santa Cruz, where he works to support the IGNITE campaign against the school-to-prison pipeline, advocating for a prioritization of diversity in education.

Tash Nguyen works as an activist with Sin Barras ("no [prison] bars," in Spanish), a community-based group out of Santa Cruz, building coalitions to eradicate the prison-industrial complex.

Marcia Ochoa is Associate Professor of Feminist Studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz. An ethnographer of media, Ochoa's work focuses on the role of the imaginary in the survival of queer and transgender people in Latin America, and the place of these subjects in the nation. She is a founder and advisor to El/La Para TransLatinas, a social justice project for transgender Latina immigrants in the Mission District of San Francisco, CA.

Otilio "O.T." Quintero is the assistant director of Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos (SCBU), which works to prevent youth violence by providing educational and leadership development training. Quintero aided in the development of the National Coalition of Barrios Unidos (NCBU) and Homies Unidos chapters in El Salvador and Nicaragua, and won the California Wellness Peace Prize in 2005.

Sadie Reynolds the founder of the Inside Out Writing Project, an all-volunteer program that brings writing workshops into the Santa Cruz County Maximum Security Jail. Reynolds teaches in the Sociology and Academy for College Excellence (ACE) programs at Cabrillo College and trains community college educators nationally to teach ACE's transformative curriculum.

Misty Rojo serves as the Program Coordinator for California Coalition for Women Prisoners. She comes to this work having been incarcerated for ten years in a California prison where she worked with CCWP and Justice Now, becoming one of Justice Now's founding board members where she still serves. Her work focuses on policy, campaign, and communications to affect change and coalition building, using the framework of prison abolition and reproductive justice.

Jasmine Syedullah is a doctoral candidate at UC Santa Cruz in the Politics Department with a designated emphasis in Feminist Studies and History of Consciousness. Jasmine joined the student struggle to establish ethnic studies at UCSC in 2011 in response to growing undergraduate demand and the first annual conference of the Critical Ethnic Studies Association at Riverside.

Jess Whatcott is a member of the CRES student working group and is currently pursuing her PhD in Politics at UC Santa Cruz. She previously organized with Bar None doing prisoner solidarity work, with anti-domestic violence and sexualized violence organizations, and with Humboldt County Teen Court.

Tierney Yates has been a leader in the fight against racial inequality in higher education and student success as a student activist on the campus of SJSU. As the previous Black Student Union President and the co-founder of Black Unity Group, Tierney has made it his mission to make the African American voice heard and increase retention and graduation rates for African American and Latino students.

Students Informing Now is a student organization at UC Santa Cruz dedicated to the advancement of undocumented and documented students. The group uses narrative and stories to build a collective community around immigrant rights and uses Paulo Freire's popular education as an organizing model.

Doing Critical Race and Ethnic Studies in a Neoliberal Age



UC Santa Cruz
June 6 & 7, 2014

Friday, June 6

- 4:00pm Welcome**
Sandra Harvey, *CRES Student Working Group*
- 4:10pm Blessing**
Corrina Gould, *Indian People Organizing for Change*
- 4:20pm State of CRES and Report Back from Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA) Conference**
Jasmine Syedullah, *CRES Student Working Group*
- 4:30 - 6:30pm Discussion I: The Prison Industrial Complex & The Public University**
Facilitator: Gina Dent, *Feminist Studies*
Participants: Sadie Reynolds, *Sociology, Cabrillo College*; O.T. Quintero, *Barrios Unidos*; Misty Rojo, *Justice Now*; Tash Nguyen, *Sin Barras*; Ivan Medina, *IGNITE*



This symposium is presented by the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Research Cluster, with generous support from the Division of Humanities; Graduate Student Association; UC Presidential Chair in Feminist Critical Race and Ethnic Studies; UC Center for New Racial Studies; Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Stevenson College; and the Departments of American Studies, History, Literature, and Politics. Support provided by Institute for Humanities Research.

Image: LA PROMESA DE LOMA PRIETA: QUE NO SE REPITA LA HISTORIA (THE PROMISE OF LOMA PRIETA: THAT HISTORY NOT REPEAT ITSELF), the University of California at Santa Cruz, Oakes College Mural, by Juana Alicia ©1992. All rights reserved. Photo by Aleixo Gonçalves.

Saturday, June 7

- 9:30am Welcome and Coffee**
William Ladusaw, *Dean of Humanities*
- 10:00am-noon Discussion II: Militarization, Criminalization, and Racial and Gender Violence**
Facilitator: Christine Hong, *Literature*
Participants: Lara Kiswani, *Arab Resource & Organizing Center*; Sami Abed, *Resource Center for Non-Violence*; Boian-Christoph Boianov, *Committee for Justice in Palestine*; Tierney Yates, *Black Unity Group, San Jose State*; Marcia Ochoa, *El/La Para Translatinas*; Monica Jones, *Sex Worker Outreach Program Phoenix*
- 12:00 - 1:30pm Lunch**
Humanities 1, Room 210
- 1:30 - 3:30pm Discussion III: Political Education and Activist Knowledges**
Facilitator: Cindy Cruz, *Education*
Participants: Nancy Kim, *Asian American & Pacific Islander Resource Center and Ethnic Resource Centers*; Carolyn Dunn, *American Indian Resource Center*; Corrina Gould, *Indian People Organizing for Change*; Xamuel Bañales, *Ethnic Studies, North Arizona University*; Michael James, *Popular Education 2.0*; Shaila Ramos, David Padilla, Mayra Chavez, and Marjory Ruiz, *Students Informing Now*
- 3:30pm Coffee Break**
- 4:00 - 5:30pm Closing Discussion: Envisioning CRES on Campus and Beyond**
Facilitators: Marcia Ochoa and Jessica Whatcott
- 5:30 - 7:00pm Closing Reception**
Humanities 1, Room 210

Questions for Discussion

Discussion 1:

- What can we do with/in the institutions in which we find ourselves (universities, prisons, NGOs, schools, etc) to dismantle the prison industrial complex?
- What alliances can activists located in various institutions (prisons, non-profit industrial complex, law, university) form to practice prison abolition?
- What role can/does knowledge production play in challenging the prison?
- What needs to be done in the university to make the “schools not prisons” slogan tenable?

Discussion 2:

- How do policies of criminalization, militarization and securitization (such as terror-baiting of anyone perceived to be Muslim, Arab, or Middle Eastern; the dehumanization of undocumented people) structure and intersect with our particular areas of activist work, the forms of racial and gender violence around which we organize? What have been the costs of speaking out and organizing?
- What forms of “knowledge” have played a role in the policing, criminalization, and securitization of non-white, queer, and radical communities -- and how do we work to challenge and counteract these violent processes and practices?
- What is the role of Ethnic Studies in responding to, understanding, and organizing against these acts of criminalization and racial violence on campus and in the community?

Discussion 3:

- How can CRES practice activist knowledges in university spaces, create opportunities for activist research, and dismantle the barriers between activists/activism and scholars/scholarship?
- What does it mean to center activist knowledge outside of conventional university knowledge?
- How might a melded activist/scholar praxis challenge conventional forms of knowledge production?