WELCOME TO ETHNIC STUDIES AT 51: A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. JUANA MARÍA RODRÍGUEZ

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 promise to make a better world, there is a risk that we do not take the actions necessary to get there.

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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 our courts, and in every corner of society. These are obligations and commitments we undertake with love in the spirit of mutual 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 daring 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 our 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 community. These outstanding achievements include two MacArthur Awards, a Pulitzer Prize, and two Guggenheims 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. Prof. Beth Piatoe 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 Palaz is working with Cal Bears in the Desert Alumni to offer academic support and mentorship to 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, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer about the pandemic, racial scapegoating, and risks to essential workers; 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 sensibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic; and Ethnic Studies lecturer Hatem Bazian helped organize a four-day series of panels on Palestinian and Western intellectuals. 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 students get the academic and personal 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.

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.

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Beating exceptional, setting the bar on what constitutes outstanding impactful research, Dr. Shari Huhndorf has redesigned a course that specifically targets those in the global South who are impacted by issues of land use and occupation, and our department’s commitment to an ethical and politically engaged research agenda is a defining characteristic of our Department at Berkeley. 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 who can engage with the urgent demands of our time. 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 rooted 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.
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/Studies program, Ethnic Studies and help address the needs of our increasingly diverse and extractive economies. Prof. Um’s contributions 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 under-served community.

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 Latinx 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 trusted 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 everyone and everything stays connected in this new remote environment.

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 Pirotte’s beautiful mixed-genre creative work, The Beadworkers, published by Counterpoint Press. This gorgeous collection has been recognized and short-listed for a 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 our exciting and timely new volume in Asian Diaspora Studies edited by Professor Lok Siu and her co-editor Khachig Tölöyan: Chinese Diaspora: Its Developments in Global Perspective, published by The Zoryan Institute. Congratulations to two stellar Ethnic Studies lecturers, Harvey Dong and Lisa Hirai Tsutchi 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.
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.

Associate Adjunct Professor Raymond 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!

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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 Pham received the Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship and the 2020 UC Berkeley Outstanding GSI Award.

Melanie Plasencio 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.
OUR FABULOUS ETHNIC STUDIES LIBRARIANS ARE HERE TO HELP!

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.

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

Asian American and Comparative Ethnic Studies Librarian
Sine Hwang Jensen
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Native American Studies Librarian
Melissa Stoner
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Ethnic Studies Liaison, Main Library
Corliss Lee
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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, Chicano, 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. The library exhibit Whose University? The 50th Anniversary of the Third World Liberation Front Strike, on display at the Bernice Layne Brown Gallery in Doe Library from March-August 2019, brought the story of the TWLF to life through archival documents, photographs, and audio recordings from the Ethnic Studies Library and Bancroft Library. 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.
Mari Bandoma Callado, Class of 2006, Ethnic Studies Major and Education Minor

I am a Senior Associate Attorney at Dolan Law Firm, P.C. 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 suits. 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 and 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 anti-systemic 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
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. 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 provided me the lens in which 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.

Cynthia Eagleton, Class 1980, Ethnic Studies Major

I am a 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 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://adulteducationmatters.blogspot.com/). My time in the Ethnic Studies department was a chance to make a difference in the lives of students, to make a meaningful change in the way they see the world.

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.

Jacklin Thio My Hh, 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 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.

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 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 wasco-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.

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. I co-teach classes on recognizing and reducing 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.

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

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

I am currently a Cultural Studies

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 America 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 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 and 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.
interest in academic research, high-quality scholarly work and underserved communities. Ethnic Studies helped define my identity and was a formative experience; it was my undergraduate student at Berkeley, Studying Ethnic Studies as an "Life in the United States." Scholars Theorize Undocumented Not Dreamers: Undocumented Press. The book is titled 2020, I will be publishing a book Harvard and Berkeley. In July, my top choices, including Yale, Harvard and Berkeley. In July 2020, I will be publishing a book. My YouTube channel 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. 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 also 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 one day honor the teachings of those who came before me. My Ph.D. is in a different field, 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.
I am proud to know that this journey began with my decision to attend UC Berkeley.

I am the author of Gravities of Center (Arikapelago 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.

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 soon followed by 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! 

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 graduated as a CalSERVE senator, majoring in Ethnic Studies, and working in Urban Planning during my time as a CalSERVE senator, majoring in Urban Planning during my time in Phi Beta Kappa Society. I am living proof that it’s never too late to start something new. I came 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.

Haku Hakul! 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 work 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.

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

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

Caro Vera, Class of 2014, Ethnic Studies and Chicano Studies Double Major

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 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
**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 Donorate 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. 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 2019-2020, 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 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. I am also a Black 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.

**Annie Isabel Fukushima, Graduation Year: 2012**

I am an Assistant Professor of Ethnic 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. My preparation in Ethnic Studies has also shown me that my research and profession. I am an Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies and Native American Student Alliance. For 2019-2020, 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 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 Yarbrough 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.
I am an Associate Professor of 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.

My scholarly activism has led to research collaborations with students to conduct studies on the Latino labor experience 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 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 for a range of courts -immigration, civil, and criminal.

In addition to the feedback I received from my committee members, Shari, Cathy, Michael, and Weihong Bao in Film Studies, I also worked-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.

Vernadette Vicuña Gonzalez, Graduation Year: 2004
I am an Associate Professor of 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.

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My training in Ethnic Studies has provided 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 Tuhiiwi 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 worked-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.

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 Tuhiiwi 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 worked-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.

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Tasha R. Baafi (Mukí’ówówa’ Nakóta), Graduation Year: 2019
I am a University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles in the Department of Ethnic Studies. 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 Khanna, 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 Piato, 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 be exploited by those in power, and this is different 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.

*Ami Leaseet, 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)Silenced: The Past: Narratives of Trauma in Comparative Perspective Symposium, sponsored by the United States Holocaust Museum and the University of New Mexico. I current serving 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 Ngils Lu, Graduation Year: 2019*

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 counsel students on possible career paths, at the same time 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.

*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 publications that place Indigenous museums, and producing publications that place Indigenous community perspectives at the heart of the narrative.

*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.

*Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, Graduation Year: 2006*

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 Caregivers 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 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.

*Abacel Salazar Parreñas, Graduation Year: 1998*

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books of poetry and the co-editor of five anthologies. Recent work includes the poetry collection from unincorporated territory (jukao) (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.

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.

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 National Science Foundation. 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 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 Americaness.

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 Julian 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, Puta 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.
Indeterminate Natures argues to ice in Alaska and the Arctic. Indigeneity in Ice-Geographies 2020. My current book project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August 2020. My current book project 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, performance, and policy. My current book project includes Indigenous knowledge in educational and carceral contexts. I have 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 internationally 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.

To see more pictures from our 50th anniversary event: Fifty years of igniting the future go to our department’s website, and look under news and events. Thanks again to all who were able to join us!

Jen Rose Smith, Graduation Year: 2010
I am a dAXunhyu’ (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 argues to ice in Alaska and the Arctic. Indigeneity in Ice-Geographies 2020. My current book project 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...
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.