

University of San Diego

Digital USD

---

Ethnic Studies Department Newsletters

Department of Ethnic Studies

---

Spring 2-2020

## Welcome to Spring 2020! 1:2

Department of Ethnic Studies

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.sandiego.edu/ethn-newsletters>



Part of the [Ethnic Studies Commons](#)

---

### Digital USD Citation

Department of Ethnic Studies, "Welcome to Spring 2020! 1:2" (2020). *Ethnic Studies Department Newsletters*. 2.

<https://digital.sandiego.edu/ethn-newsletters/2>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Ethnic Studies at Digital USD. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ethnic Studies Department Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital USD. For more information, please contact [digital@sandiego.edu](mailto:digital@sandiego.edu).



## Welcome to Spring 2020!

### Message from the Chair

Dear USD Ethnic Studies Community,

Happy (Lunar) New Year! This fresh, new semester bridges the nourishing internal reflection of winter and the blooms of springtime activity. Our graduating seniors are immersing themselves in social justice internships in conjunction with their Senior Capstone course. Faculty are on fire with new research, community involvement, and classes that include Migration Nation, Native American Women & Indigenous Feminisms, Filipinx Americans & Popular Culture, African American Panethnicity, and Chicano San Diego.



Enjoy these early moments of the new year and cultivate your good energy. We are being called to step up and into our communities with courage and clarity. In the words of Asian American movement activist and OG Yuri Kochiyama, "Keep expanding your horizon, decolonize your mind, and cross borders." May we have all that we need to engage, grow, and transform ourselves and the world.

Warm wishes,

May Fu

Associate Professor & Chair

Department of Ethnic Studies



## The Turning Wheel Project: Honoring Community Knowledge and Resilience

The Turning Wheel Project is a mobile classroom that was launched at USD ten months ago when it hit the streets and highways of San Diego and the greater borderlands region. ETHN professor and founding departmental chair Alberto Pulido envisioned and created the Turning Wheel Project as a way to strengthen the

foundational ETHN principle that sources of truth and knowledge are rooted in the lives, experiences, and struggles of local communities.

The spirit of the Turning Wheel Project is captured by its logo which is a pre-Columbian symbol of *Ollin*. *Ollin* recognizes movement as a life-giving source that inspires the dynamic culture and community embodied by the mobile classroom concept. Honoring the power of human agency and resilience, the Turning Wheel Project has participated in numerous community-relevant and community-based workshops, art exhibits, performances, and presentations since its inception. In addition, it actively collaborates with many schools, museums, and community organizations in the region. To learn more about us and our upcoming events, visit the [Turning Wheel website](#) and please like our [Facebook](#) page!

## Dr. May Fu Co-Authors Article about #Asians4BlackLives

Dr. May Fu recently co-authored a journal article entitled

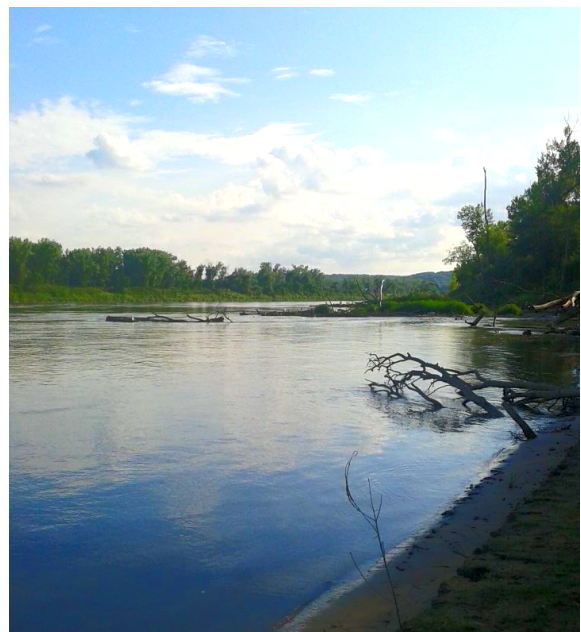
"#Asians4BlackLives: Notes from the Ground" which examines the emergence and evolution of #Asians4BlackLives chapters in San Diego, Minneapolis/Twin Cities, New York City, and the Bay Area.

#A4BL is a national grassroots formation of Asian American activists who challenge anti-Blackness in their communities and stand in solidarity with the movement for Black lives. Co-authored by a collective of Asian American scholars and community organizers, the article is published in a special issue of *Amerasia Journal* that commemorates 50 years of Asian American Studies and Asian American and Pacific Islander activism.



### **Dr. Josen Diaz Receives ASA Critical Ethnic Studies Essay Prize**

Dr. Josen Diaz received the American Studies Association's 2019 Critical Ethnic Studies Essay Prize for her essay, "The Roots of the Balete Tree: Tropical Science, Colonial Forestry, and the Racial Logics of U.S. Conservation." The



### **Dr. Angel Hinzo Awarded Faculty Research Grant for Book Project**

Dr. Angel Hinzo received a Faculty Research Grant from the College of Arts and Sciences to support fieldwork for her book project, *Ho-Chunk History, Survivance, and Resistance*. Throughout the next year, she will conduct archival

essay explores how U.S. conservation projects in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the Philippines emerged from post-Civil War apprehensions about Indigeneity, Blackness, and Asian immigration and mediated anxieties about the sustainability of U.S. empire within the shifting landscape of global politics. The prize is awarded to the best paper to be presented at the ASA annual meeting in critical ethnic studies in comparative, transnational and global contexts.

research and reconnect with community members from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The book examines Ho-Chunk histories and demonstrates how Native nations have maintained culturally-specific practices as well as political relations with other tribes in the wake of colonizing policies, such as forced removal from lands, imposition of western forms of governance, and policies of cultural assimilation. Her investigation emphasizes the importance of this history to Ho-Chunk people today and to nation rebuilding.



## JOIN US! Third World Coalition @ USD

The Third World Coalition (TWC) is a new USD student organization founded by ETHN students that aims to unite students with different marginalized identities, create a space for conversation, build cross-cultural solidarity, and establish

long-term networks and communication. Our goal is to build upon this unity to practice effective allyship and activism. We hope TWC will be a place for students looking for campuswide change, community, and activism. For questions or more information, feel free to contact Elie Nyembo at [enyembo@sandiego.edu](mailto:enyembo@sandiego.edu).

## ETHN Community Spotlight

### Yasmeen Abushahla: Power, Justice & Community

My name is Yasmeen Abushahla, and I am a fourth-year student here at USD. Outside



of academics, I'm a member of the Filipino Ugnayan Student Organization and the director of Less Than Three Dance Club.

Before taking any Ethnic Studies classes, I viewed school and education as compulsory instead of something to feel empowered through. I decided to major in Ethnic Studies after taking Introduction to Asian American Studies in my very first semester at USD. This class opened my eyes to the vibrant histories of marginalized peoples in the United States.

Ethnic Studies has given me a place to not only feel seen and understood, but also somewhere to be empowered and work towards helping others feel the same. Something that sets Ethnic Studies apart from other departments is the emphasis on engaging and working with our local communities. For example, this semester I'll be interning with the California Innocence Project, a nonprofit that works to exonerate wrongly convicted individuals. The Ethnic Studies department has given me a unique, refreshing education and a community where I've found amazing friends and mentors that I look up to tremendously. I have found my passion through Ethnic Studies, and I am so grateful for this department.

### ETHN Community Spotlight

#### **Khea Pollard, Class of 2015: Transformative Knowledge = Transformative Leadership**

It feels like a lifetime since I've graduated from USD with my undergraduate degrees in English and Ethnic Studies. I graduated in 2015 and have since earned my master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from USD, too. Majoring in Ethnic Studies is a transformative experience for a person of color, because it teaches you to articulate and critically examine your thoughts and feelings and connect them in a meaningful way to what's happening around the globe.



I utilize my education as a lens through which I lead. My Ethnic Studies training has fortified my journey in public policy, advising an elected official in San Diego County for 5 years, and it is the foundation from which I build my community work. In addition to working as a policy advisor, I've opened a coffee shop cooperative called [Cafe X: By Any Beans Necessary](#). Understanding history, as told by the Black, Brown, and Indigenous people who experienced it, informs the way I choose to establish my business (cooperatively) with the goal of economic sustainability for disenfranchised communities.

I couldn't have chosen a better major for my passion, experience, and calling. It has meant a lot to me to still be connected to the incredible professors at USD who helped me find myself in those early years. One thing is for certain: the bonds I've built through the Ethnic Studies Department have outlasted all other relationships during my 6 years at USD. I hold that in my heart with gratitude and pride.

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Careers in Ethnic Studies

Thursday 3/19

12:30-1:30 pm

Maher 222

Mark your calendars for the Careers in Ethnic Studies workshop. Meet our alumni and explore different social justice career paths!



### Safe Spaces Allies Training

Friday 2/6 @ 10:00-12:30 pm

Tuesday 3/17 @ 2:00-4:30 pm

Get your LGBTQ+ solidarity on! To register, click [HERE](#).

### Chicano Park @ 50

Artist Talk and Reception

Thursday 4/2 @ 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Renewal and Self-Determination Through Poster Art

Friday 5/1 @ 12:00-5:00 pm

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

This retrospective is a testament to Chicana and Chicano grassroots community building

that seeks to educate, agitate and engage us through the power of art. Both events will be held in the Humanities Center Galley in Tekakwitha-Serra 200.

### **Ethnic Studies Capstone Presentations & Graduation Ceremony**

Saturday 5/23

9:00-11:00 am

SLP Courtyard, 3rd floor

Join us as we honor our stellar seniors, hear about their community-based capstone projects, and celebrate their graduation. Family and friends are warmly welcome!



**University of San Diego  
Department of Ethnic Studies  
5998 Alcala Park, Maher Hall 210  
San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 260-4132  
<https://www.sandiego.edu/cas/ethnicstudies>**

[Unsubscribe](#)

mailer lite