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“Of Course It’s There!”: Null Archives & Ohlone Representation in SCU’s Mission Santa Clara Manuscript Collection

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Twin Pandemics Forum Panel 4, 2-3:40 Intersectional Studies of Race, Ethnicity, Disability, and Indigeneity

Panelists

Sherry C. Wang, Counseling Psychology

Maggie Levantovskaya, English

Anna Sampaio, Ethnic Studies

Angelica Navarro '20, Ethnic Studies and Sociology

Kelci Baughman McDowell, Archives & Special Collections, University Library **Erin M. Louthen**, Archives & Special Collections, University Library

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“Of Course It’s There!”: Null Archives & Ohlone Representation in SCU’s Mission Santa Clara Manuscript Collection

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Purpose

To recognize and address archival omissions in A&SC's Mission Santa Clara Manuscript Collection, an action just as important as promoting access to what's represented in our institutions' current holdings.



Discussion

- Archives & Special Collections' Mission Santa Clara Manuscript Collection
- “Of Course It’s There!”: Expectations of Content
- Null Curriculum/Null Archives & Ohlone Representation in the MSCMC
- Addressing Silences, Elision & Erasure in the Collection

The Mission Santa Clara Manuscript Collection

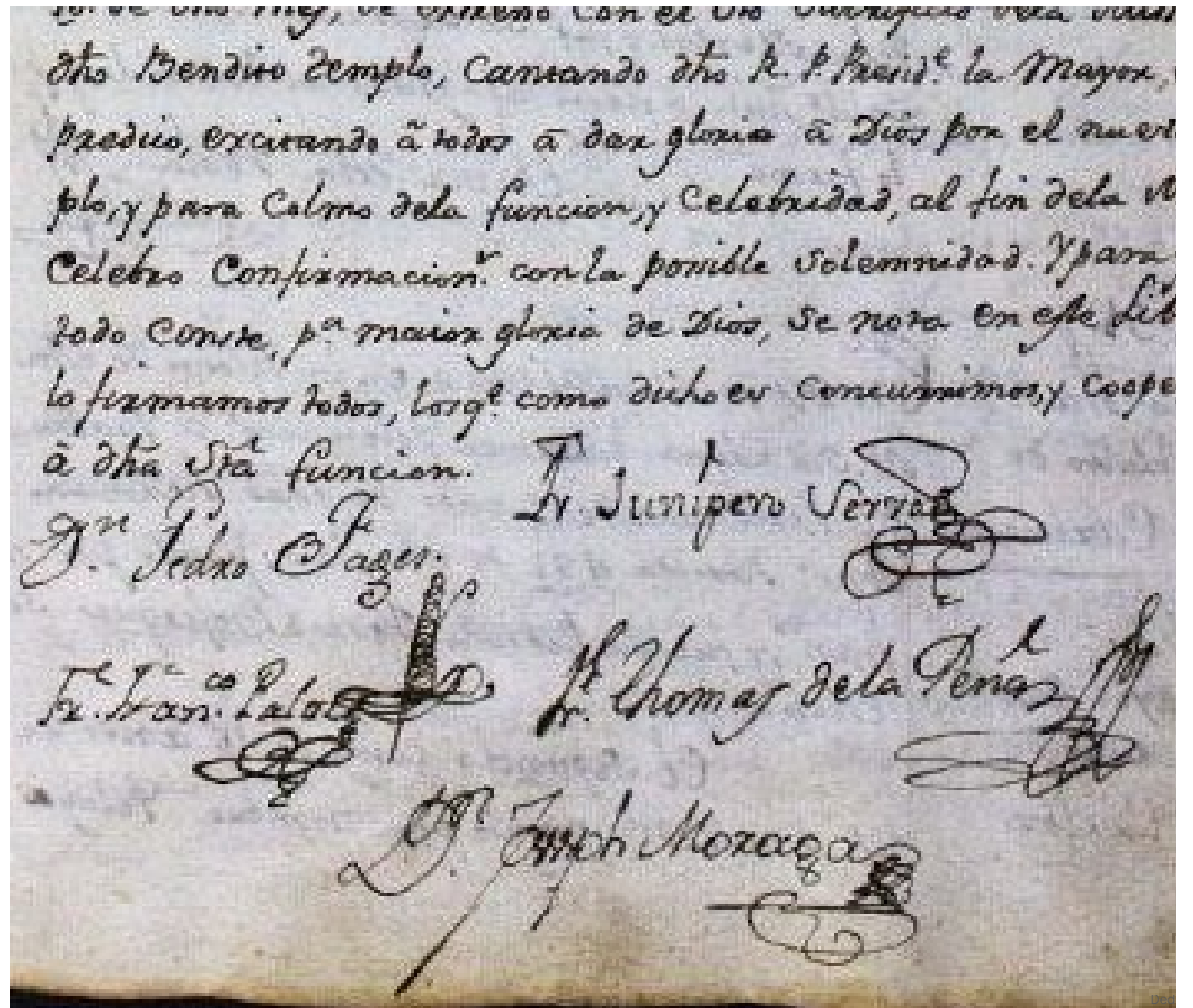
- Mission Santa Clara Manuscripts Collection covers time period of 1777-1851
- Includes 35 boxes of various documents such as sacramental records, Mission reports, governmental correspondence, illustrations, sheet music, etc.
- Also includes 212 printed books, aka “The Mission Library” of the padres



Veduta della chiesa e casa di Santa Clara come si trovava nel 1851 quando vi entro il P. Nobili (View of the Church and House of Santa Clara as They Were in 1851 when Fr. Nobili Took Possession), Mission Santa Clara Manuscript Collection, Santa Clara University.

“Of Course It’s There!” (Expectations of the Collections’ Content)

- “Where’s the Serra stuff?”
- Narratives of, about, or written by:
 - Fr. Junipero Serra
 - Franciscan friars’:
 - abuse, punishment, enslavement, extreme violence and murder of local Indigenous populations
 - Indigenous accounts of these events, life on the Mission, cultural traditions and mores, etc.



Dedication of Mission Santa Clara by Fr. Junipero Serra, 1784, Mission Santa Clara Manuscript Collection, Santa Clara University. University Archives.

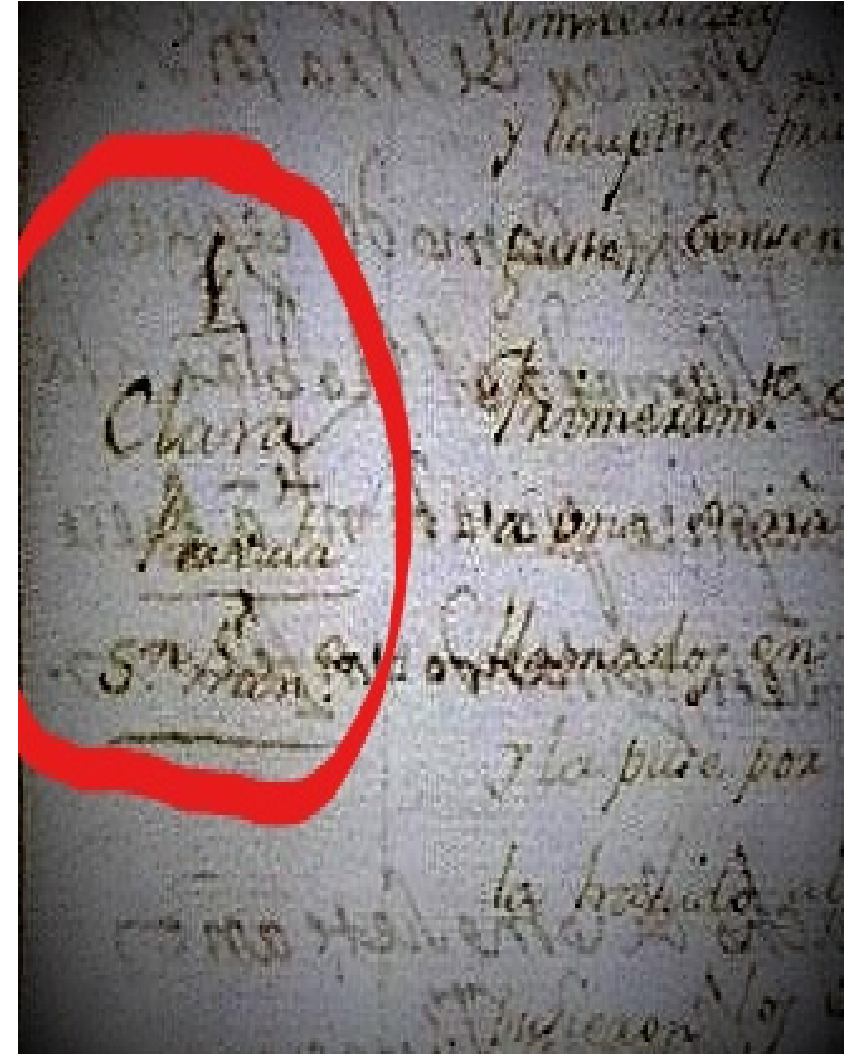


Null Archives & Ohlone Representation in the MSCMC

- What are “null archives”?
- Baby Clara, baptized in 1777
- Indigenous populations and “there/not there”
- “Land-ing”/“finding” hope – looking beyond traditional, e.g. European storytelling
- Local Ohlone communities

“Rather than setting limitations on the project, a lack of evidence instead can be used to expand the project by applying the principles of the null curriculum.”

Janak, 2020





Addressing Silence, Elision & Erasure in Mission Santa Clara Manuscript Collection

- Seeing what's not there (a starting point):
 - Critically engage with research
 - Ask for assistance from local Ohlone groups
 - Invite the Santa Clara University community to participate in open dialog
 - Create a healing space on campus



Mission Santa Clara Indian Apartment, c.1784-1818. According to Father Arthur Spearman this Indian home was part of Mission Santa Clara's third site (1784-1818) and was later occupied by "Yankee squatters" (around 1850).



“We might ask . . . ‘settler audiences to sit with, or dwell in, these affective spaces, to engage with narratives that consider the possibility of one’s disappearance—narratives that Indigenous peoples have had to deal with for a very long time. Indigenous populations have had to engage with symbolic and material realities/violences that have vanished their bodies and foreclosed their possible futures for centuries, and they continue to deal with these realities on a daily basis.’”

Recollet & Johnson, 2019

Hunt, 2018



**What are we gonna
do about it?**



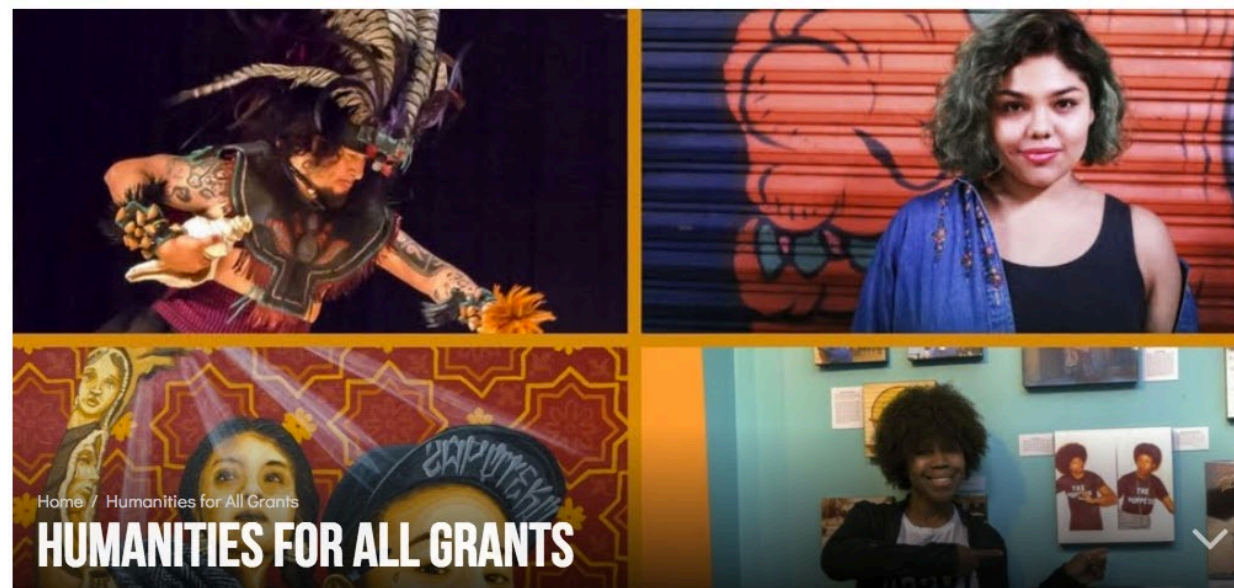
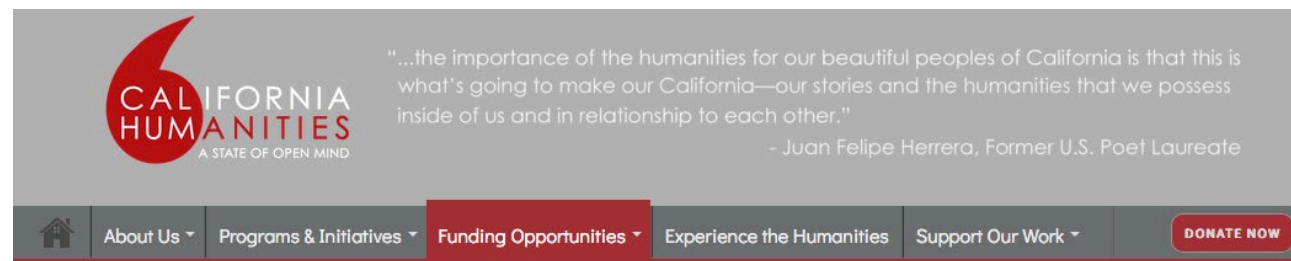
Our objectives

- Create welcoming research environment
- Engage Ohlone in our organizational culture
- Achieve culture of **dialog, openness, and interaction**
- Remunerate Ohlone for their contributions



Humanities for All Grants (Start Small)

- From California Humanities (independent nonprofit)
- Quick Grants
- \$1,000 – \$5,000
- Community Dialog
- Starts building relationships



Humanities for All is a grant program that supports locally-initiated public humanities projects. This program responds to the needs and interests of Californians, encourages greater public participation in humanities programming, particularly by new and/or underserved audiences. It aims to promote understanding and empathy among all our state's peoples in order to cultivate a thriving democracy.

Please join our [mailing list](#) to receive a monthly update about funding opportunities.



Ohlone History Working Group (Go Big)

- Amazing, comprehensive report originating out of the charge given by Fr. Engh (former SCU President) in 2019
- We love the ideas for collaboration with Archives & Special Collections presented in the report
- Go big—grant/donor for project archivist position



Bibliography

- Edward Janak, (2020) What Do You Mean It's Not There? Doing Null History. *The American Archivist*: Spring/Summer 2020, Vol. 83, No. 1, pp. 57-76.
- Karyn Re collet and J. Johnson, (2019) Why do you need to know that? Slipstream Movements and Mapping “Otherwise” in Tkaronto. *Journal of Public Pedagogies*, (4). Special Issue Walking in/as Publics.



What do you think?

We would love to hear your ideas in the Q&A!