

CRISJ

Center for Race, Immigration, and Social Justice

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CRISJ Director 1

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The Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) challenges historic, systemic, and enduring patterns of intersectional inequalities in the state, nation, and globe. The times have been hard as the world struggles with droughts and fires caused by human impact on climate change; COVID variants that keep on spreading and killing the most vulnerable; xenophobic movements that target minoritized populations; mass shootings that reflect the national culture love of guns and domination; a law and order that traps descendants of colonized people in modern forms of slavery. Too many, heavy, and serious challenges to ignore or face alone. CRISJ purposefully advances understandings, empathies, motivations, and collaborations to build a healthier world that works for everyone with equity, dignity, and social & environmental justice. This Annual Report highlights some of CRISJ activities for the academic year 2021-2022 ([website](#)).

On May 6, the first cohort of CRISJ student scholars presented their year-long research projects that were guided by faculty mentors and a CRISJ social justice research course. Both students and faculty enjoyed the mentorship program, defining it as a

transformational life experience that has inspired and empowered the participants to continue their studies into graduate school and/or to apply their skills for advocacy work in their communities.

On April 4th, CRISJ hosted its third annual Community Empowerment Faire hosting over a dozen community organizations involved with social justice work, and offering students opportunities for internships, service learning, and volunteering. Our co-sponsors included the Community Engagement Center and Sacramento's Poor People's Campaign, who integrated a powerful public reading of Martin Luther King's speech, "Beyond Vietnam: Time to Break the Silence." The faire was amazingly motivational for everyone.

On Women's International Day in March 8, CRISJ hosted a forum focusing on "Violence against Indigenous Women across the Americas." Community leaders and organizational advocates from indigenous perspectives reported on the systemic and continuous violence faced by indigenous women and girls in the United States, Mexico, and Central America. Their research, testimonies, and guidance for human rights were powerfully illuminating, showing the historical continuity of this violence and the intersecting systems making indigenous women, exceptionally vulnerable. All the participants actively push for policies, values, and practices that empower women across borders.

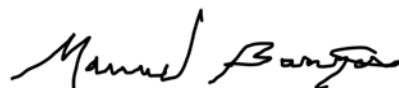
In the fall of 2021, CRISJ announced its first Student Empowerment Scholarship applications for students who are first-generation and demonstrate academic excellence and civic engagement helping improve their communities. In the spring 2022, three Sac State students were awarded the scholarship for their exemplary work in college and in the community. In this report, we will share the exemplary work of Kenya Burton, Alejandro Sanchez, and Jaycie Wildermuth.

In November 4, 2021, CRISJ hosted a zoom forum on "US Neo-Colonialism and Migration to el Norte", seeking to increase understandings of the root causes of migration and highlighting the centrality of US intervention in causing migration to the north. This event hosted Dr. Paul Almeida from UC Merced, and panelists from across the Americas, providing expert testimony. On October 12, 2021, CRISJ also held a forum on "Advancing Equity in Higher Education: From the Margins", and we also had an expert scholar, Dr. Mary Romero, Professor of Justice and Social Inquiry at Arizona State University, who talked about how neo-liberalism affected the patterns of intersectional inequality in the University.

In addition, the Center has launched its second season of the CRISJ Podcast "Building Justice", which explores critical issues affecting our communities with the hopes of creating a healthier and more just world. Please visit the [podcast](#) website, review the content, and join the CRISJ team to amplify the intersectional social justice mission.

Significantly, CRISJ as a center is largely running on volunteers among faculty, staff, students, and community partners. We thank these volunteers who have gone beyond their professional obligations, who have sacrificed their personal time, who have dedicated their minds and hearts to make a difference in these very challenging times in human history. These efforts have not been in vain. CRISJ was recognized by very distinguished organizations. In November 2021, the United Nations reached out to CRISJ to host its [UN Special Rapporteur](#) on Minority Issues at Sacramento State. CRISJ provided referrals to local organizations and offered expert testimony in the areas concerning our mission, racial and intersectional justice. In April 2022, CRISJ was the recipient of [Sac State 5K Fun Run](#) fund donation for aligning with the program's fund mission and with the University's anti-racism and inclusive plan. In May 2022, the Renaissance Society awarded CRISJ the Diversity and Inclusion Award for exemplifying excellence in the work for diversity and inclusion on campus and the surrounding communities. In less than two years of its formal existence, CRISJ has had a major impact in shaping the institutional culture and in pushing for structural changes that align with civil and human rights.

In brief, from the CRISJ social justice perspective, everyone has a role in transforming this world into one that encourages healthy relationships with each other and all life forms. Considerably, among the most transformative visions and advocacy come from those at the bottom of the social hierarchies, because the insights of human rights arise from that position that intimately understands oppression as unnatural and unacceptable. This social justice framework has guided CRISJ work. I hope you can consider joining our team of associates and partners and help us advance the transformational CRISJ mission.



Manuel Barajas,
Professor of Sociology
CRISJ Co-founder

Spotlights

CRISJ is a network of professors, students, community partners, and artist in the Sacramento Region that work together to implement the vision of the Center. In this annual report, we want to highlight some of the talented people behind the work of CRISJ. We could not do much without all the work, efforts, and talent of CRISJ Associates.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Danielle Slakoff

Dr. Danielle Slakoff is a feminist victimologist and criminologist in the Division of Criminal Justice at California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Slakoff graduated with her bachelor's degree in Journalism and her master's degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Long Beach. In 2018, she graduated with her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska, Omaha. She joined the faculty at Sac Sate in August 2020.

Dr. Slakoff's research broadly examines the media portrayal of the criminal legal system, violence against women, race/ethnicity, intimate partner violence, and true crime. Dr. Slakoff is a national expert on the media portrayal of women and girls as victims, and her research and/or commentary on this topic has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, on the nationally-syndicated talk show *Tamron Hall*, on three local Sacramento news stations, and in many more outlets. Her dissertation—"The Representation of Female Victims in Front-Page News Stories: The Effect of Race/Ethnicity"—described how White, Black, and Latina women and girl victims were differentially portrayed in crime news. She found that Black and Latina women and girls received much less sympathetic coverage than their White counterparts, even when controlling for several factors.

One of Dr. Slakoff's career goals is to share her research with practitioners and/or journalists. In May 2022, Dr. Slakoff presented via Zoom to My Sister's House, a safe



Dr. Danielle Slakoff

haven for Asian Pacific Islander Women and Children in Sacramento, about intimate partner violence within the LGBTQ+ community. In June 2022, she was invited to speak and present to employees at *Time Magazine* (sponsored by The Young Professionals Network and B.E.A.T. [Black Employees at TIME]) about addressing media bias in news coverage. Attended by over 40 journalists, Dr. Slakoff was able to share her message about the harmful ways women of color are portrayed as victims of crime in the news to a group of people working in a newsroom. Since joining CSUS, Dr. Slakoff has delivered over 10 invited guest speaker, guest lecture, and/or panel presentations at universities across

the globe, including in Australia, Canada, and the United States.

Dr. Slakoff has been an active member of CRISJ since joining the faculty at Sacramento State. As a standing member of the CRISJ podcast committee, she is excited for the opportunity to continue supporting (and growing) this incredible project. Dr. Slakoff also served on the planning committee for CRISJ's "Violence Against Indigenous Women Across the Americas" event in spring 2022, and she moderated the keynote address by Sacramento City Council Member Katie Valenzuela. Dr.

Slakoff is especially proud to have served as a mentor in the CRISJ Mentorship program in the 2021-2022 academic year. Dr. Slakoff and Destiny Duran, an undergraduate student in the Sociology Department at Sacramento State, worked together on a project examining the "Missing White Woman Syndrome" in true crime podcasts. The pair plans to submit their project for peer review in the coming months. Dr. Slakoff is incredibly proud and grateful to be part of CRISJ, and views it to be an essential location for critical conversations on CSUS's campus.

Student Spotlights: Recipients of the CRISJ Student Empowerment Scholarship 2021-2022

CRISJ seeks to empower students and their communities, and one way CRISJ does this is by awarding scholarships to deserving students, who are first-generation and demonstrate academic excellence and civic engagement helping improve their communities. Although now a majority in numbers, these minoritized students come from communities that are alarmingly underserved and underrepresented in higher education as faculty and in the curriculum. The Empowerment Scholarship recognizes their academic success and affirms their drive to build a better and healthier world that works for everyone. In 2022, three students received the scholarship for their exemplary work in school and in the community. With great pleasure, we recognize Kenya Burton, Alejandro Sanchez, and Jaycie Wildermuth.

These three recipients of the Student Empowerment Scholarship exemplify the CRISJ spirit, empowering voices from the margins, building healthy relationships in the community, and challenging structures of oppression that harm society. If you want to support CRISJ's efforts in empowering students who are facing some of the greatest challenges ever seen in higher education—i.e., economic insecurities, pandemic, and climate change and impacts—, please donate to the **CRISJ Empowerment Scholarship Fund (\$1365)** and add your voice to others who have committed to making a difference in these challenging times that can only be overcome with a collaborative spirit.



Kenya Burton

Keyna Burton, a transfer student majoring in Communications at Sacramento State, graduated Magna Cum Laude at Hartnell Community College, and was the distinguished recipient of the New York Silver Key in Arts and Writing for poetry, among many other honors that mark her academic formation. Keyna has read her poetry, by invitation of Senator Ana Caballero, to the female caucus and received standing ovation from California's assemblywomen and senators. She is passionate about service to her community, and advocates for non-profits that serve marginalized populations, particularly for women and

children escaping domestic violence. She has been involved with student empowerment organizations, including Alliance for Black Thought and Black Student Union; and has helped coordinate food/clothes drives for the homeless and distributed resources to farmworkers and their children, who have been among the most impacted by the pandemic and economic insecurities in the state. Kenya is a survivor, a leader, and an inspiration mind and heart.



Alex Sanches

Alejandro Sanchez, a transfer student from Santa Rosa Community College, is passionate about environmental justice and is currently majoring in Environmental Studies at Sacramento State. He is academically high achieving and civic minded, and hopes to pursue a career with the State's Public Health Department. Among his academic organizational experiences include involvement with the National Science Foundation, S-STEM Miles Program, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Alejandro also serves in the Alcohol Advisory Committee for ASI and Environmental Student Organization doing river clean ups in the American River; and has served as a school advisor at the Healdsburg High School, assisting English-learning and migrant students. In the future, Alejandro hopes to continue social and environmental justice work and to run for political office to amplify the representation of the scientific perspective and minority interests.



Jaycee Wildermuth

Jaycee Wildermuth, a student in the Counselor of Education Master's program, strongly also exemplifies the CRISJ Mission. She is passionate about education, research, as well as intervention within communities experiencing oppression and trauma. Her work regarding religious trauma and sexual abuse, a focus that she intends to continue exploring, has been presented at academic conferences. Jaycee was recently elected by her peers as the inaugural President of Sacramento State's re-instated chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, a professional and scholarly organization for Counselor Education students. In the future, she plans to pursue a doctoral degree to offer effective treatment and counseling to those affected by trauma and abuse.

Community Partner Spotlight: Brenda-Joyce Newman

Brenda-Joyce Newman is the oldest of six siblings born in San Francisco, California. As the daughter of Armed Forces personnel, Brenda travelled abroad to several different countries. This opportunity taught her to respect and value cultures and norms different from her own.

Brenda lived in Texas as a child where Sundown laws, segregated schools, the Ku-Klux Klan, voter suppression, lynching's and Jim Crow laws were her reality. Her mother Ella reinforced the importance of an education as a way out by taking her children to the library every week to get a book. Subsequently, three daughters have Masters Degrees, another is an ER physician, one niece is a PhD. Sociology instructor at Howard University, and



Brenda-Joyce Newman at the CRISJ Empowerment Fair (2020)



Brenda-Joyce Newman at the CRISJ Empowerment Fair, with CRISJ co-founder, Dr. Stan Oden (2020)

two nieces have Bachelor Degrees. Both brothers and her son have some college.

The unselfish acts of Ms. Ella, Ms. Nellie, Cousin Lois, and Aunt Barbara introduced the siblings to activism and a love for “the people.” Ms. Ella somehow made breakfast stretch on school days to feed three neighborhood kids who appeared at the front door hungry. A paternal Aunt in San Francisco fed the homeless outside of a bar that she worked as a bartender, while a Cousin braved police brutality when she hid voter registration cards in the floorboard of the kitchen in Mississippi. Brenda’s paternal great-grandmother Nellie was the epitome of a strong Black feminist. She owned her own home and café and kept a loaded shotgun behind her front door! It was common knowledge that hungry travelers “hobo-in” to their next destination could ring the bell on her front gate and one of the siblings, cousins or uncles would bring out bags of food and water to help them along the way.

At age 19, Brenda returned to San Francisco and enrolled in San Francisco City College. For the next

several years, Brenda became actively involved with the San Francisco and Oakland Chapters of the Black Panther Party. Brenda participated in outreach and theatre activities to promote Black Political empowerment in the Bay Area.

Brenda moved to Sacramento to be near family and raise her son in 1975. After retiring from State Service on disability, Brenda enrolled at American River College and received an Associate of Arts Degree in Legal Assisting. Brenda subsequently obtained a Bachelors of Arts and Master's Degree in Political Science in 2010 summa cum laude. Among many instructors who were instrumental in Brenda's academic success, she is most grateful to Professor Stan Oden, PhD., Professor Elvia Ramirez, PhD., and Professor Manuel Barajas, PhD., for helping her navigate the pathway of the Master's Program.

Upon graduation, Brenda worked for a local Foster Care attorney. Electing to work at the grass roots level and passing it on, Brenda volunteered with various non-profits including the Western State Workers Association to help the underserved navigate bureaucratic red tape to obtain childcare, medical care, housing and legal representation. Presently Brenda is a member of the Southern Poverty Law Center, The Sacramento Chapter of the Poor People's Campaign, and Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice at CSUS.

Brenda is active in local area churches teaching praise dance and other theatre activities. From a close knit family of sports fanatics and a formerly gifted softball/basketball player Brenda continues to support exceptionally gifted nieces and a granddaughter (a freshman ranked 122 in the nation) in travel softball and another granddaughter who made team gymnastics at age 8. The loves of her life continue to be her son and daughter-in-law both state workers.

Community Partner Spotlight: Teatro Nagual

Founded in 2006 and incorporated in 2009, Teatro Nagual is the premiere Latinx mobile social justice theatre company in the region.

Our mission is promoting civic engagement by creating innovative, educational, live, mobile theater, and art experiences utilizing various art genres throughout the Sacramento Region focusing on, but not limited to, the Latinx community. These bi-lingual, non-partisan, pop-ups, bring life to the issues of economic well-being, health disparities, environmental justice, immigration challenges, voter participation, and stories relevant to the community; sometimes encouraging people to laugh while finding common ground, promoting civic engagement, and empowering citizens and performers to seek change to better their lives and the lives of their families and communities. Our core organizational programs and services include a number of mobile



Richard Falcon, Artistic Director of Teatro Nagual

theatre sketches to inform the public of, environmental justice challenges in their communities. A group of writers are partnering with local bi-lingual talent and administrative personnel to bring these mobile experiences into the community ensuring access to all.

Our latest program is a mobile comedic sketch focusing on environmental justice (EJ) and local inequities. In partnership with United Latinos, we continue to write informational “actos” for the community. In addition, we are also working on voter education in Sacramento County; and focusing on the pilot California Voters Choice Act was important. This non-partisan sketch was performed at town halls. Additionally, we have

also partnered with the La Familia Youth Voice program, focused on spoken word performances on Measure U. For this project, performances were developed and presented to the Mayor and Council.

Recently, during the pandemic, we partnered with CRISJ to create the first of it’s kind, on-line art exhibit focusing on social justice issues. It activated numerous community and student artists with the theme: *Unequal Freedoms, expressions of social justice*. Currently, we are continuing our partnership with CRISJ and collaborating closely with Dr. Araceli Feliz in the area of literacy empowerment.



Scene from play “Cesar and Ruben –Photo by John Castillo.

Artist Spotlight: Xico González

My name is Xico González, and I'm a Chicano educator, artist, poet, and a political and cultural organizer based in Sacramento, California. I am an alumnus of Sacramento State (2002 and 2005), and UC Davis (2007). Upon completing an MFA degree in Art Studio, I taught Art Studio, Ethnic Studies, and Chicana/o Studies at Sacramento State and at UC Davis. After a while, I decided to leave the post-secondary educational setting and bring my skills and knowledge to the high school level. Since 2011, I have been teaching Spanish and Art Studio at the Met Sacramento High School, where I promote social and cultural participation and awareness in and out of the classroom.

As a committed Chicano artist, I enjoy putting in visual form the concerns of my people, and the concerns of other people of color, as we fight the different manifestations of white supremacy. I also enjoy bringing new generations into the Movement through organizations like MEChA (Chicanx Student Movement of Aztlán) to continue building on the legacy and the work of Chicanas, Chicanos, and Chicanxs from the Civil Rights era to the present. It is beautiful to see the transformation in youth as they become agents of change in our communities. Art and Chicanismo are great tools to make this change happen.

As a Chicano, my heritage is an essential part of who I am. I celebrate, participate, and organize Chicano cultural events in our community in partnership with organizations like Sol Collective, NorCal Resist, NOPAL, Raizes Collective, Escritores del Nuevo Sol, and the Met Sacramento High School. Some of these events include Día de Los Muertos celebrations/exhibitions, Chicano art exhibits, poetry readings, posadas, Cinco de mayo celebrations, dances, rallies, marches, protests, and facilitating cultural art workshops to community members.

My current project is a year-long traveling exhibit titled, "Hermosa Rebeldía: Selected Works by Xico González" featuring artwork that was used in the frontlines of the struggle for social justice and equity over the last decade and a half. "Hermosa Rebeldía" will be exhibited at Sacramento State's University Union Gallery from September 26th to October 20th, 2022. The opening reception will take place on Thursday, September 29th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The exhibit features digitally created posters that were printed in editions of 100 to 2500 with community support, and given away for free at rallies, marches, and protests primarily in Sacramento, Stockton, Santa Rosa, Oakland, and Los Angeles. "Hermosa Rebeldía" has been exhibited at the Mexican Heritage Center in Stockton, Sol Collective in Sacramento, and after the exhibit at Sacramento State's University Union Gallery, it will travel to Santa Rosa, its final destination.



Xico González

Furthermore, another ongoing project is an online and on the airwaves radio show titled Radio Xicanismo. The radio show can be found online at www.mixlr.com/radioxicanismo/showreel and on the Sacramento airwaves at KUTZ 103.1FM on Thursdays and Sundays from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. In this radio show, I showcased the beautiful music of México and Latin America. An extension of this show is an Instagram page (@radioxicanismo) where I share my vinyl collection. I feature records with a brief artist biography, as well as connecting the music to personal and collective experiences. As part of Radio Xicanismo, I also interview DJs, musicians, organizers, and cultural workers about their work and personal/creative journey. All the interviews are archived at www.youtube.com/radioxicanismo for the general public to access them.

González will also be exhibiting his work at the Sac State University Union Gallery from September 26th to October 20th, 2022. The opening reception will take place on Thursday, September 29th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The exhibit is titled, "Hermosa Rebeldia: Selected Works by Xico González" and it features artwork that has been used in the frontlines of the struggle for social justice and equity over the last decade and a half. The posters were used in marches, rallies, and protests in Sacramento, Stockton, Santa Rosa, Oakland, and Los Angeles and other places in Californias and the US. "Hermosa Rebeldia" has been exhibited at the Mexican Heritage Center in Stockton, and Sol Collective in Sacramento. After Sac State, it will be exhibited in Santa Rosa, its final destination. The exhibit is sponsored by Nopal, NorCal Resist, Sol Collective, and Raizes Collective.

Art by Xico González

Xico González graciously allowed us to use his art on our poster for the event help March 8, women's day, "Violence Against Indigenous Women Across the Americas."



Art by Xico González

Events

During the 2020-2021 Academic Year, the Center for Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) organized several virtual events at Sacramento State bring to light the current issues that affect our community on and off campus. These events reflect our continued efforts on building bridges on and off campus with faculty, students, and community partners— including virtual gatherings during the current pandemic.

Advancing Equity in Higher Education

By Manuel Barajas

On October 12th, 2021, the zoom forum "Advancing Equity in Higher Education: From the Margins" examined systemic inequalities in higher education. Mary Romero, emeritus Professor of Justice and Social Inquiry at Arizona State University, was a distinguished keynote speaker and provided a conceptual framework for understanding the trends of inequality in higher education. Her keynote speech was followed by a panel of Sacramento State faculty/affiliates including Terry Scott, Dr. Ryan Fuller, Dr. Amber Gonzalez, and Dr. Bernard Brown. This forum was co-sponsored by the California Faculty Association and the Chicana/Latinx Faculty and Staff Association.

Of special mention on August 2022, Mary Romero was recognized with the W.E.B. Du Bois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award by the American Sociological Association. Her lifetime work has reoriented her discipline by opening it up and by creating bridges with other fields of study and with historically underrepresented communities. Romero's qualitative and critical illuminations of intersectional oppressions are unparalleled; and like no other scholar previously recognized by the W.E.B. DuBois Award in over 60 years, her inclusivity and affirmation of those at the margins transcends many oppressive borders— racial, gender, class, sexuality, nationality. Mary Romero has an exceptional record of distinguished and impactful scholarship that advances social justice with courage and determination—something urgently needed in the current political times where oppressive forces are shamelessly emboldened. Romero exemplifies the spirit of W.E.B. DuBois, an intellectual heavy weight with courage and purpose to change the world to a better one.

In our zoom forum, Mary Romero presented her research based on the Arizona State University case study that illuminates the logics and trends of

neoliberalism intersecting with other systems of inequality to hurt the quality of education in the nation, particularly for historically underrepresented communities (see video). Higher education has been impacted by a corporate profit-model that focuses on quantity over quality, and creates what George Ritzer coined, McDonaldisation of education. The focus is on marketing image, standardizing process, increasing quantity of consumers, and profiting from them; but it does little to serve diverse communities with diversified needs and to provide interactive, dialogical, quality education that empowers the mind and spirit. Simply, higher education is under great pressure to follow the fast-food production model and to move away from a more qualitative-knowledge production. The first model appears fast and cheap, but not healthy; and the second one appears more slow and costly, but more healthy for the body and for a democracy that works for all.



U.S. Neo-Colonialism and Migration to El Norte

By Manuel Barajas

The CRISJ forum "U.S. Neocolonialism and Migration to el Norte" on November 4th, 2021, sought to help students and larger community understand the roots of migration from some Central American [Northern Triangle] countries and Caribbean, e.g., Haiti. The event was moderated by Dr. Elvia Ramirez, Professor and Director of Chicana Studies. For the keynote speech, Dr. Paul Almeida, Professor at UC Merced—with extensive field research on social movements and as an international election observer—provided a context for understanding how U.S. policy and interventions in these regions have created the conditions of poverty, violence, mobilization, and migration. Dr. Almeida gave a historical overview of the relationship between the United States and Central America, detailing military interventions, related political repression and death rates by nation (e.g., Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua), and forced migrations to the United States, increasing during 1980s to 2019 from 354,000 to 3,728,000. Significantly, United States' neo-liberal political influence informs Central American nations' Structural Adjustment Programs, Trade Agreements, privatization of public resources, casualization of labor that intensify political, economic, and social instabilities leading to civil unrest, social movements, and also migrations to El Norte. In addition, the northern global powers impact on climate change has also contributed to Central American and Caribbean migration to the United States.

Following the keynote, a panel of experts and advocates spoke of the lived experiences shaping migration to el norte. Cori Ring-Martinez and Ivan Villegas served as translators for some of the panelists. Dr. Ann Lopez, Director and Founder of Center for Farmworker Families, provided insights on how the neo-liberal 1994 North American Trade Agreement between United States, Canada, and Mexico devastated the lives of

Mexican small farmers, who made up the majority of food producers in their country. Unable to compete with corporate and subsidized agribusiness from the north, these indigenous farmers were forced to migrate and become farm workers to the United States. These indigenous communities had their ability to produce food for themselves stolen, and were forced to buy U.S. genetically modified corn that was not healthy and that they could not afford. Now laboring the U.S. fields, they are trapped into modern slavery by laws and traditions that reduce their humanity to manageable, exploitable, and disposable workers. Reynaldo Dominguez, Indigenous Guapinol Leader, and Jose Arteaga, Director of Share Foundation and Vamos a la Milpa Project, similarly provided a case of Hondurans, whose water sources were privatized for international mining companies, denying local villages the right to exist. In resistance, protestors from el rio de [river of] Guapinol fought to defend their human right to access water, and repression followed as some were disappeared and others incarcerated. The struggle for social and environmental justice continues, and the Vamos a La Milpa Project seeks to promote sustainable, organic, indigenous ways of producing food that respects the land, people, and environment. This collective and democratic project serves as a model to combat the concentration of power and wealth; and helps communities remain in their homelands.

Maria Elena Martinez, with El Salvador-Sacramento Sister Cities, came to the United States in the context of war in the 1980s; and she shared that though the war had ended, the living conditions remain extremely dangerous for the general society, but particularly for those most vulnerable. Maria Elena then introduced Edith Elizondo, Coordinator of Alerta Raquel [alert system] in El Salvador. Edith focused on how racial, gender, sexual, and class oppression make women

acutely vulnerable to violence and disappearances and to stigmas that blame them for their victimization. Alerta Raquel responds to the alarming disappearances of women, adolescents, and girls by sending quick alerts to varied social and organizational networks to assist in the tracking, finding, and/or saving victims. In effect, Alerta Raquel struggles against the systemic violence and disappearances of young women and the complicity of the state that is unable and unwilling to act against the devaluation of human life by those with more power.

Doudou Pierre Festile, a Haitian Voice with the Colectiva de Migracion, reviewed historical periods defining Haiti and its emergent migrations. Beginning in 1492, European colonizers invaded, exploited, and enslaved indigenous Taínos; reduced them in number to almost extinction; and increasingly replaced with enslaved Africans. Black resistance and liberation movements soon grew against the colonizers. In 1804, after independence from Europeans, Haitians invited others who suffered enslavement to join them, and collaborate in building a richer and healthier society with abundant natural resources. Haiti, thus, was a country of liberty and dignity and was not always a place of poverty, tragedy, and emigration. However, into the twentieth century, Haiti fell to imperialism. Before, Haitians farmers worked and supported their families and their communities; but then Haiti suffered U.S. interventions that devastated its people. Northern American corporations began to orient the Haitian economy for exports, particularly sugar cane. This neo-colonialism subordinated Haiti, its constitution, and its freedom to choose their own leaders/government. These conditions, according to

Doudou Pierre Festile, created hell in Haiti—e.g., economic, political, and social instability—and have contributed to their modern migrations patterns.

In a general message from the panelists, hope comes from the persistent struggle for freedom; from solidarity work across borders; from walking with those at the margins and affirming their point of views and interests; and from pushing for policies/actions that affirm healthy lives, relations, and futures.

The poster features a green header with the Sacramento State logo and title. Below the title, it lists the date and time, a registration link, and the presenter CRISJ. The main body of the poster is a photograph of a border wall with a grid of colorful panels. Text on the wall lists the event schedule: a keynote by Dr. Paul Almeida, a music performance, and a panel of voices challenging neo-colonial systems. Contact information and the Sacramento State logo are at the bottom.

SACRAMENTO STATE

US Neo-Colonialism and Migration to El Norte

Thursday, November 4th, 2021

[Click here to register for event](#)

Presented by: **CRISJ**
CENTER ON RACE, IMMIGRATION, & SOCIAL JUSTICE AT SAC STATE

Noon - 1:15p.m. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Paul Almeida
Professor at University of California Merced
Author of Social Movements and Mobilizing Democracy

1:15 - 1:30p.m. Musica de Resistencia [Music of Resistance]
Curated by Dr. Luis Chavez, Lecturer, Sacramento State

1:30 - 2:45p.m. Panel: Voices Challenging Neo-Colonial Systems
Dr. Ann Lopez, Center for Farmworker Families
Juan Lopez & Jose Artiga, Director of Share Foundation, Vamos a la Milpa
Maria Elena Martinez, El Salvador-Sac Sister Cities
Edith Elizondo, Coordinadora de Alerta Raquel
Doudou Pierre Festile, Haitian Voice from Colectiva de Migración

Moderated by: Dr. Elvia Ramirez, Professor, Sacramento State

Contact Dr. Manuel Barajas, crisj@csus.edu
for accommodations & questions

SACRAMENTO STATE

Photo credit: @Ebermann

Violence Against Indigenous Women Across the Americas

By Danielle Slakoff and Maria Vargas

On International Women's Day, celebrated on March 8, 2022, CRISJ held a virtual event titled "Violence Against Indigenous Women Across the Americas." The event's goal was to raise awareness about the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls across borders.

The first portion of the event was a keynote address by standing Sacramento City Councilmember Katie Valenzuela. Valenzuela discussed her Indigenous heritage with the audience, and she described the work she is doing in the Sacramento community to bring attention to Indigenous issues. Then, during the Q&A session, audience members could ask the Councilmember questions about various topics, including politics and activism.

The second part of the event was a panel of speakers from around the globe. The panelists addressed the different manifestations of indigeneity and gendered violence in the United States, Mexico, and Central America. The panel was comprised of Morning Star Gali, Irene de Barraicua, Andrea Guadalupe Luna Santa, and Edith Elizondo, and these women had an open conversation about the silenced epidemic of intimate partner violence and sexual violence against Indigenous women.

Morning Star Gali, an activist with Restoring Justice for Indigenous Peoples, discussed her work in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) movement. According to the Coalition to Stop Violence Native Women, homicide is the third leading cause of death among Native girls and women ages 10-24. Edith Elizondo of Alerta Raquel discussed the high rates of femicidal violence in El Salvador; in 2017, the rate was the highest in Central America. Irene de Barraicua, who works for the organization Lideres Campesinas (Indigenous Leaders), focused on the systemic violence against Indigenous laborers by highlighting the

experiences of immigrant women. Lastly, Andrea Guadalupe Luna Santana shared an excerpt from her upcoming book dedicated to exposing the struggles of transgender immigrant women in Tijuana and Juarez.

The event was a success and would not have been possible without the amazing women who shared their stories. In addition, the Planning Committee would like to thank our sponsors of this event: Sacramento State's Office of Inclusive Excellence, The Division of Criminal Justice, the Department of Environmental Studies, and The One World Initiative.

SACRAMENTO STATE'S CENTER ON RACE, IMMIGRATION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (CRISJ) IS PROUD TO PRESENT:

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No more stolen sisters
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**VIOLENCE
AGAINST
INDIGENOUS
WOMEN
ACROSS THE
AMERICAS**

Keynote: Katie Valenzuela,
City of Sacramento Councilmember, District 4
Noon-1:15pm

Moderated by Dr. Danielle Slakoff, Department of Criminal Justice, California State University, Sacramento.

Virtual Panel
1:30pm-3:00pm

Morning Star Gali, Restoring Justice for Indigenous Peoples (RJIP)
Irene de Barraicua, Lideres Campesinas
Edith Elizondo, Alerta Raquel
Andrea Guadalupe Luna Santana, Diversidad Sexual de Chihuahua
Moderated by Dr. Maria Vargas, Department of Ethnic Studies, California State University, Sacramento.

For more information, please contact Danielle Slakoff (danielle.slakoff@csus.edu) or Maria Vargas (mjvargas@csus.edu)
For accommodations, please contact us at least 5 days in advance at: crisj@csus.edu

SACRAMENTO STATE

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SAC STATE'S:
DIVISION OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE,
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE,
ONE WORLD INITIATIVE, AND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Community Empowerment Faire

By Manuel Barajas

The Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) hosted the third annual Community Empowerment Faire on April 4th, 2022, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., at the University Union Ballroom III at Sacramento State. Advancing the university-anchor initiative, this event hosts community organizations involved with social justice work as a way of helping Sac State students 1) feel a sense of purpose by addressing issues that matter to them, 2) motivate them to give back to their communities, and 3) offer them the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge in the field, providing them the biggest lessons on what works and what does not in the service of social and environmental justice. The Community Engagement Center (CCE), a co-sponsor for the third year, provided support to both students and community partners in understanding the process for formalizing internship, service learning, and/or volunteer service.



Photo of MLK Reading, Cathleen Williams and Mario Galvan, by Manuel Barajas, April 4th 2022.



The Poor People's Campaign, also co-sponsors and participants to the faire, integrated a Public Reading of Martin Luther King's speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence", that articulates a vision of anti-racism, anti-war, anti-poverty, and anti-devastation to our environments. The public reading involved students and community members who took turns reading the speech ([see video of reading](#)). Professor Diego Bonilla, CRISJ faculty associate, was generous to record this reading.

Afterwards, the Community Empowerment Faire hosted twelve community partners who responded to our call to participate. Participating organizations were recruited through an open invitation sent out to a broad and diverse group of organizations that align with the Center's [mission](#). This year the following organizations participated: Sacramento Poor People's Campaign,

Photo of Community Empowerment Fair, by Manuel Barajas, April 4th 2022.

Sacramento Climate Coalition, Center for Farmworker Families, Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition, Peace Action, California Black Agriculture Working Group, United Latinos, Benito Juarez Association, SHARE Foundation, The Sacramento Tenants Union, Sacramento State Student Housing Support, and Decarcerate [De-carcerate] Sacramento. Each organizational representative spoke during the event to inform students on their mission, work, and opportunities for service learning, internships, and/or volunteering. In addition, students and community were invited to walk and meet the various organization representatives. Throughout the event, there was a poster/art exhibit from the MLK Library, organized by Michael Harris, CRISJ community partner; and Dr. Luis Chavez, CRISJ faculty associate, curated the music playlist that connected with the event's themes of dignity, solidarity, and community building.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FAIRE **CRISJ**
Ballroom III, University Union
 April 4, 2022

Join us for a day of celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and activism. Students will be able to engage with various community organizations, learn about their services and how they can get empowered and involved on issues of social justice.

Come and enjoy free music, art, & food!

10:30-11:45 am • Press Release & Public Readings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s prophetic "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" speech

12:00-1:15 pm • Sacramento Poor People's Campaign
 • Sacramento Climate Coalition
 • Center for Farmworker Families
 • Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition
 • Peace Action
 • California Black Agriculture Working Group

1:15- 1:30 pm **Artistic Expressions for Dignity, Solidarity and Empowerment**

1:30- 2:45 pm • United Latinos
 • Benito Juarez Association
 • SHARE Foundation
 • The Sacramento Tenants Union
 • Sacramento State Students Housing Support
 • Decarcerate Sacramento

Dignity, Solidarity & Community Building

Click here for COVID-19 Restrictions and Recommendations for attending this event

In collaboration with

SACRAMENTO STATE
 Center on Race, Immigration & Social Justice

Research Mentorship Conference

By Elvia Ramirez

During the 2021-22 academic year, the Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) launched the CRISJ Research Mentorship Program, an undergraduate research mentorship program that strives to provide students with access to high quality research experiences, faculty mentorship, and preparation for graduate school. The program also aims to cultivate critical scholars and advocates for social justice.

The inaugural cohort of CRISJ mentees consisted of 15 undergraduate students from various majors, including Political Science, Sociology, Ethnic Studies, Criminal Justice, Child Development, Philosophy, and Psychology.



Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ)'s
Research Mentorship Conference

May 6, 2022
 10am-12pm
 Agenda

Opening Remarks by: Dr. Elvia Ramirez, CRISJ Mentoring Coordinator

10:05am-11:00am

1. Dr. Kristina Victor and Ivan Villegas. "Examining the Impact of the 287g Program on Immigrant Communities."
2. Kyle Ishaq. "Investigating the Interaction Effects of Gender, Education, Race/Ethnicity in Federal Sentencing Outcomes for White Collar Offenders."
3. Destiny Duran. "The 'Missing White Woman Syndrome' in True Crime Podcasts."
4. Yesenia Pena. "Assessing Mental Health at Sac State: First Generation Latinx Student Experiences."
5. Maria Godinez-Campos. "The Underrepresentation of Hispanic Students in STEM Education."

11:05am-12:00pm

1. Dr. Heidy Sarabia and Diana Perez Valverde. "Embracing Dos Idiomas: A Discussion on Bilingualism in the US."
2. Dr. Rose Borunda, DeVonne Anderson & Jessica Romo. "Re-Envisioning the Multicultural Center."
3. Alexa Alejandrez, Marie Fonbah, Rebekah Williams, and Dr. Elvia Ramirez. "Ethnic Studies at Sac State: A Historical Review and Analysis 1969-1971."
4. Hector Rodriguez. "Chicanx/Latinx in Foster Care: The Role of Acculturation in Chicanx/Latinx Communities."
5. Dr. Danielle Martin and Sophia Adeleke. "Coding Ballot Designations"

Closing by: Dr. Elvia Ramirez, CRISJ Mentoring Coordinator

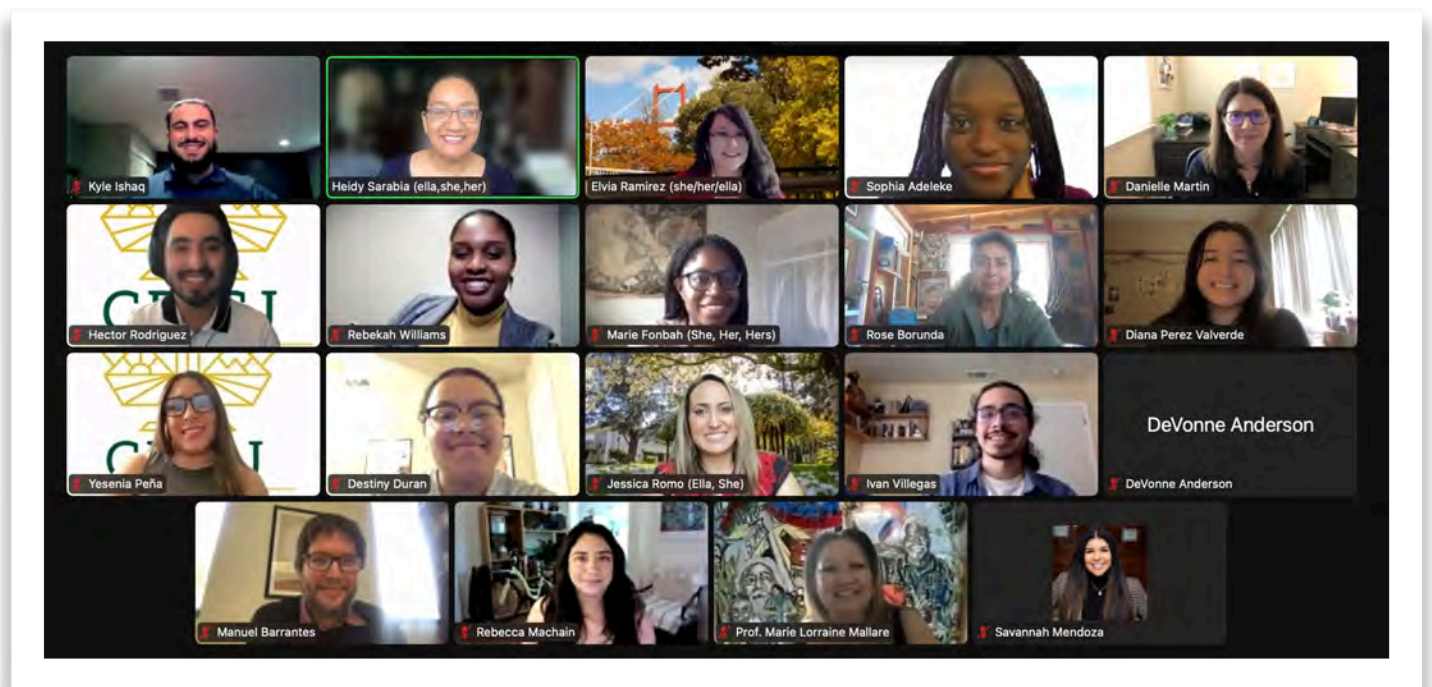
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The program requires a one-year commitment from student participants. During fall 2021 semester, the students enrolled in SOC 194, a 3-unit research methods course taught by CRISJ Mentorship Coordinator, Dr. Elvia Ramirez. During spring 2022 semester, the students were paired up with faculty mentors to work on either student-led or faculty-led research projects. A total of 14 faculty mentors from across campus volunteered to work with the CRISJ student mentees.

Students and their faculty mentors presented their research at the first annual CRISJ Research Mentorship Conference on May 6, 2022. The conference was held virtually on Zoom and featured a total of 10 presentations. The presentations centered on timely, critical, and engaging research topics, such as immigration policy, bilingualism, mental health, ethnic studies history, true crime podcasts, and other engaging

topics. For example, Dr. Kristina Victor (Political Science) and Ivan Villegas presented their research on the 287(g) program; Dr. Rose Borunda (College of Education) and her student mentees, DeVonne Anderson and Jessica Romo, discussed the findings of their research study focusing on the Multi-Cultural Center at Sac State. The conference also featured presentations centered on student-led research projects. For example, Hector Rodriguez presented his research on Chicanxs/Latinxs in foster care, and Yesenia Peña presented her research on students' access to mental health services at Sac State.

Overall, the launch of the CRISJ Research Mentorship Program was a resounding success. Both students and their faculty mentors reported greatly enjoying and benefitting from the CRISJ Research Mentorship Program.



CRISJ Research Mentorship Conference

Projects

CRISJ continues to work on and develop innovative projects to serve the Sac State University and Community. We want to share and showcase some of the ongoing and upcoming projects we are working on. We encourage faculty, staff, and students to contact coordinators and join us in our efforts to build a just, equitable, and accessible society.

Building Justice Podcast

By Monicka Tutschka

AFTER A SUCCESSFUL FIRST SEASON, CRISJ'S 'BUILDING JUSTICE' PODCAST PREPARES TO LAUNCH SEASON 2

The CRISJ Building Justice Podcast Committee is very excited to announce the launch of Season 2 of the Building Justice podcast, and the successful completion of Season 1.

Building Justice is a bi-weekly podcast featuring interviews of Sacramento State faculty, students, staff members and community partners who take a critical approach to issues affecting our communities, and labor to advance social justice.

Podcasts share research, experience and insights into issues such as Black political mobilization in the post-Obama era; the resiliencies and hardships found within California farm laborer communities; the aftermath of Genocide in Rwanda; the psychology of migrant 'illegality'; the injustices within higher education, and various programs launched at Sacramento State that empower minoritized students; the Black Panther Party and community organizing; white anti-racist activism; critical contrapuntal music, and more. Find Season 1 here: www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice.



Hosted by diverse Sac State faculty from various departments including Criminal Justice, Sociology, Music, Child and Adolescent Development, and Political Science, each episode empowers narrators to organize and produce their own story. Episodes are tied

together through the social justice theme and with music composed by Sac State alumni from Underground Music. The aim of the podcast is to not only spark understandings and empathies, but also to motivate listeners to share their knowledges and join the struggle for a better future for all.

We invite you to subscribe to Building Justice today. The podcast is available on all major streaming providers, including Spotify, Apple Podcast and iHeartRadio. If you would like to produce an episode for Season 2, or if you wish to join the CRISJ podcast committee, please contact Professor Monicka Tutschka

at tutschka@csus.edu. In the upcoming academic year, the committee will continue working to improve the quality of each episode, as it seeks to include more voices, and works to broaden its listenership within Sac State, across the Sacramento Region, and beyond.

Literacy Empowerment Project

By Araceli Feliz

The CRISJ Literacy Empowerment Project continued its planning meetings during the 2021-2022 academic year. Virtual meetings of the subcommittee were held on the second Thursday of each month with CRISJ subcommittee members. Fully cognizant of the large-scale project they are engaged in, the subcommittee had a very productive year developing several project components including:

- The project vision, mission, and goals
- A project overview document
- An implementation plan draft
- Established community partnerships
- Outreach to the Community Engagement Center for information and training regarding service learning components

The last component, but one of the most essential to begin project implementation as well as ensure its success and sustainability, is the development of a service learning component. This will be the subcommittee's focus for the initial months of the fall semester. The service learning component will allow for the subcommittee to develop the CRISJ Literacy Empowerment Project's capacity to facilitate student centered and culturally relevant workshops for students in grades 6-8 focused on multimodal literacy to highlight community cultural wealth. The subcommittee is also working on establishing a webpage within the CRISJ website to provide information about the project. The project webpage will include the program overview along with the mission, vision, and goals.

The subcommittee acknowledges the commitment and contributions of our project subcommittee members who are all volunteers, and many of whom are also community partners. Thank you for your time, ideas, contributions, and ongoing support during the 2021-2022 academic year. We also appreciate the long-term commitment of our subcommittee members as we continue to develop the project to deliver a high quality and sustainable program. We look forward to continuing this collaboration as we re-engage in the ongoing project development during the 2022-2023 academic year.

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LITERACY EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

THE LITERACY EMPOWERMENT PROJECT SEEKS TO EMPOWER HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED AND MINORITIZED YOUTH THROUGH MULTI-MODAL EXPRESSIONS OF LITERACY.

Faculty, staff, students, and community partners are welcome to join us in the work of building bridges across multimodal literacy expressions and school literacy expectations.

TO JOIN THE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CRISJ FACULTY ASSOCIATE DR. ARACELI FELIZ AT FELIZ@CSUS.EDU.

Our project seeks to highlight the cultural, community, and home literacies underserved students possess.

Mission statement excerpt

CRISJ's Upcoming Brown Bag Series

By Heidy Sarabia and Kristina Victor



The Sac State Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) addresses social and educational inequities facing the university and larger community; and in this mission, CRISJ invites faculty/students of color to work on, develop, and present their research and/or creative writing to the university and community at large.

Let us know if you would like to participate as a presenter or supporter, or if you want to receive updates (fill out this [form](#)). Meeting times and days TBD.

Recognitions

Since its inception, CRISJ has been a leader on campus, and the community-at-large, in raising awareness and promoting social change from a social justice perspective. Hence, we are honored to have been recognized this year by various entities through collaborations, honors, and funding.

United Nations Report on Minority Issues

In November 2021, the United Nations reached out to CRISJ to host its [UN Special Rapporteur](#) on Minority Issues at Sacramento State. CRISJ provided referrals to local organizations and offered expert testimony in the areas concerning our mission, racial and intersectional justice.

Renaissance Society

In May 2022, the Renaissance Society awarded CRISJ the Diversity and Inclusion Award for exemplifying excellence in the work for diversity and inclusion on campus and the surrounding communities.

Sac State 5k Run Fund Donation

This year, the Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) was honored by receiving the net proceeds after direct costs from the 14th Annual 2022 Sac State 5k Fun Run. This year, there were 845 registered participants. CRISJ was chosen to be the 2022 fund donation recipient by the student majority WELL Advisory Group based on the program fund mission, and because it “supports President Nelson’s Antiracism and Inclusive Campus Plan, aligns with the seven dimensions of wellness and correlates with The WELL’s mission of Lifetime Wellness through Collaboration, Education, and Innovation.”^[1]

[1] <https://thewellatsacstate.com/events/5k>



CRISJ Faculty, Heidy Sarabia, receives check from the Well

Join the CRISJ team and work with us on building a more just world through our academic, activist work, in our classroom and communities!

To learn more about our upcoming programs, visit our website:

www.csus.edu/crisj

Annual Report Contributors

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We also want to specially recognize Ana R. Gutierrez, Administrative Coordinator II ANTH, for her exceptional contributions and support to the CRISJ mission. Her expertise, dedication, and compassion were foundational to the success of all our work. Ana, thank you from all CRISJ associates!