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Ethnic Studies Department Newsletters

Department of Ethnic Studies

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10-26-2020

## USD Department of Ethnic Studies Newsletter 2:2

Department of Ethnic Studies

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## USD Department of Ethnic Studies Newsletter 2:2

### Special Message from Emerita Faculty

Dear Ethnic Studies Friends,

For Mexican Americans/Chicanxs and many others, Day of the Dead celebrations coincide with Halloween. This tradition, however, celebrates the cyclical nature of all life: death implies rebirth, what was will come again, nothing is permanent.

Many of the events of 2020 have been seen before, but they resurge with new permutations and implications. Voter suppression, violence against Black people, the attack on women's rights, pandemics and economic collapse surge and subside with the ongoing power struggles for competing visions of the economic and social order. This time around, I have been inspired by the power and global significance of resistance against economic and political repression. Many people of all kinds hit the streets to protest the murder of unarmed Black men and women. The overt and almost comic attempts at voter suppression are sending thousands of people of all races to stand in line for hours to vote. These are violations we once associated primarily with Jim Crow laws. At USD, I have been privileged to sit in on faculty coalitions that support our brave Black faculty's long overdue demands for racial justice and institutional transformation.

The greatest inspiration has surely been the people going out, often at personal risk, to march, to protest, to challenge authority, and to vote. I would add, as an Ethnic Studies educator, that if one wanted to understand this historical moment, it would be impossible without our curriculum; and that is why the current administration in D.C.



has tried to suppress all teaching about white supremacy, slavery, and unconscious bias.

In the spirit of this celebration, we can answer the voices of repression with the dicho/saying: "They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds."

Gail Perez  
Professor Emerita

## SPECIAL PANEL TODAY! Missing & Murdered Indigenous Womxn

Monday 10/26  
5:30-7:00 pm  
Zoom link [HERE](#)

This panel addresses the MMIW movement, the history of gendered colonial violence, jurisdictional issues and policy, and healing and justice. You are invited to wear red in solidarity with the MMIW movement.

- Angel Hinzo, ETHN Assistant Professor
- Perse Lewis, USD Tribal Liaison and ETHN Professor of Practice
- American Indian Student Organization Executive Board
- James Trujillo, Avellaka Program, La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians

For more information, please contact the [Gender Equity & Sex Positivity Collective](#).



## WEBINAR THIS WEEK! Testimonies of Migration, Detention, and Solidarity

Wednesday 10/28  
6:00-8:00 pm  
Click [HERE](#) to register!

This panel focuses on the meaning of solidarity in the migrant justice and abolitionist movement and expands the conversation about what it means to Free Them All. To do this, we've invited individuals engaged in social justice

work, in order to share our unique perspectives with each other, better understand the full scope of the abolitionist movement, and cultivate deeper commitments to this struggle:

- Dr. Dennis Childs, UCSD Ethnic Studies professor and author of [Slaves of the State: Black Incarceration from the Chain Gang to the Penitentiary](#).
- Genesis Hernandez Sanchez will share her testimony of migration and experience while detained at Otay Mesa Detention Center
- Oscar Navarez Giovanni Diaz will share his testimony of his experience while detained at Otay Mesa Detention Center
- Isabella B. Arzeno Soltero, [Border Angels](#) water drop leader
- Ruth Mendez, [Otay Mesa Detention Resistance](#) phone-team member

Suggested Reading: [American Friends Service Committee, "Compounding Suffering During a Pandemic: A Case Study in ICE's Detention Failures."](#)

For more information, please contact [Professor Alexis Meza](#).

## Turning Wheel Hits the Streets to Address the Digital Divide

The [Turning Wheel Mobile Classroom Project](#) is excited to announce the formation of the Turning Wheel Educational Connection (TWEC). TWEC will transform the Turning Wheel bus into a hotspot to provide internet access in communities of color, such as Logan Heights, Linda Vista and south San Diego. With support from the [Mulaney Center](#), USD student leaders, the [Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center](#), [Nativity Prep Academy](#), the [Chicano Park Steering Committee](#), and [Via International](#), TWEC addresses the educational inequities and widening digital divide created by remote learning in the age of COVID.

A recent study sponsored by [San Diego for Every Child](#) reports that 100,00 students do not have internet access in San Diego County. The average student has fallen 7 months behind their studies. Even more alarming, Black and Latinx students are falling behind 10 months! The community and educational partnership of TWEC addresses this digital divide by equipping the Turning Wheel bus with the technology needed to assist up to 100 students at a time.

TWEC will officially launch on February 13 at Chicano Park. Although this most recent form of structural racism is larger than our hotspot efforts, TWEC aims to create technological access and literacy for BIPOC communities that have been most affected. TWEC is especially grateful to the anonymous donation of a community elder that made this project possible. To support our efforts, please contact [Dr. Alberto Pulido](#).







## Juliette Mohr: Wise Medicine

My name is Juliette Mohr, and I am a graduating Ethnic Studies major & Psychology minor. I am the president of Students for Sensible Drug Policy on campus, and off campus I am involved in harm reduction & policy work with an emerging organization called the Intercollegiate Psychedelic Network.

My work focuses on the socio-political history and cultural implications of different modalities of healing that can help us navigate the challenges of our world. Trauma is an aspect of life that, to

a certain degree, we all experience. Zainab Amadahy writes, "Capitalism, colonialism and heteropatriarchy make us sick. Are our responses healing us? Are our actions generating wellbeing for others? Or are we unintentionally reproducing the kind of relationships that make us sick in the first place?" I believe that in order to shape the world, we must address harm and integrate healing—individually and collectively. I have always been drawn to the potential of shaping society via personal healing outside of the medical-industrial complex.

Grounding my studies in the Ethnic Studies framework has been crucial, because it has guided me to look at the issues that affect us individually in a systematic way. It is through this curriculum that I have come to see that everything is interconnected, the entire structure interdependent in all its parts. With a deeper understanding of how our systems in place work, I am better equipped to see the cracks in the structure, the alternatives that carry wisdom for us in this moment, and a potential way through. Ethnic Studies has shown me that empires rise and fall, but you can always look to the resistance that is happening in this moment, that has always been happening in the face of all moments of oppression.

## Senior Spotlight

### Delaney Tax: Liberatory Love

My name is Delaney Tax, and I am Ethnic Studies major with minors in Architecture and Gender Studies. Outside of my time spent in Ethnic Studies classes, I am a Keck fellow for the 2020-2021 academic year doing research on the impacts of colonial urban planning and the thresholds along which bodies are categorized, restricted, and accepted in the built environment. I am also a founding member of USD GESP, an organizing collective advocating for inclusive and accessible sex education, protection, and contraceptives on campus (amongst many, many other things).



With the effects of hypercapitalism and systemic racism occupying the world stage and our collective conscience, I feel endlessly grateful to be studying Ethnic Studies. This department has provided me with a wealth of knowledge and community that has fundamentally shaped the way I interact with myself, others, and the environment. Dr. Jesse Mills gave me the most impactful piece of advice I will ever receive: make every decision based on love. Ethnic Studies has repeatedly shown me that the most valuable, liberatory decision is that rooted in love and, while the future is terrifying, it is brightened by adopting a pedagogy of care.



### Senior Spotlight

## Valerie Jaimes: Trust Your Power

What's good, y'all!

My name is Valerie (she/her/ella) and I am a first-generation senior double majoring in Ethnic Studies and Sociology. I'm also a co-chair for the Association of Chicanx Activists and a member of the Mulvaney Center's Beyond Borders team.

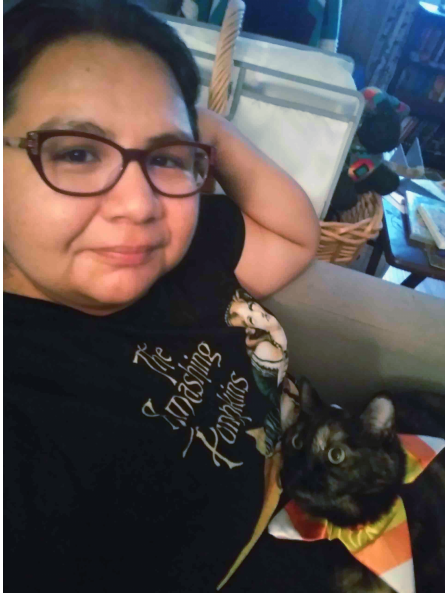
USD's Ethnic Studies fam has allowed me to truly find my passion for education equity and has inspired me to practice my love for my people through action. I

am beyond grateful for the opportunities of growth Ethnic Studies has given me thus far and hope to continue this important work by becoming an educator post-graduation.

I encourage y'all to truly trust the power within you even in the moments of painful doubt. Have you rolled the dice on yourself lately? Healing is a lifelong and sacred journey, and my question for you is: have you shown up for yourself the same way you show up for others? Something I have learned during this pandemic is that taking care of and protecting your energy and spirit is part of the hustle/resistance! "Your heart is a muscle the size of your fist. Keep loving and keep fighting!"

Sending you all loving energy!

## Faculty & Staff Updates



## Dr. Angel Hinzo: Dropping Knowledge

Haha! It's been a busy term, and I would like to share some of the work I'm participating in outside of the classroom.

I co-authored an article entitled "Indigenous Epistemologies: Implementing Indigenous Practices and Perceptions to the Area of STEM" which was published in *Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue*. I am also co-presenting on this topic at the Advocacy & Water Protection in Native California Symposium on October 30th. You can watch the presentation on [Facebook Live](#) or register for the conference [HERE](#).

National Native American Heritage month begins in November, and I'm excited to be an invited speaker for the SOLES Graduate Student Association and [Missouri Humanities Council's Native Historian Symposium](#) on November 11th. You can register for the symposium and watch my talk "Restoring Native Histories and Navigating Settler Archives" [HERE](#).

My cat Paashi (in her candy corn collar) and I wish you a wonderful and safe rest of the year!



## Executive Assistant Esther Aguilar: Puzzle Therapy

Hello! My name is Esther Aguilar, and I am the Executive Assistant for the department. While staying safe at home, I have discovered a new hobby to relax and de-stress: puzzles! It sounds boring, but I have found them to be very relaxing and even addicting. I have already finished four 1,000-piece puzzles. Most of them are of landscapes that help to set a relaxing mood. I like going on early evening strolls at the beach or park and completing my day doing a puzzle with a football, soccer, or baseball game in the background.

I'm also thankful for the technology we have to stay in touch with our loved ones. It's amazing how comforting and uplifting a 5-minute video call with my nieces and nephews can be.

Working from home, while a blessing, cannot compare to the warm and lively atmosphere in Maher 210. I'm looking forward to heading back to campus when it is safe to do so. Until then, I hope everyone can discover a new hobby or two for relaxation and self-care.





## Alumni News

### Sarah Lynn Miralles, Class of 2010

Hi everyone!

My name is Sarah Lynn Miralles (she/her). I graduated with a B.A. in Ethnic Studies & minor in English & was active in Associated Students & FUSO. USD Ethnic Studies will always have a special place in my heart. I am so thankful that I took Dr. Pulido's intro class my first semester where I learned that my experiences as a woman of color were valid & I was able to

build my critical consciousness.

In 2013, I received my MA in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University where I wrote my thesis on Filipinx identity & dance. I taught Filipinx American Studies & Asian American Studies at CSU Long Beach & nearby high schools. I recently transitioned into an administrative role at the Claremont Colleges where I am the Coordinator for the Asian American Advisory Board & the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies. My work engages with APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) students on both the student affairs & academic ends.

I find joy in karaoke, anything ube, spending time with my partner, dumplings, & more recently KPop. I hope you all are staying hydrated, rested, & able to find moments of joy, big or small!

If you're interested in learning more about a career in education and student affairs, feel free to reach me at [sarah.miralles@pomona.edu](mailto:sarah.miralles@pomona.edu).

## Alumni News

### Jane Henderson, Class of 2017

Hi USD Ethnic Studies!

Since graduating with my degree in Ethnic Studies in 2017, I've been making progress in my PhD program in Geography at UC Berkeley. I research how race shapes our environments, especially how Black people create community and home in the midst of displacement and anti-blackness. Specifically, my research spans across the Caribbean and the US Midwest to think about the relationship between Black and Indigenous geographies. My research asks what relationship Blackness has with settler colonialism and land accumulation, especially in frontier spaces of US empire. As the world has changed this year, my field



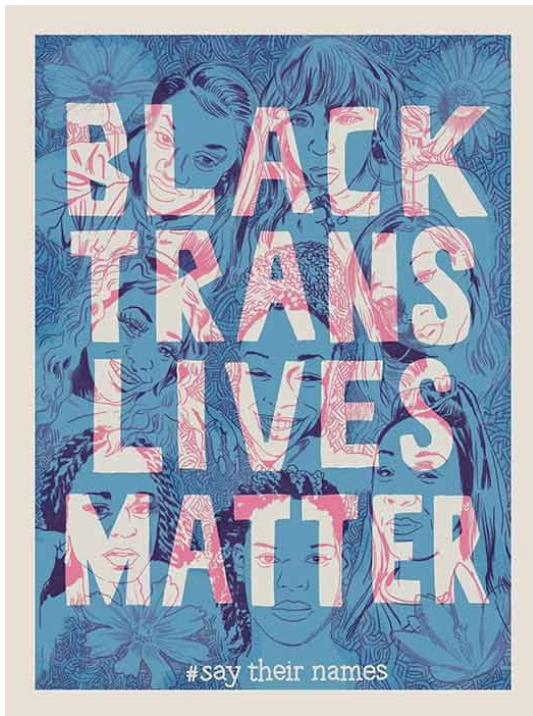


work plans have paused as I figure out how to do the most ethical and caring work I can.

The pandemic brought me back home to the Minneapolis area. While being here, I've had the chance to get involved with abolition organizing and workshops in the wake of this summer's BLM uprising. I participated in a Twin Cities abolition book club, where we most recently read *Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement*. I also worked with other graduate students at Berkeley to create our own zine for a police-free campus, which people can find [HERE!](#)

I've been really inspired to see that many of the concepts I first learned about in my Ethnic Studies classes are being applied in real life. I look forward to building with current and future Ethnic Studies students to imagine and create a better world. I hope you're all able to take good care of yourselves and your loved ones right now.

In solidarity and love,  
Jane





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