



DEPARTMENT OF
ETHNIC STUDIES
AT UC BERKELEY



CONTENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT	2
CHAIR JUANA MARÍA RODRÍGUEZ	3
KEYNOTE ARTIST FOR THE 2020 ETHNIC STUDIES GRADUATING CLASS	4
DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS, SENIOR HONORS THESIS & THESIS PROJECTS	6
DEPARTMENTAL STAFF	9
ETHNIC STUDIES LIBRARY STAFF	10
FACULTY	12
ADJUNCT FACULTY & LECTURERS	19
GRADUATES	25
BACHELOR OF ARTS	29
UNDERGRADUATES	30



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT UC BERKELEY SITS ON THE UNCEDED TERRITORY AND HOMELAND OF THE OHLONE PEOPLE. WE AFFIRM INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY AND RECOGNIZE THE WAYS THAT EACH OF US CONTINUES TO BENEFIT FROM THE USE AND OCCUPATION OF THIS LAND SINCE THE INSTITUTION'S FOUNDING IN 1868. IN OUR UNIQUE ROLE AS ETHNIC STUDIES SCHOLARS, WE AFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO HOLD THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE NEEDS OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TO MAKE VISIBLE NATIVE PEOPLES' CULTURES, HISTORIES, AND ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD AROUND US.



Congratulations to the Ethnic Studies 2020 Graduates!

Dr. Juana María Rodríguez
Professor and Chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies

As Department Chair, it is my role to deliver a farewell address to the Ethnic Studies Graduates of 2020, to celebrate all that you have accomplished, and to send you off into the next phase of your life with words of inspiration and wisdom. I know that for so many of you, graduating from UC Berkeley is an achievement not only for yourself, but for those who came before you who never had that opportunity and whose dreams and aspirations you carry forward. In another moment, I would be in my own doctoral gown, taking selfies with students, greeting Nanas, Papas and Abuelas, telling your family what a terrific student you were or explaining all that you can do with your newly minted Berkeley degree. However, the world and this moment look very different from what we hoped it would be. And still we rise.

We rise because as Ethnic Studies scholars we are uniquely positioned to respond to this current convergence of crisis – the COVID pandemic—and the global pandemic of militarized state violence against Black, Indigenous, and immigrant populations in prisons, in detention centers, and in the streets. We rise because we are a community dedicated to using the lessons of history to work toward eradicating injustice, reducing harm and amplifying all that is nurturing and good in the world. We rise because there is so much work to do, but also because there is so much living, loving, and learning to do.

Everyday I am inspired by the imagination, resilience, courage, and joy that I see my students bring to this work of living, loving, and learning. I value the ways you take care of each other while also holding close the concerns of others a world away. I love how you mix up art, ideas, music, politics, performance, and language to create vibrant new forms of communicating. And I have the deepest respect for the ways you are willing to translate the difficult conversations we have in our classrooms back to other spaces of community in all of the languages that we speak. These interdisciplinary skills, these intersectional investments, these unique commitments to learning new ways to imagine the world are core to the work that we do in Ethnic Studies. More than any other class in history, the Ethnic Studies class of 2020 has already demonstrated that you are ready for the challenge because the challenge is here and together we are rising to meet it.

Congratulations to the Ethnic Studies Graduating Class of 2020. Rise and Shine!



Keynote Artist for the 2020 Ethnic Studies Graduating Class

Alberto Ledesma
Graduate Diversity Director
Arts and Humanities Department, UC
Berkeley

Alberto Ledesma grew up in East Oakland, California and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from UC Berkeley, where he earned a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies in 1996. He is a former faculty member at California State University, Monterey Bay, and a visiting Assistant Professor in Chicana Studies at UC Berkeley. He has also held several staff positions at UC Berkeley during the last few decades, including Director of Admissions at the School of Optometry and Writing Program Coordinator at the Student Learning Center. His current position is as Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in the Arts and Humanities. As a writer, he has published academic articles, poetry, and short stories in such venues as *Con/Safos: A Chicana/o Literary Magazine*, Gary Soto's Chicano Chapbook Series, and *The Berkeley Poetry Review*. His essays have also appeared in *ColorLines*, *New American Media*, and *The Harvard Journal of Education*. He is also a past member of Sandra Cisneros's Macondo Writers Workshop and the Voices of Our Nations Artists Writers Workshop. His most recent book is *Diary of A Reluctant Dreamer*.

There are so many people who are so tremendously proud of what you have achieved and who are looking forward to all of the things you will be doing from here on. Were it not for this terrible health crisis, we would be there next to you expressing our appreciation for all of your hard work. And especially for those of you who are first in your families to receive your degrees, please know that our admiration and pride is no less intense just because there is no public ceremony.

Congratulations!



DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS, SENIOR HONORS THESIS & THESIS PROJECTS

DEPARTMENTAL CITATION

VOULETTE HATTAR

LING-CHI WANG “EMPOWERING COMMUNITY” LEADERSHIP AWARD

CHELSEA LEE

SENIOR HONORS THESIS

VANESSA VAZQUEZ OCHOA (Chicano Studies)

“A Glimpse Into the Home of Womyn of Color: How Literature & Art Allows a Glimpse Into the Trauma & Healing Spaces of Racially Marginalized Womyn”

Faculty Advisor: Pablo Gonzalez

LUIS ACOSTA-LINARES (Ethnic Studies)

“Un-be(longing)’ truths: Between Struggle and Desire and the Quest for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Autonomy at the University of California, Berkeley”

Faculty Advisor: Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani

FATIMA CASAS (Ethnic Studies)

“Cocinando y Conviviendo con Mami: My Mother-and-Daughter Intergenerational Relationship Across Mexican Cultural Recipes”

Faculty Advisor: Pablo Gonzalez

RAFAEL “YAMIR” GOMEZ-CARRASCO (Ethnic Studies)

Faculty Advisor: Raúl Coronado

VOULETTE HATTAR (Ethnic Studies)

“Safeguarding the Flame from Palestine to the U.S.: Palestinian Political Prisoners and their Role in Social Movements for Racial Justice and Liberation”

Faculty Advisor: Keith Feldman

THERESA CHA FELLOWSHIP

MEGAN XOTCHILT ESPINOZA HERNANDEZ

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR AWARD

SIERRA EDD & NGOC MAI-PHAN

CHELSEA LEE (Ethnic Studies)

“Assessment and (Re)imagination: Student Perspectives on the Current State of Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies ”

Faculty Advisor: Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani

JOCELYN LOPEZ (Ethnic Studies)

“Re-Indigenizing Spaces: How Mapping Racial Violence Shows the Interconnection Between Settler Colonialism and Gentrification”

Faculty Advisor: Beth Piatote

NERINE ORTIZ PON (Ethnic Studies)

Faculty Advisor: Seth Lunine

MICHAEL PAPIAS (Ethnic Studies)

“Why Do You Live with Your Tía/Aunt?: Making Sense of Cultural and Family Identities as a Latinx Foster Youth”

Faculty Advisor: Keith Feldman

NOELIA RAMIREZ (Ethnic Studies)

Faculty Advisor: Pablo Gonzalez

SIMRAN THIND (Ethnic Studies)

Faculty Advisor: Victoria Robinson

VANESSA TRAN (Ethnic Studies)

“Beyond Barriers: Hepatitis B Screening and Vaccination in Asian American Communities across the U.S. ”

Faculty Advisor: Winston Tseng

SENIOR THESIS

PANCHO ANTONIO (Ethnic Studies)

“Mixtec Parents Navigating the K-12 System in Ventura County, California”

Faculty Advisor: Pablo Gonzalez

BRITTANY AYALA (Chicano Studies)

“En la Zona de Batalla: Latina Young Student Mother’s Pathway Towards a Postsecondary Education”

Faculty Advisor: Pablo Gonzalez

ANGELA PHUNG (Ethnic Studies)

“Malina Abella Salud”

Faculty Advisor: Gregory Choy

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF

To the 2020 graduates of Ethnic Studies, Asian American and Asian Diasporic Studies, Native American Studies and Chicano Studies; to your family and friends; we, the staff members extend to each of you heartfelt congratulations on your accomplishments here at UC Berkeley. This time, wrought with challenges unforeseen only months ago, is a significant one. From pestilence to pollution, protests, passion, mayhem, murder, tragedy and change – you’ve witnessed it all, felt it all, and acknowledged it all in ways that would serve to undermine the success we recognize today. You did not break...your spirit did not shatter... your will to succeed did not falter. You’ve been given more than your share of what this world can spew and you persevered. As staff we support, guide, nurture, nag (a little), uplift, lament your slip-ups and celebrate your successes. But each of you work, and write, and craft, and make, and deliver, and try, and win. And then you pivot and begin anew, another adventure, a new chapter.

We are so very proud of you all.

Your Ethnic Studies Staff

Dewey, Jeannie, Keyva, Laura, Latonya, Lauren, and Sandy



Congratulations class of 2020! Getting to know you all has been an amazing experience. As advisers, we have the privilege to meet and engage with each of you on every level. From the moment you arrive in our offices seeking to find a place that feels like home, to planning your academic goals, identifying research and internship opportunities, travel study destinations and ultimately exploring possible careers. You sought our support while you pondered that next academic step and many of you allowed us into your lives as you shared joy, pride, fear and excitement; what a humbling honor! AAADS majors, CS majors, ES majors, NAS majors you are resilient, you are brilliant and the world will see your worth!! GO BEARS! -Laura & Dewey



Left to right, top to bottom:

Sandra Richmond
Director of Administration

Lauren Taylor
Academic HR Analyst

Jeanie Imazumi
Financial Services
Administrator

Keyva Kendall
Program Administrator

Latonya Minor
Graduate Student Advisor

**Laura Jiménez-Olvera &
Dewey St. Germaine**
Undergraduate Student
Advisors





Lillian Castillo-Speed



Sine Hwang Jensen



Sine Hwang Jensen (they/them)

ETHNIC STUDIES LIBRARY STAFF

Thank you to our wonderful library staff for another year of hard work and dedication to our students and the pursuit of knowledge.

Lillian Castillo-Speed | Sine Hwang Jensen | Nathaniel Moore
Neda Salem | Melissa Stoner | Robert Toyama

Melissa Stoner



FACULTY



Thomas Biolsi

Professor

To the Class of 2020:

Congratulations on your new degree from Berkeley Ethnic Studies. Earning a degree from Berkeley is always a big accomplishment--and one that will serve you well in your future!--but finishing your degree in such difficult times makes it all the more a big accomplishment. Having persevered and finished up in 2020 shows a capacity for resilience and commitment that will also serve you well in the future. Please take the best care of yourselves as you know how to, be patient and gentle with yourselves and those around you in trying times. But know that in the end you will get to where you want to be. Graduating from Berkeley in 2020 is already a big part of the road to get there. My absolute best wishes,
Tom Biolsi



Carolyn Chen

Associate Professor

Congratulations Ethnic Studies Class of 2020!!! I've been so lucky to have many of you as my students. You've taught me and you've inspired me through the years. I wish you all the best as you begin the next chapter of your lives. Go out into the world and be the luminous stars that you are!
- Professor Carolyn Chen



Catherine Ceniza Choy

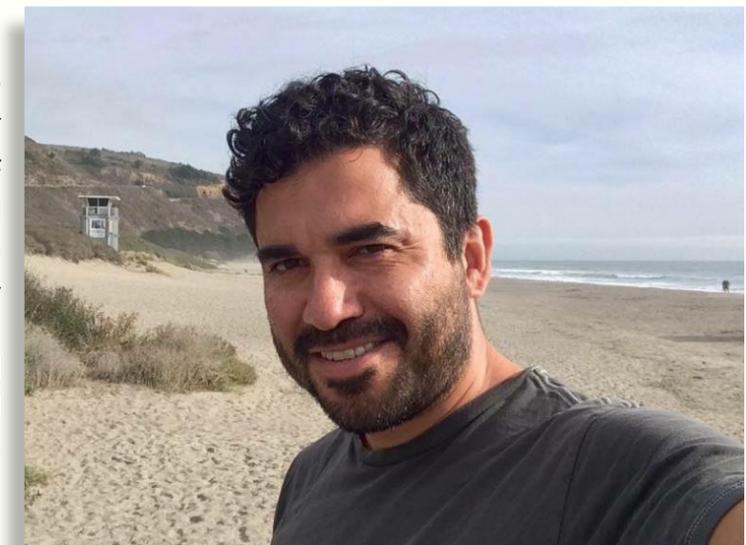
Professor

Congratulations UC Berkeley Ethnic Studies Class of 2020! Your degree is a major achievement. We need ethnic studies now more than ever. Please keep in touch with me through LinkedIn and on Twitter @ccenizachoy

Raúl Coronado

Associate Professor

A very heartfelt congratulations to all of you for all of your hard work. You're going out into a world that will need your skills now more than ever! But even as you continue your great work in transforming our world for the better, remember also to promise not to burn out. Take pauses, allow yourself to relax, do nothing, and appreciate what's around you. It'll rejuvenate you and prepare you for the next task at hand. Sending you much affection!



Chicana Movidas panel



Keith Feldman

Associate Professor

Dear Class of 2020:

You don't need me to tell you that this celebratory moment arrives at a time of much uncertainty. What an unforgettable year. You also don't need a prof to say that this time has invited new connections and new ways to connect, to learn from each other, to study in common. In the face of tectonic shifts, you have so much to be proud of, for you have deepened your capacities to shape ways of relating to worlds around us and within us with intellectual vigor and radical imagination. Take a breath, when in doubt, and remember that. Your degree is a reminder that you're equipped to grasp how this moment is shaped by enduring structural, systemic, and historical forces--essential knowledge for any kind of thorough account of the present. Even more, it means you've committed your energies and intellect to "becoming fluent in eachothers' histories," as M. Jacqui Alexander puts it--to learn from a diverse range of knowledges, practices, traditions, and visions; to hone senses of sociality, relationality, and solidarity; to practice multilingual modes of support and sustenance and care. Fluency comes with practice, of course--may you be inspired to find moments to keep it up. It's been a joy getting to know so many of you. Thank you for all you've brought to our classes, to our campus, to our community. Mazel tov, mabruk, best of luck, and do stay in touch!



Shari Hundorf

Professor

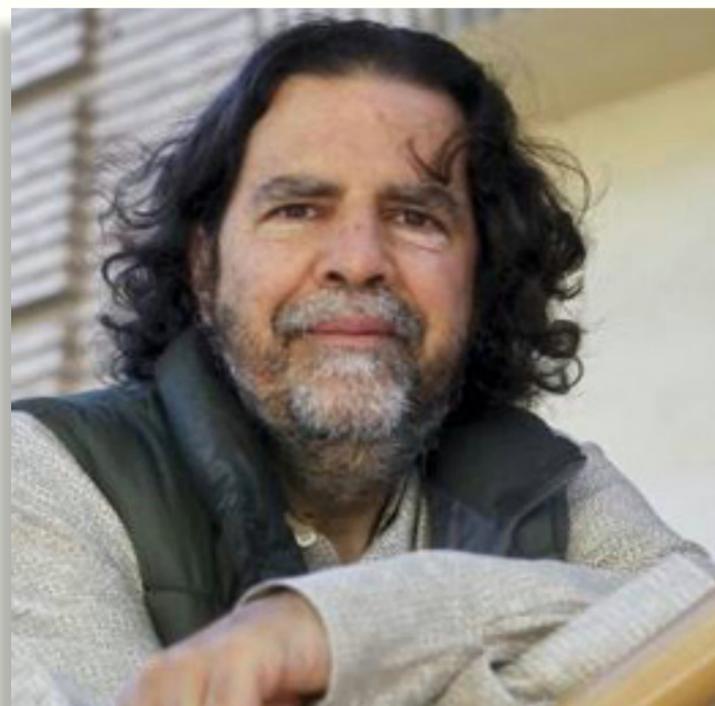
Huge congratulations to our graduates for all you've accomplished, and for persevering during a difficult time to finish your degrees. Your commitment to drawing together intellectual inquiry and social justice have changed our department for the better, and we know you'll change the world. Please keep in touch, You make us proud.

Michael Omi

Associate Professor

Dear ES graduates,

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us." Never in recent memory has this overused quote from Dickens so succinctly captured the glaring contradictions of a political moment. Early on, the COVID-19 pandemic was described as "the great equalizer" that transcended social boundaries, but now it is painfully evident that it has only served to deepen and exacerbate race, gender, and class disparities in healthcare, employment, and access to state resources. The dramatic social upsurge in response to the murder of George Floyd, among other Black lives, has opened up a broader dialogue about policing, mass incarceration, and enduring effects of slavery. The convergence of these crises and issues have profoundly transformed the very political discourse of race. Major corporations now talk about "systemic" and "structural" racism, while symbols of our racist past --- flags, statues, buildings, sport mascots --- are being debated and, in some instances, cast aside. At the same time, obvious to all this, the president has decided to double down on racial resentment in a bid to retain power and maintain white racial hegemony. You graduate in both perilous and hopeful times, and I'm hoping that your engagement with Ethnic Studies has given you some the language, concepts, and philosophies by which to understand and transform our world. It's your turn now.



Ramón Grosfoguel

Associate Professor

Congratulations Ethnic Studies Class of 2020!



Christian Paiz

Assistant Professor

Dear Students,

I hope you are well, and that your communities are finding resilience in these times. I also hope that you will find the role you wish to play in the world. In that effort, I thought Alice Walker’s words from the early 2000s could be of value to you.

Many warm congratulations to you all – Christian

From “All Praises to the Pause” in *We Are The Ones We Have Been Waiting for: Inner Light in a Time of Darkness*:

“The moment when something major is accomplished and we are so relieved to finally be done with it that we are already rushing, at least mentally, into The Future. Wisdom, however, requests a pause. If we cannot give ourselves such a pause, the Universe will likely give it to us. In the form of illness, in the form of a massive mercury in retrograde, in the form of our car breaking down, our roof starting to leak, our garden starting to dry up. Our government collapsing. And we find ourselves required to stop, to sit down, to reflect.”

“It is the pause that gives us this clarity, this certainty. It is our time of gathering vision together, of reminding ourselves of what we want for ourselves and how we want the same for everyone. This is the vision most in danger of becoming extinct in our time: that what we enjoy and want for ourselves is possible for all; that this is the reality we must work toward. The pause, so brief – if only in retrospection – gives us a wonderful intuitive knowing about abundance.”



Beth Piatote

Associate Professor

Congratulations Graduates!

What a pleasure to celebrate your accomplishments. I have enjoyed getting to know you in my classes and seeing the many ways that you orient your lives toward social justice both inside and outside the classroom. I send my warmest wishes to you and your families, and wish you the best in your next steps. Extra encouragement and cheers to all the artists, writers, and teachers among you! Stay true to your passions.



John A. Powell

Professor

Congratulations Ethnic Studies Class of 2020!

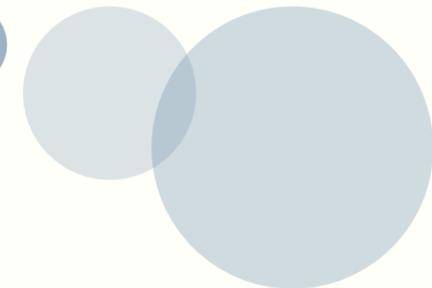
Laura Pérez

Associate Professor

It has been a joy to teach you and learn with you, as it is together that we produce new knowledge. I am hopeful because your courageous commitment to justice and meaningful education and ethical leadership is the light of the future. Wishing you every blessing for your success and well being!



Professor Pablo Gonzalez and Student Student





Lok Siu

Associate Professor

Congratulations to all graduating seniors! This year has been historic in many ways. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of Ethnic Studies, a field that has democratized higher education in the U.S. and the world. We face a global pandemic that has left no one untouched and has changed our way of life from everyday habits to the way we conceive of ourselves on this planet. It also made explicitly apparent the deep inequities that continue to plague Black, Latinx, and Native American communities. We confront widespread violence and xenophobia against Latinx and Asian Americans. We bear witness to one of the most tumultuous periods of this century, as people of all backgrounds come together to struggle for Black racial justice and to imagine a world that recognizes and values the humanity in everyone. Amidst these precarious times, we must find hope, strength, creativity, and resilience. We will emerge stronger and wiser. As the 2020 graduates of Ethnic Studies, you have the knowledge, the tools, and the power to create the social change we so desperately need and want. In you, we see the future. Be brave. Be strong. Be audacious.

ADJUNCT FACULTY & LECTURERS



Jesus Barraza

Lecturer

As this school year ended so many of us felt uncertain about the future, one of the things I am certain of is that we will be alright. We have known struggle in the past, many of us have known it all our lives and still we've thrived against all odds. I feel inspired by this generation of students who are making their way through this university because I know you are preparing yourself for the future. To change this world, working to make sure our communities are not suffering the injustices of this world and that we can thrive together. Like those that came before you, I know you are up for the challenge. I look to this generation of students and know, you got this!



Khatharya Um

Associate Professor

Congratulations on your achievements!
Wishing you the very best on the rest of your journey.
May it be smooth, meaningful, and courageous.

Michael Chang

Lecturer

Ethnic Studies Seniors!

Congratulations on your important accomplishment! I enjoyed sharing our learning adventures together. I know that your final semester did not go as expected, however the resilience you have developed will serve you throughout your life. Your Ethnic Studies knowledge is already providing dividends to you as you apply a critical eye to current events. I hope that you will apply your particular knowledge and analytical skills to continuing to work for equitable access and justice.

If you are back in town and when we can,
let's grab boba in Berkeley.





Gregory Choy

Lecturer

Congratulations 2020 Cal Ethnic Studies graduates! I often tell students in my classes that you will spend far more time remembering your time at Cal than being an undergraduate here. So, your long journey of remembering begins! I hope your memories of being at Cal and being an ES major will always lift your spirits and bring a smile to your face. Though your last semester didn't end the way anyone could have imagined, you have shown yourselves to be resilient, committed, and, as always, impassioned learners. May you further develop and carry those traits into the complicated world that needs your wisdom and leadership. Fiat lux!

Professor Choy



Pablo Gonzalez

Lecturer

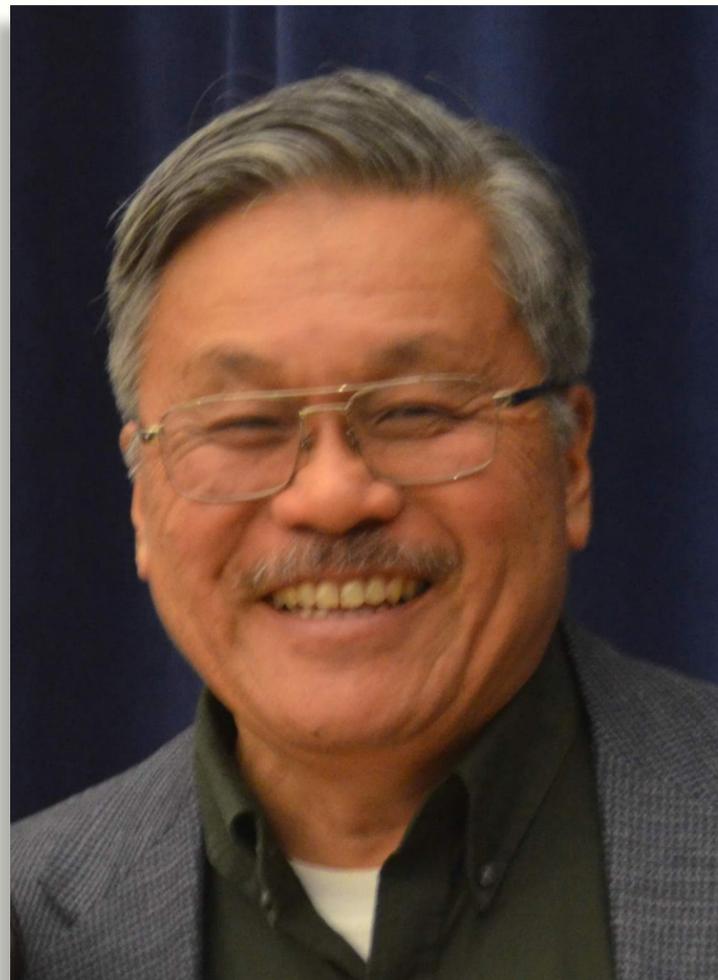
There is very little left to teach you all. And everything to learn from you. Sharpen your tools. Keep building community. Now is the time to change the world without taking power. I am excited and honored to call you all compas. In solidarity, Profe-



Harvey Dong

Lecturer

Congratulations on your graduation. Wishing you well in your academic endeavors and success in your efforts to reshape the world



M(OTHER)WORK Y MOVIDAS Event



Left to right, top to bottom

JoEllen Anderson

Hatem Bazian

John Dougherty

Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani

Joe Lee

Enrique Lima

Joseph Myers

Victoria Robinson

Ray Telles*

Other Outstanding Lecturers

(Not Pictured):

Diane Pearson

Winston Tseng

Bernard Griego

Carmen Martinez-Calderon

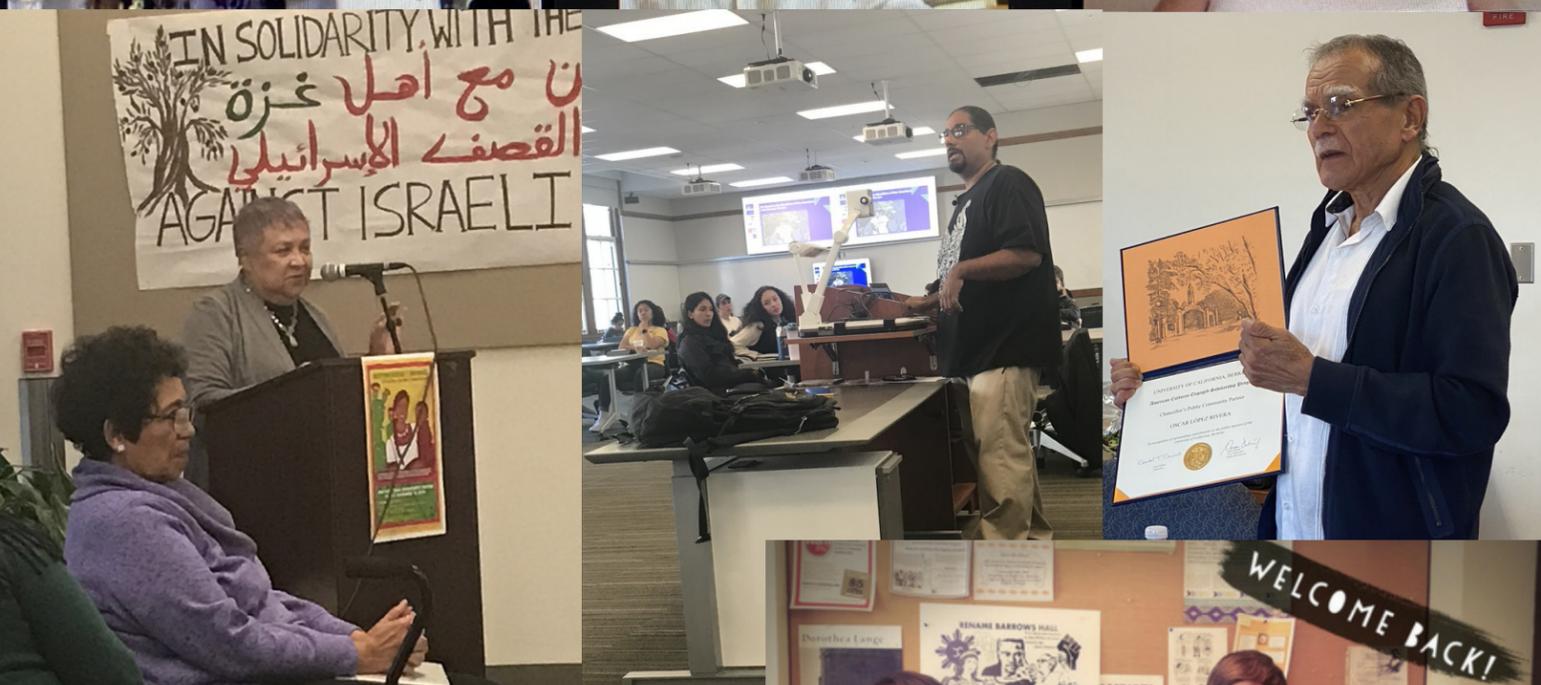
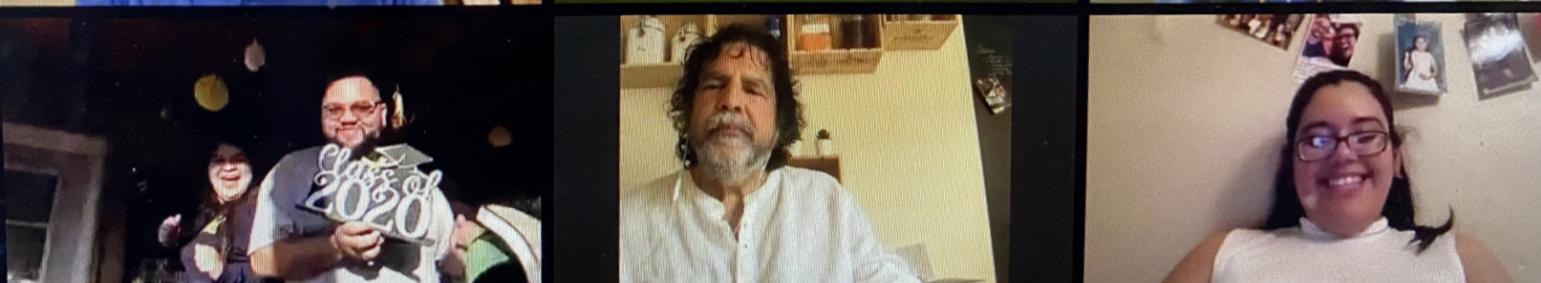
Hannah Michell

Fae Myenne Ng



*Associate Adjunct Professor





GRADUATES



Kira A. Donnell (Fall 2019)

“Orphan, Adoptee, Nation: Tracing the Korean Orphan and Adoptee through South Korean and American National Narratives”

This chapter in my life has been an amazing journey of growth, pain, and love. Such an endeavor is never made alone, and there are so many people who have encouraged me along the way. Many thanks to my dissertation committee, who have been kind, patient, and supporting of me throughout the process. My fellow graduate student peers have provided wonderful feedback, suggestions, and, most importantly, solidarity and community.

Special thanks goes to San Francisco State University’s Asian American Studies department, for fostering my first forays into identity exploration and continuing to support my academic career. This is where my identities as an Asian American, Korean adoptee, and academic were first planted and encouraged to grow. I have been honored to continue to learn from and build relationships with SFSU’s faculty and students as a lecturer and ASPIRE Faculty Research Fellow in the Asian American Studies department.

Thank you to all of my families. Your unconditional love has carried me safely to where I am today, despite the ways in which time and space may separate us. I am who I am because of each and every one of you. To all the Korean orphans and adoptees out there. Thank you for your stories, your spirit, your resilience, and your sacrifices. Thank you for your anger, your grief, your resistance, and your activism. Thank you for your music, your art, your community and your love. This is for us.





Marcelo Garzo Montalvo

“Mitotiliztli Teochitontequiza: Danza Azteca as a Way of Knowing”

“We found love in a hopeless place” - Rihanna

Tlazocamati huel miac, chaltu may, mañum may, gracias, gratitude to the Creator for my life. Thank you to the

ancestors for making this possible, to the elders for your patience and guidance on this path. Thank you to this sacred land/water/place, Huichin, and to my Lisjan, Muwekma, Ohlone relatives for allowing me to be here. Thank you to the Third World Liberation Front -- past, present and future -- for your visions of self-determination, intercommunal solidarity and a transformative, relevant education. Thank you mentors, teachers, staff, faculty, students and peers. When I declared the undergraduate major in Ethnic Studies, as a community college transfer student in Spring 2008, there was a campaign declaring that “Ethnic Studies is Dead.” As I have earned a BA, MA, and now PhD in the department over the past 12 years, I fear that Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley is in danger of becoming, in fact, undead. Institutionalization as neoliberal zombification divides and conquers, isolates, hollows out, and otherwise makes community impossible where there is no basic trust, respect nor mutuality. Nevertheless, we find love in this hopeless place, we find each other as beacons in a settler colonial, white supremacist, heteropatriarchal, genocidal storm. In other words, we resist. I pray we continue to protect and arm ourselves with self-love and kimün, the conocimiento of our ancestors, in this battle for hearts and minds, as the struggle continues...



Sarah A. Whitt

(Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)

Ethnic Studies, Designated Emphasis in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

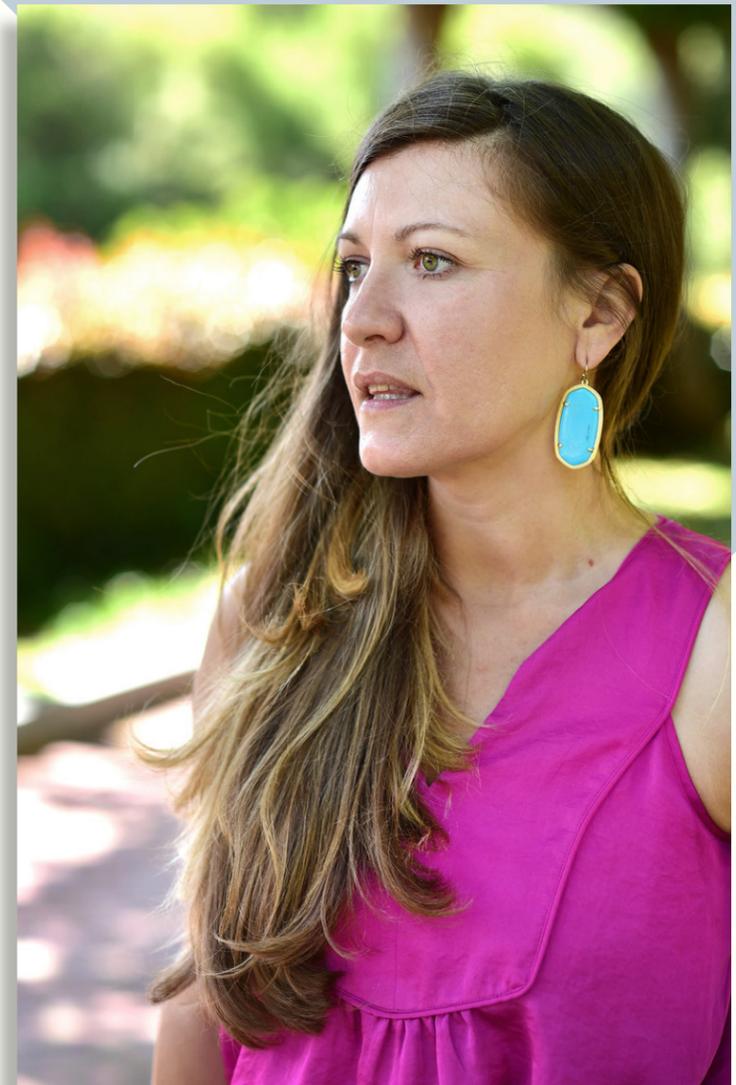
“False Promises: Race, Power, and the Chimera of Indian Assimilation, 1879-1934

In an expression of deep gratitude for those who have sustained me along this PhD journey, I share some of my favorite words written by Two Spirit Menominee poet, activist, and philosopher Chrystos:

“Foolish”

I dance hoot holler coo
 LOOK these clouds these blue blue skies full of deer
 Japanese flowering quince winks me a rosy morning
 We’re beginning! First time arrives with yellow smells
 surprises These friends I planted rise up to embrace me
 All the people are buds
 their hearts whisper cream blue purple
 Time for us to come forward with green lips
 Peas sprout! Corn whinnies! Squash rumbles!
*Here we come Here we come Get ready to
 know us Throw your doors down*
 Here come spiders lambs with round bellies & long legs
 Let’s drink these red throats of song
 LOOK this is the moon of opens wide
 This is the moon of wind who plays
 This is the moon of rain & sun together
 UNFOLD YOUR LEAVES NOW
 we begin

To my family, friends near and far, students, mentors, professors, dissertation committee, staff of Ethnic Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Native American Student Development, and the American Indian Graduate Program, and Native community at Cal: thank you for showing me that with love and courage, anything is possible. To my Choctaw ancestors, and to those who have gone before me, yakoke for lighting the way.





Daniel Woo

Asian Americans in the Cipher: Regional Racial Formation, Hip Hop Aesthetics, and Scenes of Afro Asian Collaboration

Peace to my cipher of loved ones that kept me nourished throughout this journey. I must have done something decent enough in my previous lifetime to be supported by mentors, family, and intellectual companions who love me. Special shout out to my mentors and life coaches, Michael Omi, Elaine Kim, Waldo E. Martin, T. Carlis Roberts, and Lisa Tsuchitani. Y'all really went through it with me, and for that, I am forever grateful. Thank you for treating me with kindness and showing me how to approach my work with purpose and style. Peace and blessings. Love.

CONGRATULATIONS

2020

PHD GRADUATES!



BACHELOR OF ARTS

ASIAN AMERICAN & ASIAN DIASPORA STUDIES

Tammy Cheng* | Ruby Cross* | Justice delos Santos | Kelly Liu
Jacob Huy Ngo | Ronald Rivers | Kelly Wong

CHICANO STUDIES

Adriana Aguilar | Deisy Amezcua* | Yesenia Araiza | Brittany Ayala
Jocelyn Barrera* | Gabriela Cruz* | David Garcia Contreras* | Emma Huerta
Deisy Leanos-Meza | Roxanne Martinez* | Maritza Mendoza Ledezma*
Daniel Moreno | Angela Muñoz* | Arleth Pelayo* | Maria Perez
Antonio Pimentel | Christopher Puga | Carlos Rangel Ramirez | Monique Rojas
Daisy Romero | Raul Rossell* | Natasha Solorio* | Erica Torres
Fernando Valtierra | Vanessa Vazquez Ochoa

ETHNIC STUDIES

Luis Acosta-Linares | Adriana Aguilar | Bahaar Ahsan Martin | Layali Ali Hassan
Daniela Amador | Pancho Antonio | Gabriella Blandino | Itzel Calvo Medina
Fatima Casas* | Cathy Casiquin | Kenia Castro* | Michele Castro | Maya Chan*
Yujane Chen | Scott Christensen | Trevor Christenson* | Alondra Correa Almanza
Jenny Cortez | Kylie Cunningham | Megan Xotchilt Espinoza | Daniel Fuentes
Grace Giangreco* | Erica Gibbons* | Rafael "Yamir" Gomez-Carrasco
Sasha "Sunny" Graham* | Lisa Guerrero-Locklear | Jorge Guitron | Andy Han
Voulette Hattar | Melissa Isais Valencia | Jessica Jimenez | Kiely Lam | Chelsea Lee*
Jenifer Lomeli-Quintero | Jocelyn Lopez | Andrea Luna | Stephanie Luna-Lopez
Katie Ly* | Isabella Marra* | Carla Garcera Naz | Ashley Marbella Noble
Nerine Ortiz Pon* | Diana Palma Resendiz* | Michael Papias | Carolina Paulet*
Angela Phung* | Manny Prunty | Noelia Ramirez | Elizabeth Rivera
Caysie Robertson | Ladislao Rodriguez | Micaela Starr Rougeau | Samuel Salazar
Ricardo Santuario | Jacquelyn Serrano | Jae Won Sim | Won Son
Julissa Tapia | David Temprano* | Simran Thind | Raul Topete
Andres Torres | Vanessa Tran | Alexa Trujillo | Issac Uribe
Vernessa Zermeno*

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

Smoke Johnson | Jenah Lattin | Sarah Medicine Crow
Dustin Murray | Bryce Sattler

(* Denotes Distinction in General Scholarship)

UNDERGRADUATES



Luis Enrique Acosta-Linares

BA in Ethnic Studies

I am a first generation college student. I am queer. I am low-income. I am a student of color from East Palo Alto, CA. In 2016, I began my undergraduate career at UC Berkeley and now here I am four year later graduating with a B.A. in Ethnic Studies and a honors thesis project under my name.

This is for my parents who migrated from El Salvador; I could not have done this without their support. This is for my siblings. This is for all the jardineros y limpiadoras de las casas. This is for all the kids from EPA. This is for the kids who were discouraged from applying to the UC's. Don't listen to your counselors and never prove your validity to anyone but yourself. Here's to finally being a UC Berkeley college graduate!



Adriana Aguilar

BA in Ethnic Studies & Chicano Studies

Congratulations to the class of 2020!

I am grateful for my community, mentors and femtors who helped nurture my growth throughout my time at Cal. I finally finished my 5th year at Cal and I am ready to start graduate school. I will be pursuing a Master in College Counseling at SF State this Fall. I couldn't have done it without the help of my Ethnic Studies and Chicax Studies professors and advisors, EOP and Stiles Hall. To my family and friends, thank you for all of your care, love, and support along the way. Just as my graduation cap says, "My revolution is born out of the love for my people" - unknown



Daniela Amador

BA in Ethnic Studies

Thank you to my family and chosen fam for continuously holding me with so much love. You ground me everyday and remind me we can find joy even in the toughest moments. I love you all!



Deisy Amezcua Tarelo

BA in Chicano Studies & Political Science

I am so glad to have finished this journey at Cal. I especially want to thank my parents, Raul and Silvia, for helping me get to this point and supporting me throughout my four years. I also want to thank all of the amazing friends that I made along the way and who have had the same passion for social justice work. Honestly, my college experience would not have been the same without all the amazing people I met on this campus and within this department. Lastly, I want to thank Pablo Gonzalez for always believing in me and being there for his students when it seemed like no one else cared. I am so grateful for all the experiences and memories I created at Cal. I wish everyone the best of luck!

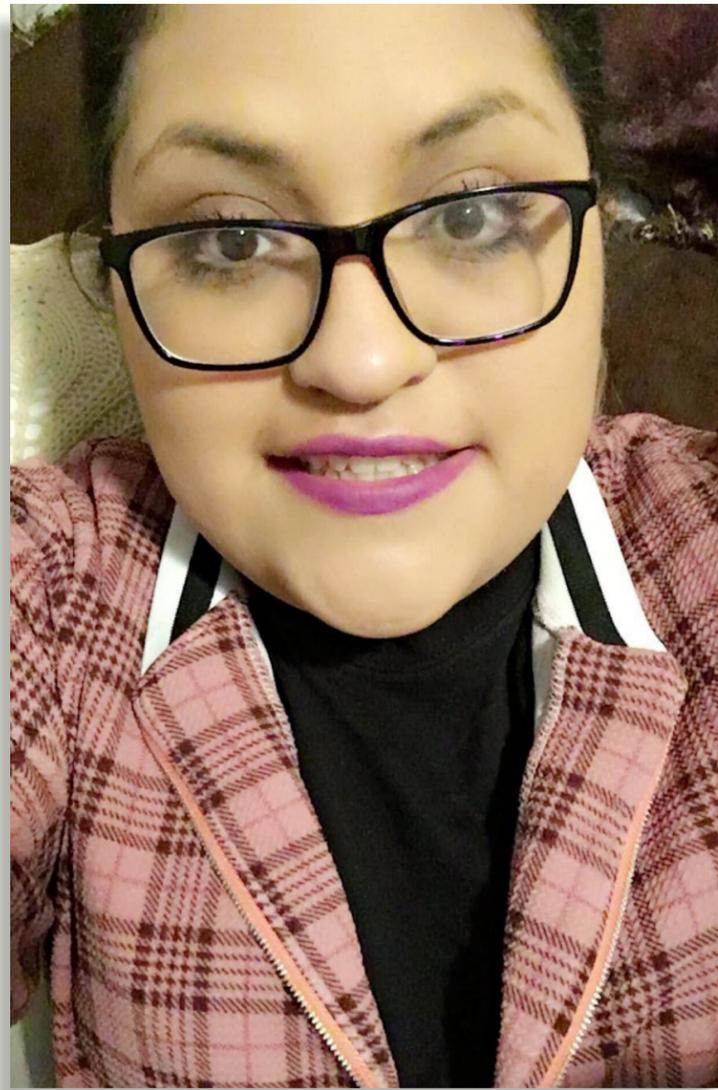




Pancho Antonio

BA in Ethnic Studies; Minor in Education

I am Pancho Antonio, and I grew up speaking Mixtec and Spanish in a poor, Indigenous community in Oaxaca, Mexico. After finishing high school in Mexico with good grades, I did not have financial support to continue my education. Poverty, my parents' lack of education, and a non-existing educational system in my town forced me to escape from my home country and emigrate to the United States (U.S.) in 2005, a journey which temporarily interrupted my studies. I came to this country when I was 19 years old in search of new opportunities. However, because of my circumstances, I was still filled with anger at life, my family, and myself. I realized that my childhood and young adulthood had been continuously set back by misfortune; I transformed those experiences into motivation and ambition for my future. After I got to the United States, I enrolled in Escuela Popular's adult high school in East San Jose. As my language skills improved, I started tutoring adult English learners at my school. I worked for Escuela Popular for seven years and gained valuable experience in the field of education. I transferred to the University of California, Berkeley in the fall of 2017. With a major in Ethnic Studies and a minor in Education, my goal is to become an educational researcher and to work with multiple underserved communities. I believe that if we support each other and unite as communities of color and policy analysts, we can fight powerfully for social justice.



Yesenia J. Araiza

BA in Chicano Studies & Sociology

Congratulations Class of 2020!! Although we are now living in a pandemic state, we must rise up and see that we are capable of planting seeds on the next generation that is before us. Lets stay strong together and work collectively for a better future. As Frida Kahlo have stated, "Al final del día podemos soportar más de lo que creemos."



By Dignidad Rebelde



Brittany Ayala-Mendoza

BA in Chicano Studies & Political Science: Concentration in Theory

Gracias mamá y papá por estar a mi lado durante estos siete años. Ya termine mis estudios. Su nina cumplio la meta que muchos dijeron que no era posible. Espero haberlos hecho sentir orgullosos.

To my son, Kevin. You are my inspiration and motivation and I couldn't be more proud to be your mother. Thank you for your patience, love and kindness #TeenMom. To my ancestors, may you always guide me, protect me, and be with me.

Thank you to every single person who was there during this academic journey. You all hold a special spot in my heart. Thank you to my Lambda Theta Alpha hermanas! I love yall -- Deuce Deuce. To Luisa, Pablo, Dr. Cloward -- you all are the best professors anyone could ask for.

To my sisters and brother. Los quiero mucho! Thank you for listening to my constant ranting about politics.

To my grandmother -- Mama Carmen. Gracias por todas esas pláticas sobre mis antepasados. Gracias a ti es que llevo nuestro conocimiento e historia familiar.

To Lydia, Michael and Jesse. Thank you for always encouraging me and cheering me on.

Thank you to all the writers and authors that helped me deconstruct myself in order to construct anew. It was painful but well worth it. This Chicana is honored to have yall on my shelves.

To the Ethnic Studies Class of 2020, WE DID IT despite this pandemic!

Y para toda la gente de Tecomatán, Michoacán! Si Se Pudo!



Angela Hien Buencamino Phung

BA in Ethnic Studies & Art Practice

"[The practice of] Love is profoundly political. Our

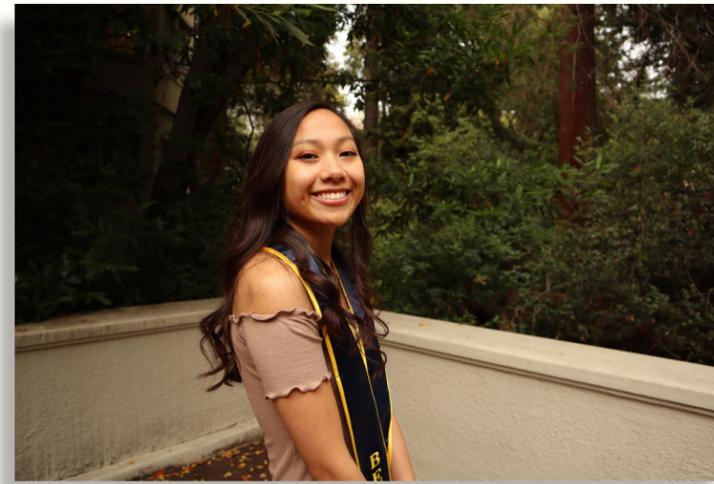
deepest revolution will come when we understand this truth. Only love can give us the strength to go forward in the midst of heartbreak and misery.

Only love can give us the power to reconcile, to redeem, the power to renew weary spirits and save lost souls.

The transformative power of love is the foundation of all meaningful social change. Without love our lives are without meaning. Love is the heart of the matter. When all else has fallen away, love sustains."

-bell hooks

Nanay and Bo, Danny, Alexis, Nicola, Christine, Alina, Moiz, Ellen, Forrest, Dan, Nathan, Aisha, Maya, Kia, Andrea, Caesar, Fetalaiga, Donovan, Jonah, Reniel, Rob, Mana, Gabby, Valencia, Loella, Jon, Luvy, Paulo, Megan, Chris, Jose, Serra, Jesus, Lauren, Karina, Elizabeth, Alexis, Anna, Julio, Yujin, champoy, bhobbie, Jackie, P. Choy, Shari, CK, Bob, Jess, Tony, JP, Kevin, Ed, Mona, Gorio, Rod, Brett, Sotz, Felicitas, Steph, Jalene, Brody, Evan, Bijan, Alexis, Tita Chat, Tito Nonie, Tito Nonong, Tita Tisha, Tita Peng, Tito Jim, Sienna, Lesly, Sydney, Megan, Sienna, Tereesa, Kerrin, Dewey, Zach, Kyle. Thank you.



Cathy Sagun Casiquin

BA in Ethnic Studies; Minor in City and Regional Planning

To Stockton: thank you to my cocoon, Little Manila, for introducing me to myself and the realm of Ethnic Studies. Thank you for teaching me that pain + love = growth.

To my family: thank you for giving me the chance to take part in being a better daughter, sister, cousin, and auntie. I can't wait to reconnect in transformative ways.

To my support system: thank you for listening, challenging, understanding, and holding me. Thank you for all your realness, tenderness, grace, and unconditional love. Thank you for reminding me that I am powerful and that I deserve the world.

Shout out to PASS 33 - for long-lasting friendships and pure fun, to PASS 35 - for uplifting me as a baby boss and making be a better leader, to APASD - for abundance, to barkada - for the guidance, laughter, and being down2chill, to AAADS - for teaching me to lean into discomfort; embracing it, and owning it, to the universe - for connectedness and keeping me grounded.



Michele Castro

BA in Ethnic Studies

As a young multi-ethnic girl, I did not resemble my role models. I had to learn how to become my own revolutionista. My family taught me to be proud of my brown skin and learn the history of our people- Asian, Brown, and Black people. And most importantly, to stand up for social justice and humanity. There have been times in my life when I was the only person standing for what is right and just. I learned to stand alone until others were able to join. When we unite to support each other, we become stronger, and this allows for change and growth. Reflecting upon my journey, I realize I have been preparing for Comparative Ethnic Studies all my life. My ancestor's sacrifices in the California and Hawaiian fields provides me with opportunities beyond my wildest dreams: I never imagined the possibility of earning a college degree, especially from UCB. My road to Cal has been filled with many detours and off-road excursions. In the end, I ended up on the right path. And with guidance, unconditional love, perseverance, and grit - I share this proud moment with my parents, my family, my beloved, my ancestors, and all those who have stood with me. And Yes, I am a Revolutionista: I am a Filipina-Mexicana woman: and I am still standing for social justice.



Tammy Cheng
BA in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies

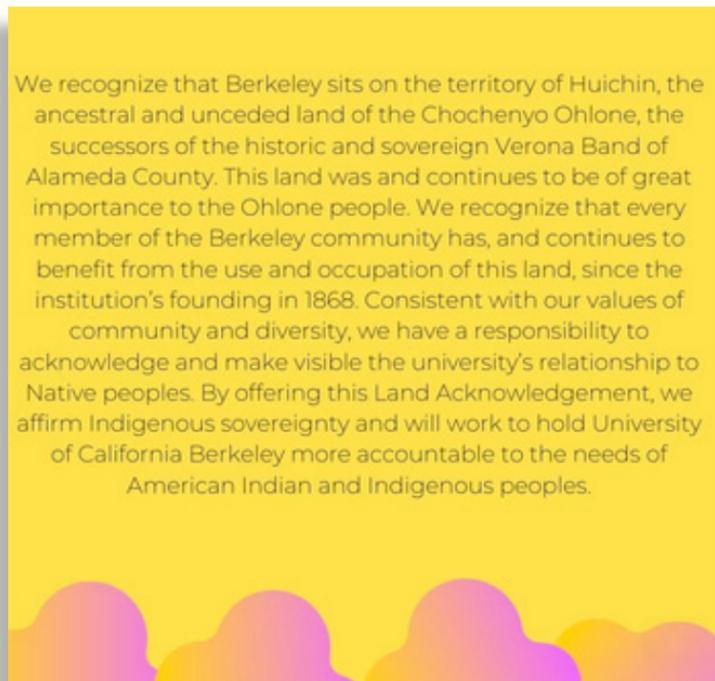
“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

I called myself a Christian growing up, but my life looked no different from those of non-believers around me. In college, God helped me to understand my sinfulness by opening my eyes to how I didn't actually have a relationship with Him. The fact that I didn't think it was a big deal that Jesus died on the cross for me showed me how deluded and callous I was. I saw God's love in how Jesus went to the cross knowing that there was a chance of me rejecting him. When I let God show me that my Christian identity had been a facade, my relationship with him began. It was upon seeing that I didn't do anything to warrant being welcomed home that I recognized God's sovereignty and love. God has all power over me and chooses to use that power to love me. Since then, no other purpose in life has been comparable to loving God and people. My fears of not achieving my ambitions were dissipated because God calls me his beloved daughter without requiring me to earn this identity. This is why, today, I say that “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” Thank you to my family, friends, leaders, and God for the faithfulness and love you've shown me!



Trevor Christenson
BA Ethnic Studies

Sincerest gratitude to professors Trina Thompson, Marisol Silva, Victoria Robinson, Gregory Choy, and John Dougherty – alongside professors Ula Taylor, Jason Okonofua, and the many activists, community members, and friends within, working with, and outside of the department – for the knowledge and gift of Ethnic Studies. Thank you, and hope to keep up the practice (and continue the work) together with this wonderful and loving community!



We recognize that Berkeley sits on the territory of Huichin, the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochoyeno Ohlone, the successors of the historic and sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Ohlone people. We recognize that every member of the Berkeley community has, and continues to benefit from the use and occupation of this land, since the institution's founding in 1868. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the university's relationship to Native peoples. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold University of California Berkeley more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.



Scott Christensen
BA in Ethnic Studies

On March 3, 2013 I woke up 47 years old and a homeless, formerly incarcerated, high school dropout, dying of drug addiction. It was 2:00 in the morning. At that moment I made a decision to get help. Six months later I made another decision, I decided to go back to school, so I went to Ohlone College and enrolled in the Fall 2013 semester. In 2017, I graduated from Merritt College with an AA Degree in Substance Abuse with Honors and was accepted to UC Berkeley on a full Scholarship. After the Fall 2020 semester I will graduate from Cal with a BA in Ethnic Studies and a degree in Bureaucracy. (HAHA) I would like to acknowledge all my professors who were outstanding and who I told my personal story to every semester. I love each and every one of you. I would also like thank all of my brothers and sisters from USI, If I didn't find the underground I would have never made it. I love each and every one of you. I would like to thank all of the students I became friends with, Michele, Christina, David M, Mac, Looney Tunes, Shalita, SmokeZ, and all the other young ladies. You were as much of an inspiration to me as I was to you. Love and God Bless you All. I would like to end this by using this as a platform to get Native American Languages at Cal. Let us not forget Ishi and his peoples.



Jenny Cortez
BA in Ethnic Studies; Minor in Education

“Everyday that you see the sun rise in the sky, you should be encouraged in your work, no matter what obstacles & hindrances appear to be” -Zitkala-Ša





Ruby Cross

BA in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies

I had always dismissed the idea of going to UC Berkeley, especially since I grew up 15 minutes away from the campus.

But as luck would have it, I did get accepted, and when it came time to choose, I knew in my heart it was the right decision to make.

I guess it's true that you may not know where you're going, but it always seems to work out.

Being in the ethnic studies department has been a very eye opening and valued experience. I didn't realize how important it was to learn about my own history and culture until I took my first Asian American studies course. As an Asian American woman, the courses have helped me to explore my identity and has invoked a passion for continuous learning. My time at Cal has prepared me for a future of knowledge and prosperity.

Thank you to all my professors and peers that helped me get to where I am today. Also, I want to specifically thank Linda Vu for being my first friend at Cal, and making my experience even better.



Gabriela Cruz

BA in Chicano Studies, Spanish & Portuguese

One afternoon not too long ago, I met wise young who changed my destiny and inspired my journey. With his life story facing the loss of his father and what this meant to him and his mother, he taught me with his strength and determination how continue on the path despite adversity. This guy embodied and encouraged me to live Einstein's words. "Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts... Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value...Only those who attempt the absurd can achieve the impossible...There is a driving force more powerful than steam, electricity and atomic energy: the will...Genius is 1% talent and 99% hard work." Despite his loss and poverty, he and his mother helped me and shared their wisdom with me, and I am privileged for this. Inspired by them and with the knowledge as UC Berkeley undergraduate it is my time to break the silence, raise my voice and give voice to those who do not have it and work hard for "one day live in a nation where we will not be judged by the color of our skin but by the content of our character" avoiding "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people" as Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed and denounced.



Yasmeen Estrada

BA in Ethnic Studies & Legal Studies; Minor in Education

I'm thankful for my family and friends, who have made the last four years memorable and didn't let me experience this ride alone. Todos mis logros no serían posibles sin ustedes.

"We'll never be those kids again"



Erica Jasmine Gibbons

BA in Ethnic Studies

"It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win.

We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains."

-Assata Shakur

To my truly exceptional professors, Gregory Choy, Pablo Gonzalez, Aya de Leon, John Dougherty, Victoria Robinson, Darieck Scott, & Raymond Telles

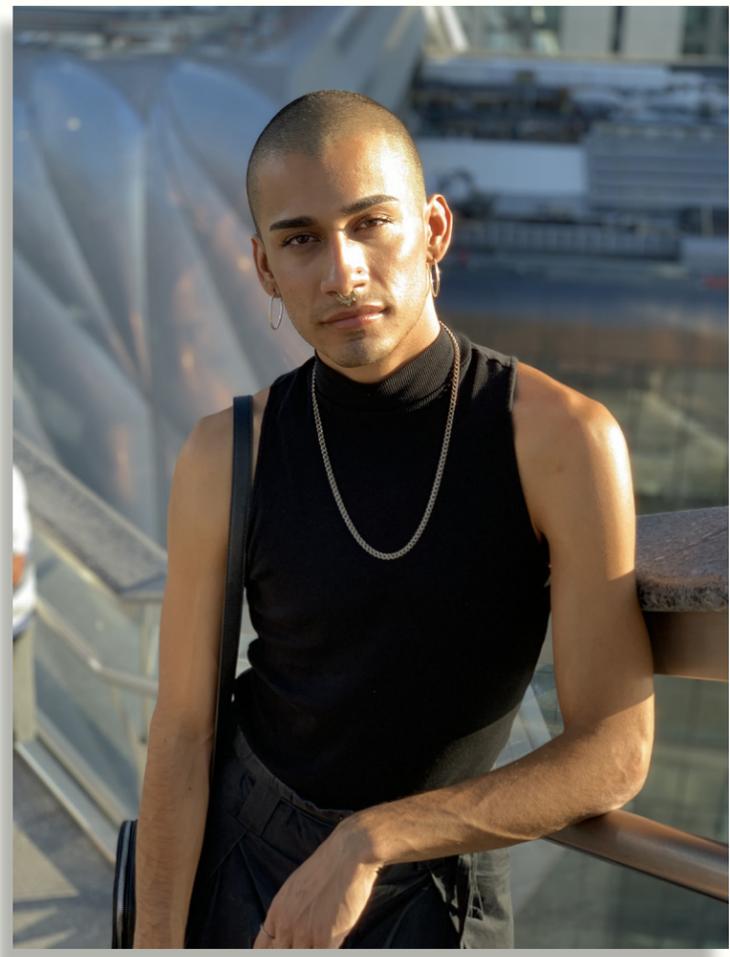
To my badass graduate student instructors, Angela Aguilar, Salvador Gutierrez, Peter Kim, & Melanie Plasencia

And my phenomenal academic advisor, Dewey St. Germaine

Thank you for giving me the gifts of your wisdom, love, and beautiful encouragement.

I will forever be a humble student of Ethnic Studies. Learning. Evolving. Radicalizing.

With love & resistance,
Erica Jasmine Gibbons



Rafael Yamir Gomez-Carrasco
BA in Ethnic Studies & Cognitive Science

It was a blessing to grow with such beautiful and powerful minds.

“Indeed, to live inside straight time and ask for, desire, and imagine another time and place is to represent and perform a desire that is both utopian and queer. To participate in such an endeavor is not to imagine an isolated future for the individual but instead to participate in a hermeneutic that wishes to describe a collective futurity, a notion of futurity that functions as a historical materialist critique.” (Muñoz, 26).

Remember Dominique Rem'mie Fells and Riah Milton, #BlackTransLivesMatter



Jorge Alberto Güitrón
BA in Ethnic Studies & Sociology

As I begin this new chapter of my life, I wanted to take the moment to reflect on these past years and thank you for being part of my journey. They say “it takes a village” and I am so grateful to have you in mine. Your friendship, mentorship, encouragement, and guidance helped get me to this moment and become who I am today.

It is also with a heavy, yet hopeful heart that I call on to the Class of 2020 to act against systemic racism. It is moments like these that we, as Ethnic Studies scholars, must never lose hope in the face of such overwhelming injustices. What we see now is the proverbial plight of the unheard: the justified anger and frustration to a system so fundamentally oppressive to our communities of color. Is it up to us — all of us — to fight the good fight.

I will always look back fondly on all that I have learned and experienced over these past three years. They said a brown boy from East Side San José couldn't get a degree so I got two. To my familia, friends, professors, hermanos, advisors, and anyone who has helped me grow — thanks for your support, I am now a graduate!

In Community Spirit,
Jorge Guitron



Jacob Huy Dinh Ngo

BA in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies & Molecular Environmental Biology

Con ở đây hôm nay vì sự hy sinh của ba mẹ. Cảm ơn ba mẹ. I am graduating today not just for myself, but for all the people who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of their community and couldn't reach their dreams. I am graduating for my community who has been the target of erasure and whose voices are oppressed in the American narrative. I am graduating today in hopes to continue learning to lead from love and abundance and give my community the help that they want and deserve. Thank you to all the student, community, and professional organizations that have changed my life for the better. Thank you to my friends and peers that have uplifted and inspired me to be a better person each day. Lastly, thank you to myself for continuing to push through despite the struggles and hardships and for being brave for the growth throughout the years at Cal. My name is my power and I end with my full name that my ancestors have graced upon me. I shall say it with pride and with every ounce of breath in my chest. I am Jacob Huy Đình Ngô.



Jessica Jimenez

BA in Ethnic Studies

"To educate the masses politically does not mean, cannot mean, making a political speech. What it means is to try, relentlessly and passionately, to teach the masses that everything depends on them; that if we stagnate it is their responsibility, and that if we go forward it is due to them too, that there is no such thing as a demiurge, that there is no famous man who will take the responsibility for everything, but that the demiurge is the people themselves and the magic hands are finally only the hands of the people"

-Franz Fanon



Smoke K Johnson

BA in Native American Studies

Ten years ago, I was accepted into Cal. My first semester, I was pregnant, and I had a two-year-old at home. I gave birth to my second child in between my first and second semesters. I received multiple scholarships, but they were all dependent on full-time enrollment. Needless to say, I was not able to pull it all off. My GPA plummeted, I was officially dismissed from the University and it felt like I had lost everything I had worked so hard to accomplish. Years went by and I did not think I would return. Slowly but surely, I met the requirements of the UC to return to Cal. 2019 was the year! I started off slowly, taking only two classes a semester and pulled off a 4.0 for two consecutive semesters. This gave me hope. Being a single mother of two young boys, ages 10 and 12, working full-time and attending UC Berkeley is no easy task! I cried, I laughed, I yelled, and I sang. Now, ten years later, I am graduating from Cal and my kids know the value of hard work, education, perseverance, and family. I am making plans to move back east to apply for a master's program in Environmental & Water Resource Engineering and I never thought that was a possibility. Words cannot express how grateful I am to my family and my community for supporting me along this beautiful journey.



Chelsea Anne Lee

BA in Ethnic Studies; Minor in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies

I wouldn't be where I am today without my family, friends, communities and ancestors. They remind me to ground myself in love and abundance. Thank you to all who have grown and will continue to grow with me.





Kelly Isabel Liu

BA in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies

These past years have been transformative and unforgettable. I am so grateful for all the incredible people who have shared their encouragement, wisdom, love, laughter, and support with me. Wishing everyone the very best! In Solidarity.



Jenifer Lomeli-Quintero

BA in Ethnic Studies & Society and Environment

Thank you to my family and friends that helped me throughout these four challenging, sleep-less, long years. All those nights we spent at Moffitt, at the MCC, coffee shop, co-ops or each other's apartments stressed out of our minds and kept each other company to finish our assignments. I deeply appreciate all the friends I made over the years, thank you for inspiring me and teaching me new things. Thank you to the Ethnic Studies professors for helping me expand my knowledge and think more critically about the world. Rest in Power to the revolutionaries and victims violence. La Lucha Sigue.



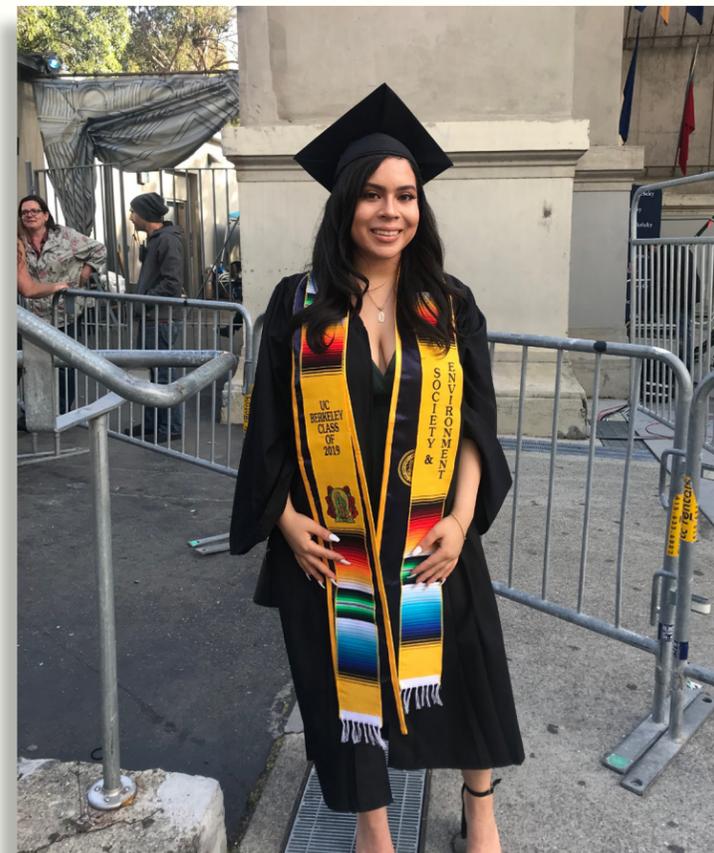
Jocelyn Lopez

BA in Ethnic Studies; Minor in Education

My name is Jocelyn Lopez, I am a Xicana and Nahua descendent who majored in Ethnic Studies and minored in Education. I was born and raised in Inglewood, CA, which is in so-called Los Angeles, the unceded and ancestral territory of the Tongva-Gabrielino peoples. However, my ancestral roots are in Central Mexico. I dedicate this to my parents and ancestors whose sacrifices and unconditional love motivated me to move mountains and to never give up.

I also want to express the warmest of gratitude to the Indigenous and Native Coalition - Recruitment and Retention Center at UC Berkeley as well as the Native American Student Development Office for everything they have done for me. They were my family away from home who nourished my growth here while supporting my endeavors. There I met true friends with genuine hearts who always kept me grounded and gave me so much support and validation of who I am. They were the ones who made my experience at UC Berkeley an enjoyable one. From organizing events and actions to waking up at 3am to go to sunrise ceremony at Alcatraz Island; every day was filled with adventure, love, and the best medicine of all, LAUGHTER. Being involved and surrounded by community is what kept me going and never losing sight of my identity.

I'd like to pass this quote onto my comrades: "Protect your spirit because you're in the place where spirits are eaten." - John Trudell"



Andrea Denise Luna

BA in Ethnic Studies & Society and Environment; Minor in Race and Law I am blessed, grateful and privileged for this accomplishment. I appreciate and thank everyone who supported me along this struggle.





Katie Ly
BA in Ethnic Studies & Political Science

I came here searching for a community and an outlet for addressing issues connected to my identities, and now I will graduate knowing I have had the privilege of building knowledge and community with many Ethnic Studies leaders. Much love to all of you and those who have shown me what collective care looks like. I am blessed to have been able to share space with some of you.

In the past three years, I have had the honor of spearheading the first three Queer Art and Fashion Shows (QAFS), working towards community-based solutions to incarceration, and using an Ethnic Studies lens to deconstruct the foundations of my second major in Political Science. I aim to apply my experiences to a career in public service and public policy. In the Fall, I plan on applying for a Master's in Public Policy. Though in the meantime, I am working as a Summer Research Intern for State Innovation Exchange, where I help support state legislators and work on policies that protect underrepresented and marginalized communities across the country.

I will also be taking time to ground and take care of myself. Come find me dancing to a medley of music genres, such as techno, house, and alternative R&B, and cooking my favorite dishes. Whether or not we've crossed paths at Cal, feel free to keep in touch with me at @k5tie on Twitter and Instagram, or via email at katiely22@berkeley.edu.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 and Go Bears!



Itzel Calvo Medina
BA in Ethnic Studies; Minor in Education

"Love and study cannot exist without struggle, and struggle cannot occur solely inside the refuge we call the university." - Robin D.G. Kelley



Maritza Mendoza Ledezma
BA in Ethnic Studies

Special Thanks to my CC, SAC CITY, for giving me the tools necessary to successfully transfer, to all the counselors and professors who helped me beyond academics and for inspiring me to keep pushing forward, "and lastly, I wanna thank me for believing in me, I wanna thank me for putting in all the hard work"



David Molina
BA in Ethnic Studies; Minor in African American Studies

"First of all I am a mythical creature that is only mentioned if at all in relation to war, trauma, maras, revolutions, earthquakes, canals, and volcanos Indians kidnapped by aliens, and the Guatemalan maid as your punchline caring for your children so you don't have to has her own story to tell.

What happens if I never mentioned these things? am I contributing to the loss the silence, the erased lines the gaps in historical memory the opportunity for reconciliation to make amends?

What if I never mention pupusas or my grandmother's pepián, black beans and rice or a quesadilla that's cheesy bread, not tortilla with melted cheese or the million ways to fry a plátano or Honduran baleadas, which Have yet to try?

What if I tell you that I am usually the only one of the kind? that if I make up what is means to be [Salvadoran-Guatemalan] hyphen-American no one in the room will be able to call me a liar?"

- What it's Like to Be a Central American Unicorn for Those Who Aren't, from The Cha Cha Files: A Chapina Poética by Maya Chinchilla



Daniel Moreno

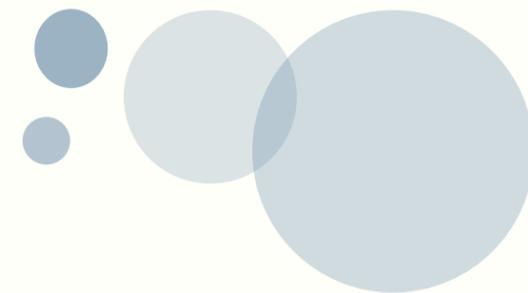
BA in Chicano Studies

Graduating from UC Berkeley as a low-income Chicano is a huge accomplishment. Especially in a society that has structurally done everything in its power to dismantle and defund educational institutions for people of color. That being said we have to continue to demand for a better world. A world where people of color have freedom and peace. We have to continue demanding the end of state violence, and repression. While some seeds have been buried. They cannot stop spring from coming. Our search is for spring and it will come. Thank you to the community organizers that have politicized me. Thank you to the educators that have pushed me to keep on asking questions. Thank you to Chile for showing me your passion during your uprising. Lastly, thank you to my parents for teaching me grit. Gracias Mom, Dad, Flor, Profe Pablo Gonzalez, Profe Chris Paiz, Ashley Kelly, Sandra Bass, and all the homies I've met during my time at Berkeley and in the Bay. I appreciate everyone for believing in me and supporting me along my journey. Still We Rise!

Angela Muñoz

BA in Chicano Studies

The word "transcend" has followed me since I took a class with one of my all-time favorite professors in community college, Kei Fischer. It has given me strength, motivation, and confidence to pursue my dreams despite countless barriers I have faced. I want to take everyone who has supported me along my journey including family, friends, and mentors because I would not be where I am without their patience, kind words, and encouragement. All of you have been integral in me transcending into who I am and I am forever grateful. Laura Jimenez-Olvera, thank you for guiding me, listening to me, and allowing me to eat all of the candy from your office. Andrew Henry, thank you for being the best boss, letting my ideas become reality and creating me into the equity conscious person I am now. My friends, there are so many of you but I literally could not have survived or navigated this campus without having all of you there. Finally, thank you to my parents for everything they have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice that allows me to follow my dreams. My world and my ambitions have grown far beyond what I thought I could accomplish growing up and all of you have had an instrumental impact in that. I have been given the opportunity to rise up and go beyond the limitations I and others have placed on me. Cheers to the past, present, and what the future holds.





Ashley Marbella Noble

BA in Ethnic Studies

To the girls and the gays: Shout out to our shine.

To my therapists / eop advisors / profxs / the mcc / my friendz + fam / the earth / the sun / la agua y el viento: Thank you for holding me, witnessing me, and believing in my growth.

Para mi mamá, mi primera maestra: Gracias por darme vida, el regalo de las posibilidades, que sigue dando y dando y tomando y dando. Sin ti no sería yo. Este logro es tuyo tanto que lo mío. Te quiero mucho!

To my class: Keep drinking water, taking deep breaths, and washing your hands. Keep learning and unlearning. Keep tuning into your creativity. Keep disrupting. Keep challenging yourself. Keep growing and adapting. Keep crying. Keep laughing. Keep being your own boo. Keep your discipline. Keep the faith.

To you who is reading this: Haz lo justo y necesario. Do what is just and necessary.



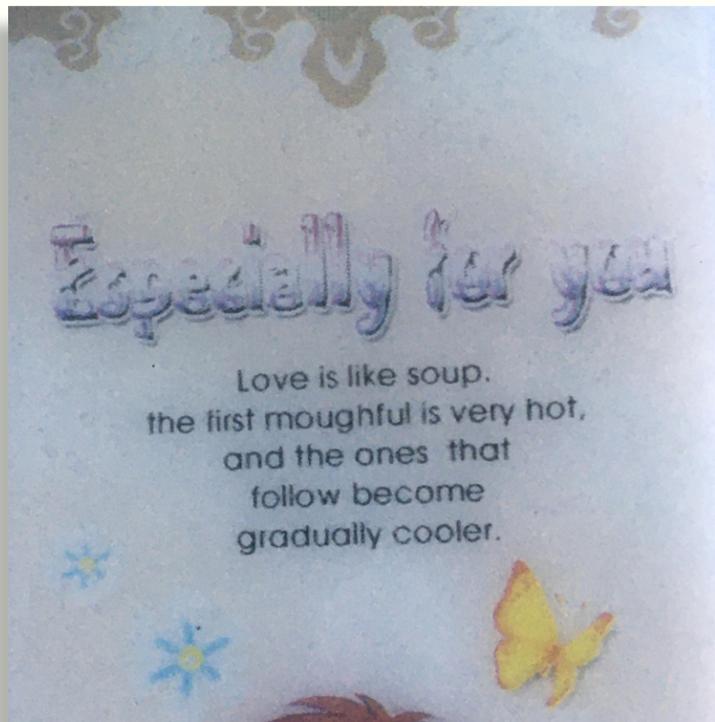
Nerine Ortiz Pon

BA in Ethnic Studies; Minor in Journalism

We are more than us



Thank you to everyone who has walked this path with me



Diana Palma Resendiz

BA in Ethnic Studies; Minor in Education

endlessly grateful for all the powerful & loving people in my life that imagine and work to cultivate another world

thank you for the collective moments of joy, knowledge sharing, and continuous support

me llenaron de ánimo durante los últimos cuatro años y se que puede seguir contando con ustedes por mucho más tiempo

ustedes me recuerdan que otro mundo es posible

mami, papi, vane, eli y bella a celebrar con unas cumbias y muchos abrazos <3



Antonio Pimentel

BA in Ethnic Studies

I want to thank everyone that helped me get to this point in my life. Gracias a mi familia y a mis amigos, who i would be nothing without. Especialmente a mi papá y mamá que han hecho todo por darme a mi y a mis hermanas una buena vida. Nunca les podré dar las gracias por todo lo que han sacrificaron por nosotros. Para mi hermana, Carina, que siempre se preocupa por mi and makes sure I'm doing well. Alejandra, you're next to go to college and do great things, you motivate me to set a good example for you. A mis abuelos y abuelas que no pudieron verme graduarme, por ellos estoy aquí. A mis primos Martin, Luis, Greg, que ya no están con nosotros pero que siempre cuidan a mi y a mi familia. Anything is possible. The Marathon Continues. Forever ThaFam.



Daisy Guadalupe Romero

BA in Ethnic Studies

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me during my years at UC Berkeley. Thank you to my Hayward community for shaping who I am today. Thank you to my mom, Janett Hernandez, for being a great role model, gracias a mi abuelita Tere, and the rest of my family for believing in me. I will cherish all the memories I've made at Cal. I've enjoyed being the Political Awareness and Community Development Coordinator for the Raíces Recruitment and Retention Center this past year. I am grateful for all the wonderful people I've met. I especially want to thank Cristina Ortiz for pushing me and helping me grow. I look forward to seeing what the future holds. Congratulations to all of the 2020 graduates!



Jacquelyn M. Serrano

BA in Ethnic Studies & Art Practice

No one is free until we are all free.



David Temprano

BA in Ethnic Studies & Sociology

I extend my sincerest gratitude to the Department of Ethnic Studies for making my experience at Berkeley unlike any other. Whether it be the inspiring insight of Professor Pablo Gonzalez, the hysterical playing of Cardi B's music and expertise of sexual politics by Professor Juana Maria Rodriguez, the upbeat and welcoming attitude of Professor John Dougherty, the widening of perspectives in photography and film by Professor Shari Huhndorf, or the legal expertise of Professor Thomas Fleming, each of these professors welcomed me into their class with open arms and left me with a bounty of wisdom. I am also grateful for my family, friends, and God for supporting and inspiring me to overcome various trials and tribulations. I graduated magna cum laude with high hopes to successfully inspire and assist all I have the privilege to meet. It is my hope that the graduating class of 2020 will hold our heads high and stay in good mental, spiritual, and bodily health as we continue our respective paths forward. GO BEARS

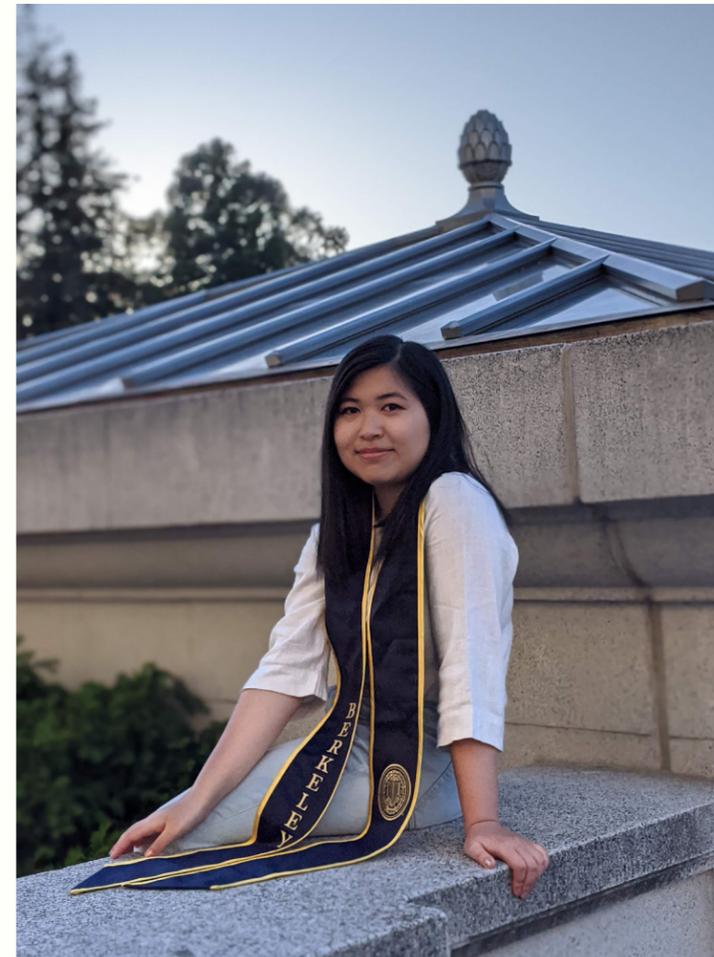


Vanessa Huy Tran, 陳妍佩

BA in Ethnic Studies; Certificate in Asian American Community Health

At the beginning of my college career, I was full of doubt. Coming from a smaller school to a large public university was challenging on many fronts and I was not sure if I could handle it all. It feels strange to say that my time at Berkeley is over, and even more strange to not be surrounded by my Berkeley community to close this chapter of my life. However, it does not change my experiences and what they taught me. The key lesson that I have learned over the course of my collegiate career has been to trust the affective parts of myself. This lesson became most apparent to me when reading Audre Lorde's, The Erotic as Power in one of my classes. In this essay, she argues that the erotic is a force in many women that has been used to argue for their inferiority, causing many to "distrust" it. Lorde redefines "erotic" as a deep, affective knowledge, which differs from many of the ideas that we have been inundated with about eroticism. Erotic knowledge, Lorde says, leads us to make better choices about what our destinies should be because we are no longer satisfied with what is simply given to us. This wisdom has been affirmed for me through my experiences in college and I hope that it can provide some sort of guidance for you. Thank you for being yourself & for being excellent! Congratulations to the Class of 2020, feel free to reach out!

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020 SENIORS!



Vanessa Vazquez-Ochoa

BA in Chicano Studies & Psychology

protect your spirit because you are in a place where spirits get eaten - john trudell.

gracias pablo, dewey, laura, abraham, angela, the OGs, and all my amigis that have helped me protect and nurture my spirit. we need to continue to help & protect ourselves and one another because the state definitely won't, we've made it so far and still have a long way to go but we must continue to fight for ourselves and the future to help end the capitalist hydra that rules our lives.



Alexa Trujillo Aguilar

BA in Ethnic Studies & Social Welfare

I am so grateful for my UC Berkeley community, without y'all I would have not been able to have a home away from home. I will forever carry the memories I have made with me to my next endeavours. I want to specially thank my family. They have been my drive through it all because I have carried their strength with me throughout these four years. Sin el cariño y apoyo que recibí por parte de mis seres queridos y mi comunidad en CAL, no podría llegar a este punto de mi vida. Solo es el comienzo para mi y mi familia. Pa, mami, Lupita, y Adriel, this is for us.

Kelly Wong

BA in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies & Urban Studies

A word to classmates and the world:

During moments of self-doubt and intense imposter syndrome at UC Berkeley, I found solace in AAADS classes, and strength from the stories of TWLF leaders that fought for our education. I write this to thank my teachers, family, friends, and community that have grounded me throughout my journey. Shoutout to my parents who have always trusted me and my path (even though they don't really know what I'm studying hahaha), REACH! and SASC for showing me what community looks like, and Ellsworth 102 for the laughs and love. The memories and relationships I made here are irreplaceable.

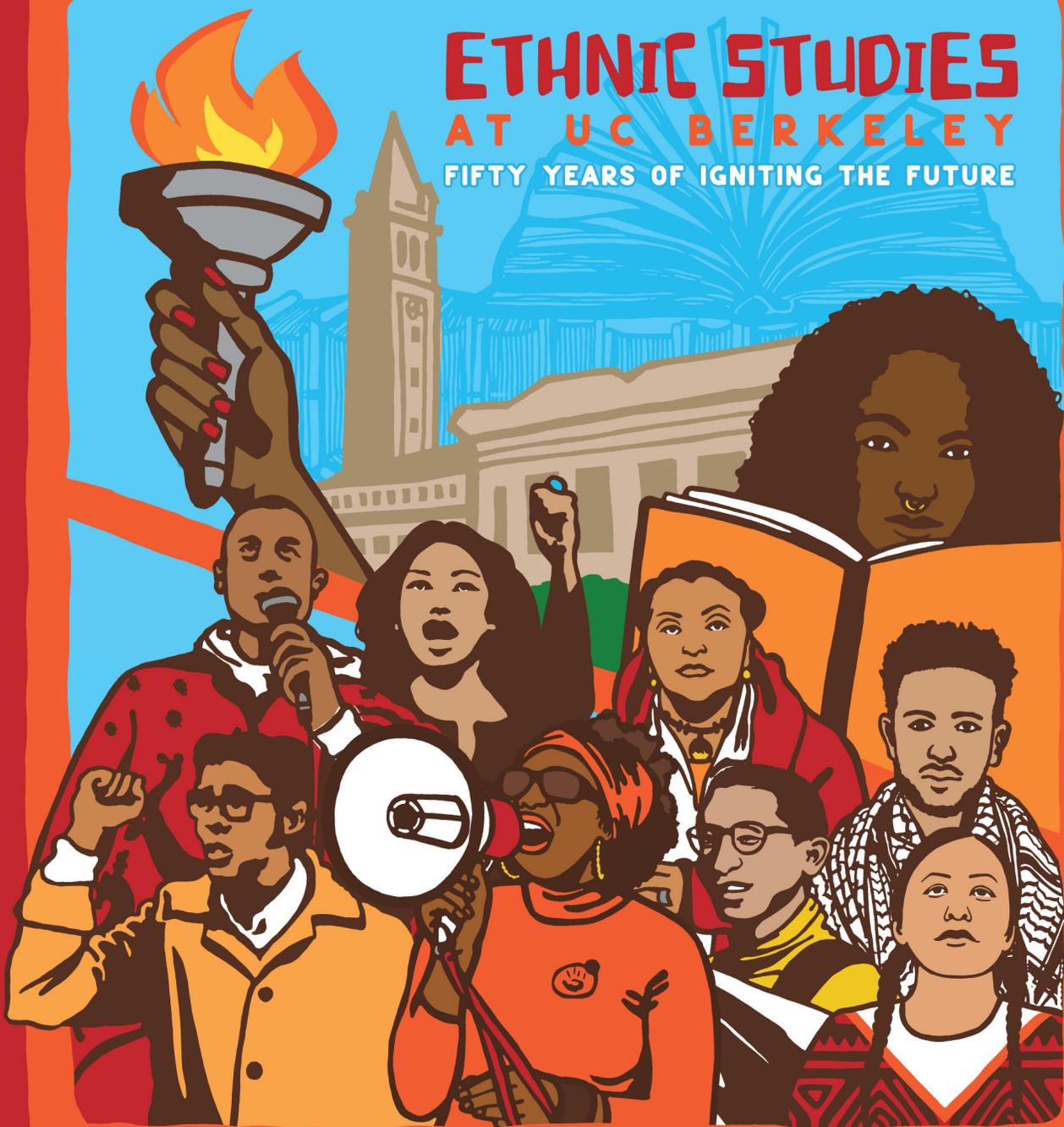
Wishing every graduate good health and happiness~
Peace out, Berkeley.

Congratulations graduating Class of 2020. It is with great honor that I have been given the task of putting together this yearbook for us. It has been a difficult, but wonderful journey and a privilege to share spaces with you over the years. I wish each and every one of you love, light, and healing on the paths that lie ahead.

- Jacquelyn M. Serrano

ETHNIC STUDIES

AT UC BERKELEY
FIFTY YEARS OF IGNITING THE FUTURE



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