

# CRISJ

## Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice

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Visit the CRISJ Website!



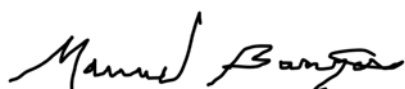
### Message from Manuel Barajas, CRISJ Director

The Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice [CRISJ] actively works to empower voices and lives of historically oppressed communities. This CRISJ mission is rooted on the deep human desire to exist with dignity, equity, and healthy relationships. This Academic Annual Report 2022-2023, the third year as a formalized center and with over six years in existence, reflects CRISJ’s continued commitment and passion for combatting normalized oppressions on and off campus. The making of CRISJ began after the Great Recession of 2008; because by 2014, faculty from historically underrepresented backgrounds— i.e., Black, Chicanxs, Indigenous, Pacific Islanders—were disproportionately erased from Academic Affairs with only three of seven colleges having tokenistic representation of these communities that now are the great majority in numbers in the university and larger society. The absence of perspectives from these communities in teaching, mentoring, and researching limits the universe of knowledge and competencies for students/communities facing the real world. Consequently, pathological logics of supremacy,

intolerance, and violence grow and spread across the nation and globe. We see these in the politics of empires threatening life on earth; environmental devastation for private profit; mass incarceration of people of color and the poor; historic records of deportations of largely Brown people of indigenous ancestry; repression of women's freedom over their bodies and lives; and lethal violence—physical and psychological—against LGBTQ plus communities. With so many entangled systems of oppression, CRISJ works to build bridges for community empowerment from a social and environmental justice framework that combats coloniality and intersectional oppressions. This annual reports shares some of the positive projects in CRISJ's academic and community engagements.

CRISJ offers academic programming, mentorship, community engagement, and critical research as a way of elevating understandings, empathies and motivations to work for a healthier world for all. CRISJ associates and partners actively organize forums, conferences, talks, and podcasts that touch on issues affecting the quality of life for all people, particularly those at the margins. In the fall 2022, for Indigenous Day, we hosted a cultural program "Chicanx Indigeneity and Resistance" to honor indigenous art, culture, and resistance across the Americas; we organized book talks about migration and borders that discriminate with lethal consequences to those facing intersectional oppressions (along race, gender, sexuality, class, etc.); and we hosted brown bag presentations on various forms of writing from creative to formal research. In the Spring 2023, we co-sponsored a series of Black art/activist exhibits, talks, and forums featuring, John B. Smith, a co-founder of the civil rights group the Invaders, fighting police brutality and organizing for equity in labor conditions for African Americans; we also co-sponsored a library exhibit on Alternatives to Policing; we had a panel on *Mujeres en Resistencia* [Women in Resistance]; and we had many other educational and empowerment activities, such as the The News and Research Automated Curation Project.

Along knowledge production, CRISJ connects students, faculty, and partners as a way of building trust, collaboration, and personal and community empowerment. The CRISJ Mentorship Program connects undergraduate and graduate students with faculty mentors, who guide them in developing original research on topics aligned with the Center's mission, intersectional social and environmental justice. CRISJ also launched the Literacy Empowerment Project, which collaborated with the Elk Grove Unified School District, bringing over 50 students and parents to experience various workshops focusing on developing community cultural wealth through artistic expressions (visual art, music, and theatre). CRISJ also hosted its fourth Community Empowerment Faire, bringing over 18 community and university partners, doing social justice work and sharing their internship, service learning, and volunteer opportunities to Sac State students. Students were also invited to apply to the CRISJ Student Empowerment Scholarship, particularly those who demonstrate academic excellence and civic engagement serving their communities. In the spring 2023, three students won the scholarship for their exemplary work in the university and in the community. We concluded the academic year with a celebration, Building Bridges for Community Empowerment and Social Justice, where we recognized the great work of agents of social change in the region and across borders. These are but a few of the activities covered in this Annual Activity Report, and CRISJ welcomes all who are interested in collaborating in this transformational work that is fueled by a deep desire and need for equity, dignity, and healthy lives for all! Please join some of our amazing CRISJ faculty, students, and community partners and visit our new office in Library 67 (underground level from the south side entrance).



Manuel Barajas, Ph.D., el/he  
Professor of Sociology  
CRISJ Director

# Spotlights

CRISJ is a network of professors, students, community partners, and artists 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. Feliz

**D**r. Araceli Feliz is an assistant professor in the College of Education Graduate and Professional Studies branch. She teaches for the Masters in TK-12 Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program and is the interim coordinator of the TK-12 Educational Leadership pathway. Dr. Feliz also serves in a dual appointment as an assistant professor in the Doctorate in Educational Leadership (EDD) program at Sac State. Dr. Feliz joined the faculty at Sac State after a 24 year career in the TK-12 setting where she served in various roles including bilingual teacher, elementary school teacher, principal, and district coordinator of state and federal programs. Dr. Feliz is a first-generation college graduate, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of California, Los Angeles, a Master of Arts degree in Education with a Reading and Language Arts emphasis from California State University, Fresno, and a Doctorate in Organizational Change and Leadership (EDD) from the University of Southern California. Dr. Feliz holds a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, a Reading Specialist Credential, and an Administrative Services Credential.

She was born and raised in California's San Joaquin Valley to Mexican immigrant parents who were farmworkers. Growing up, she did not see much representation of people like her in education. Along her educational journey, she had her first Latinx teachers when she was an undergraduate and took classes on Latin American History and Mexican history. However, these professors were male and only one was of Mexican descent. When she became a teacher, she had the experience of working with three Latinx administrators in a span of 12 years. One of these was a Latina principal who encouraged Dr. Feliz to pursue becoming a principal.

Having the experience of limited representation, Dr. Feliz strives to help make a greater impact on students from underserved communities, who share her

background, and who had similar experiences as Emerging Bilinguals. To that end, she has served as a mentor for the U Mentor program at Sac State and recently served as a mentor for the UCLA Latinx Alumni Association OrgulloSO Mentoring Program.

Through the Sac State TK-12 EDLP Program, Dr. Feliz supports developing leaders in their ability to recognize and address equity issues that manifest as academic opportunity gaps for marginalized students. She also provides professional support to local schools and districts as part of an interdisciplinary team of faculty from the college of education.

Dr. Feliz focuses her publications and research on equity, access, and representation of historically marginalized communities. She has published articles and chapters in several books including "Educating students, teachers, and leaders to recognize and address systemic oppression" (Feliz, Prince-Cheng, & Khalid, 2023) in the book *Equitable global citizenship education in schools: Lessons from dialogue between research and practice* (Lillo-Kang & McIntosh, 2023, Chapter 11, pp.132-141). Her first co-authored textbook *Leadership: Theories, styles, and approaches in education* (Fowler, Jouganatos & Feliz, manuscript submitted for publication) is expected in 2024. She is currently collaborating with colleagues on two research studies; *Contrahistorias de Liderazgo: School experiences, cultural wealth, and the racial identities of Latinx women school administrators* (Feliz & Jouganatos, 2024, manuscript in preparation) and *Reducing Polarization and Bridging the Divide: A humanist secondary (middle/high school) social science curriculum pilot* (Feliz & Leslie, manuscript expected 2024).

Since joining the faculty at Sacramento State, Dr. Feliz has been an active member of CRISJ. She is the chair of the Literacy Empowerment Project Committee which hosted the inaugural CRISJ Youth Literacy Empowerment Day on April 14, 2023. Dr. Feliz also contributed to the 2021 UnEqual Freedoms Virtual Exhibit as a reflection writer.



Dr. Araceli Feliz



## Faculty Spotlight: Melissa Cardenas-Dow

**A** Melissa Cardenas-Dow is a social sciences librarian at Sacramento State University, responsible for the subject areas of psychology, ethnic studies, women's and gender studies, and counselor education. She part of the CRISJ leadership board, and is also active with the California Faculty Association (CFA), the labor union representing teaching faculty, librarians, counselors, and coaches in the California State University System. She currently serves as chair of the Sacramento CFA Chapter's Anti-Racism and Social Justice (ARSJ) Committee and has recently been elected chair of the CFA system-wide Librarians Committee. She has served in various capacities in professional librarian associations, including Councilor-at-Large of the American Library Association (ALA) from 2016 to 2022. Most recently, she has chaired the Association of College & Research Libraries Education & Behavioral Sciences Section (ACRL EBSS) Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Committee and been a member of the American Library Association (ALA) Core Values Task Force. She holds a Master's degree in Library & Information Science from San José State University and a Master of Science degree in Assistive Technology Studies & Human Services from California State University Northridge.



Melisa Cardenas-Dow Dr. Araceli

This academic year, Melissa headed two important events in collaboration with other entities on campus: a book talk and a library exhibit.

### Race, Gender, and US Immigration: Book Talks, November 28, 2022

New books by Dr. Tristan Josephson, Associate Professor in Women's and Gender Studies, and Dr. Serge Lee, Professor in the Division of Social Work, were featured in a discussion event held on Monday, November 28, 2022 at the University Union Pacific Suite. The event was a collaborative effort between CRISJ, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, and the Division of Social Work. Dr. Josephson's book, *On Transits and Transitions*, explores what the increased visibility of trans people in the public sphere means for trans migrants. Dr. Lee's book, *From Earth to Elite*, is a memoir chronicling his life journey through war, migration, and resettlement, from Laos to the United States.

### Alternatives to Policing Library Exhibit, February to August 2023

An exhibit featuring digital journal articles and electronic books on the topic of alternatives of policing and available from Sac State University Library is currently on display in the exhibit space under the escalators. Entitled *We Keep Each Other Safe: Alternatives to Policing*, the exhibit is a made possible through a collaboration between CRISJ and the California Faculty Association (CFA) Capitol Chapter.

From the exhibit statement:

*"The unquestioned assumption that campus police equals safe campuses is disconnected from the realities of racism experienced by racially minoritized populations..."[1] Balancing the need for safe campuses with the real fears, concerns, and anxieties of individuals and communities within the university should mean safety for all, not only for some. This exhibit showcases writings available at Sacramento State University Library. These books and articles highlight the need to rethink what we believe and accept about campus safety and policing, to consider the harms that impact faculty, students, and staff in racialized, oppressive, and unequal ways, and to ponder alternatives that affirm inclusion and belonging of all members of our university community.*

[1] From p. 12, Dizon, J. P. M. (2021, October 7). Protecting the University, Policing Race: A Case Study of Campus Policing. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000350>

## Student Spotlight: Rebekah Williams

**R**ebekah Williams is a determined and passionate scholar pursuing a master's degree in General Psychology –with an emphasis in developmental psychology– at California State University, Sacramento. Rebekah previously graduated with her bachelor's degree in psychology from Sac State as well, and plans to utilize her knowledge and skills to support the mental well-being and emotional literacy of young individuals and their families.

Rebekah's current research revolves around social justice, race, and educational disparities. She recently worked on a project that explored the Black female STEM experience and examined the multidimensional oppression that undergraduate Black women in STEM face due to the intersection of their race and gender. She also researched perceptions of school climate amongst California's middle and high schoolers. The results indicate that Black and Latino children experienced greater levels of bullying and lower levels of fit (i.e. sense of belongingness) on their respective campuses.

Rebekah is extremely grateful and blessed to have been a part of many different programs and clubs at Sac State that have greatly assisted her throughout her academic



*Rebekah Williams*

and professional careers including: Christian Students at Sac State, the Cooper-Woodson College Enhancement Program, the Center on Race, Immigration, and social Justice (CRISJ) Research Mentorship Program, the Pathways Fellows Program, the Community Engagement Student Fellowship, and the Student Affairs Leaders of Tomorrow Program. As Rebekah plans to pursue a Ph.D in psychology and continue her career in research, she knows that with Jesus and his guidance, she can accomplish anything.

## Student Spotlight: Michael Lee-Chang

**M**ichael Lee-Chang, a freshman majoring in political science, helps his community wherever he goes. In his first year at Sac State and Sacramento, he was appointed the sole student representative to the university's Sexual Violence Awareness Team (SVAT), representing more than 31,000 students during the height of sexual assaults on campus. With the help of Professor Sujatha Moni, the Women's and Gender Studies Department, and the CRISJ, he organized and led a student-led forum on campus sexual assault in the University Union, which several students and administrators attended. His experiences as a survivor allow him to approach the issue with compassion and empathy; he now works for the University on sexual violence prevention. Michael is also a Students for Quality Education (SQE) student intern, along with Jenny Ruiz



*Michael Lee-Chang*

Sanchez, working with the California Faculty Association to fight for affordable, accessible, and quality education for all California State University (CSU) students. Their current priorities are securing better mental health services for students, pushing for campus policing alternatives, and bridging the gap between faculty, staff, and students. This year, Michael was awarded the Community Service Agent Award by the Sac State Multi-Cultural Center, recognized as an ally by the annual Women of Influence Awards, and recognized by Senator Angelique Ashby for his sexual violence prevention work. He also works with Saanvi Arora's Youth Power Project to write and lobby for state and federal legislation. Following a walkout he led at his high school calling for more Covid-19 safety measures, Michael fought back against right-wing anti-vaxxers and worked with former Senator Dr. Richard Pan to craft pro-science legislation, many becoming laws in California. Michael is now the deputy campaign manager for Dr. Richard Pan for Sacramento mayor.

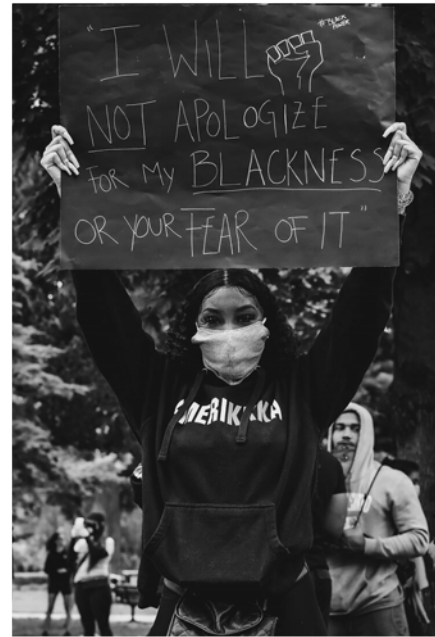
## Artist Spotlight: Kachiside Madu

**M**ake It Madu, LLC was founded by photographer Kachiside Madu seven years ago. Make It Madu is a photography business focusing primarily on social injustice, inequities, and inequalities. His passion for social justice began at the early age of 9. Kachiside's parents are Nigerian immigrants, which unfortunately led to many experiences of discrimination and racism. Witnessing those experiences helped Kachiside develop a perspective of empathy, compassion, and perseverance that has driven him to spark change for oppressed communities who have historically faced similar battles. In addition to those experiences, being raised in South Sacramento, a low socio-economic status and marginalized community, challenges came frequently, and resources were sparse. Having to live through those experiences, he realized that most of these challenges were a product of a faulty government, biased laws, and a system that was not designed for specific communities from its inception.

Studying psychology gave Kachiside a deeper understanding of such barriers and their crippling effect on those who populate these communities. In 2016, Kachiside devotion to social justice joined forces with a camera, creating timeless imagery. Through studying some of the most iconic storytellers, like Gordon Parks, Jamel Shabazz, Spike Lee, and Ava DuVernay, he has come to learn and witness how impactful accurate and honest images can have on uplifting communities, sparking change, debunking societal stereotypes/generalizations, and empowering our future leaders of tomorrow. Kachiside has taken that belief and has fueled him in capturing some amazing, timeless stills from political rallies, BLM marches, and our unhoused communities, amongst other social justice events.



*Kachiside Madu*



*No Apologies by Madu Kachiside*

In addition to being a photographer, Kachiside Madu has a huge passion for philanthropic work. Over the past seven years, he has done an extensive job in the Sacramento community serving our youth as an educator, our unhoused community as an advocate/community organizer, and international work with students in Ghana. As a middle school counselor, Kachiside has served over 10,000 students and families in the Sacramento area with their academic, college/career, and social-emotional inquiries. As an advocate for the unhoused community, he hosts a community event, Solidarity Saturday, which takes place every 2nd Saturday of the month, where community partners and organizations come together to stand in solidarity, distributing clothes, food, and toiletries to the less fortunate. He has used their services through his community partnerships to provide optional showers and haircuts. Internationally, Kachiside, in collaboration with Black Star United and The City Eats, has been able to get a library, tech center, and school administrative building built for the kids back in Ghana, Africa.

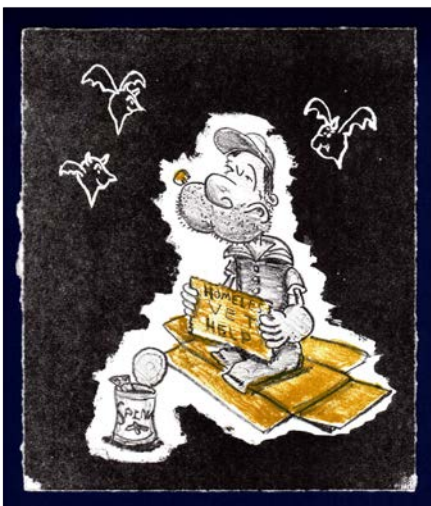
Make It Madu, LLC is more than just a photography business. The company was founded on the principle of Purpose over Praise. As you walk in your purpose, you better understand your why, your what, and your how. A major motto that the business stands firm on is that "life is bigger than you," and the images he captures are 100% a reflection of just that. We encourage you to check out his current and future work by following him on social media under @make\_it\_madu. He looks forward to sharing more images with you all so we can collectively come together to fight for better days.



## Artist Spotlight: Jose Guerrero

Artist Jose Guerrero's art is inspired by "absurdity." He poignantly asks, "How is it that the same community that has problems feeding and sheltering the unhoused, also has multiple pet bakery boutiques? How is it that some U.S.-Americans want to kick out immigrants, and then complain when food prices are too high and when they can't get anyone to do their manual labor at pre-inflation prices?" It is Guerrero's social justice compass that drives him to create art that highlight the gross absurdity of contradictions in our society that are often cruel. Guerrero is motivated to raise awareness among those who live comfortable lives and are unaware of the struggles faced by others around them through his art. He explains, "I am to achieve this by utilizing a raw and shocking art style that encourages people to remove their blinders and acknowledge the reality of daily struggles of the less privileged."

Jose Guerrero contributed to CRISJ's Un/Equal Freedoms: Expression of Social Justice digital exhibit with a heart-breaking piece titled, "The Dream is Not For You," a commentary on the current xenophobic panic around the U.S.-Mexico border. With a child as the focus of the piece, and the U.S. flag as the background, this piece captures the xenophobia, racism, and classism that has historically truncated the dreams of so many children of color in the U.S. Guerrero himself recounts how as a child, his creativity was limitless. He shared, "I used to build my own toys out of index cards, cardboard, discarded household goods, etc. If it could be held by glue or tape, it was fair game. I also used to illustrate my own comic books and all through elementary school, my art assignments would be held by instructors to be used



*Popeye the Veteran by Jose Guerrero*



*The Dream is Not for You by Jose Guerrero*

as reference for the next class years to come. By the time I was in high school however, I was well aware of my family's socio-economic hardships and how much of a burden I was." Guerrero decided to join the military at the age of 17, which closed all venues to explore his creativity.

Guerrero's talent is only rivaled by his shyness and humility. He explains, "I am not a charismatic orator, in fact my lack of refined verbal communication skills and social awkwardness has left me for about half of my lifetime content with being in the background, not wanting the spotlight, not wanting to rock the boat for fear of being made fun of or being told to go back to Mexico." The road to find his voice, and use his talents to give expression to his social justice perspective has not been easy, and, as he explains, "It wasn't until I left the military with a service connected disability and found a voice in my art and design that I finally got the courage to critique my country, its politics, and its citizens."

Jose Guerrero's critique is a beautiful critique based on his personal story, and history, experience, and now he uses his talent and art to cast light on the most absurd of cruelties in this country. Picasso once said "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." Through his art, Guerrero captures many of the contradictions that make children abandon their dreams, but also provides hope for a better future, one where such contradictions can be addressed though the work of social justice activists, like Guerrero. You can learn more about Jose Guerrero and his art on his [website](#).

## CRISJ Empowerment Scholarship Recipients 2023

COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY BRENDA ROMERO

The Empowerment Scholarship recognizes students who exemplify the CRISJ mission, while demonstrating academic excellence, civic engagement, and community service. In 2023, the recipients of this scholarship were: Sarah Darwish, Trinity Haynes, and Carrie Graham. As their profiles included below show, these students represent the CRISJ spirit by 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, please go to the [CRISJ Empowerment Scholarship donation page](#) and add your voice to others who have committed to making a difference.



*Sarah Darwish*

### Sarah Darwish

Sarah is a second-year student striving to earn a marriage, family, and counseling degree to work with children and families conducting psychotherapy. Her experiences, interests, career goals, and training all relate to her interest: helping provide psychotherapy for the community of Muslims and Arab-Americans which are a large underserved mental health population. Sarah is a member of the Arab Student Union, the Muslim Student Association, the Muslim Women Coalition, and The Disabled and Nondisabled Alliance (DANA). She has conducted advocacy projects and research within the disabled community in collaboration with ACUSD Disabilities Committee as part of an educational research study. After graduating, she would like to work within the non-profit sectors providing mental health services to refugees as she has already done at her internship at Opening Doors Institute.



*Trinity Haynes*

### Trinity Haynes

Growing up, Trinity felt that school was not a true reflection of her culture or city. As a double minority, she did not always feel welcomed by peers or staff. However, her mother taught her that being a Black woman comes with certain challenges, but you can make your dream come true if you are driven enough. This discomfort pushed Trinity to create more inclusive spaces on and off campus through clubs, volunteering, and mentorship. She is President of the Black Student Union and VP of the United Black Student Unions of California. Through this involvement, she has led workshops of ancestral art, educational conferences, peer to youth mentorship with local middle schools, and volunteer initiatives.



*Carrie Graham*

### Carrie Graham

Carrie has a passion for social justice. In 2020 she was admitted into the Center of African Peace and Conflict Resolution's Restorative Justice program. Since being in this program, she has been certified to be a mediator and facilitator between victims or co-victims and offenders. She has also facilitated peace circles for offenders in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) prison in Sacramento. Through the peace circles, Carrie has assisted incarcerated individuals in recognizing the harm they have caused, to take accountability, and to learn about adverse childhood experiences that may have impacted their lives. Her goal is to advance in her career through CDCR and either become a parole agent or a correctional counselor.



# Events

During the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the Center for Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) organized several events at Sacramento State, in-person, online, and hybrid, to 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.

## Chicanx Indigeneity and Resistance: Art for Social Justice

BY MANUEL BARAJAS

On October 13, 2022, CRISJ hosted a cultural empowerment program, “Chicanx Indigeneity and Resistance: Art for Social Justice.” In celebration of “Indigenous People’s Day,” this event celebrated Indigenous roots/cultures across borders, and honored their continued struggle for a better future in a world impacted by colonialism that has stolen, exploited, and destroyed human lives and environments. The program affirmed cultures that support a healthier and more just world aligned with the values and practices that allowed indigenous people to thrive for thousands of years.

In the first part of the program, Xico Gonzalez, Sac State Alumni, presented on the use of protest art “*Hermosa Rebeldia*” (Beautiful Rebellion) for social justice. In the second part, Aztlán Underground presented and performed how the use of music heals and empowers marginalized communities. The program began with Eliazar de la Cruz who gave an indigenous blessing and a land acknowledgement and who then led a Danza Azteca, composed of students from MET High School.

Xico Gonzalez—teacher, artist, and poet—presented “*Hermosa Rebeldia*,” featuring poetry and art work in advocacy for social justice and human rights. In many immigrant, civil, women, labor rights marches in Sacramento, Xico’s protest posters are carried in representation of visions and hopes for a better world by those at the bottom of the social hierarchies. His artistic and poetic presentation at Sacramento State highlighted the love for inclusivity, equity, dignity, and social justice. His artwork is archived at Sacramento State, San Jose State, Smithsonian American Art Museum, among other art collections; and his spirit for social change

has influenced many youth in the region and beyond. His social justice and community engagement work was recognized by President Robert Nelsen with the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service at Commencement in May 2023.

Aztlan Underground aka Anahuac Underground is a cultural activist music group that utilizes art as a weapon against colonialism. The performers included Yaotl Mazahua (vocalist/percussionist), Bulldog aka Frank Aragon (Vocalist/flutes), and Joe “Peps” Galarza (Harmonica/Flutes/chants). Through their music, they tell stories from the bottom up, as a way to empower historically marginalized indigenous groups and to contest the colonial structures that keep them down. For



Xico Gonzalez



Mexica Dancers

sound is the backdrop for the band's message of dignity for indigenous people, all of humanity, and Mother Earth. Aztlan Underground has a grass roots audience across the globe, though the band is from Los Angeles aka Tovaangar -Tongva land. Aztlan Underground actively performs for indigenous causes, immigrant rights, anti-white supremacy and environmental justice events.



Aztlan Underground

example, one of their songs "Indigena!" reclaims and affirms the indigeneity that has been oppressed throughout the Americas. Another song tells it with pride, "My Blood is Red." Since the early 1990s, Aztlan Underground has played hip-hop fused with Indigenous instrumentation such as drums, flutes, and rattles. Aztlan Underground fuses indigenous instrumentation with elements of jazz, punk, and hip-hop. This unique



Xico Gonzalez' posters



## Collaborations with John B. Smith, Invaders co-founder, militant Black youth organizer

BY MONICKA TUTSCHKA

Bringing activists together is something we need to prioritize at a time when our shared world feels like it is splattering apart. Together, activists build community across difference as they educate, strengthen, and inspire each other. Together, they assess their particular positionalities, pool their capabilities, assume responsibility, organize, act, and evaluate the consequences of their deeds, holding each other accountable for what was done and left undone. Together, they construct tomorrow's brighter future, and forge the better angels of our nature.

This faith in collaborative action led CRISJ to accept *Verge Center for the Arts* Director Liv Moe's invitation to partner with the *Verge* in a series of events organized around social change agent John Burl Smith's visit to Sacramento. Smith is in his 80s and this was his first trip to the Golden State, a trip planned to promote the release of *The Invaders* documentary, and the opening of the 'Black Power Tarot' art exhibition featured at the *Verge* during Black History month.



John B. Smith

Faith in collaborative action also led CRISJ to invite the Sacramento Chapter of the California Faculty Association, the Political Science Department, and the Division of Inclusive Excellence at Sac State to co-sponsor three events in February featuring Smith, each focusing on collaborative activism generally, and student collective action specifically. Twelve graduate students enrolled in Dr. Monicka Tutschka's Democratic Theory course also had the opportunity to explore the relationship between collaborative action and social movement theory with Smith by attending the *Invaders* documentary film screening at the *Verge*, and participating in the Q&A.

John Burl Smith is a Vietnam veteran who was one of the last people to talk with Martin Luther King, Jr. before his assassination. Smith co-founded the *Invaders* in 1968, a militant Black youth organization from Tennessee that participated in the Memphis Sanitation Workers' strike. The strikers challenged economic exploitation, unsafe working conditions, and discriminatory treatment toward Black Americans. Smith's experiences with the *Invaders* nurtured his trust in the younger generation, specifically in their civic capabilities and their power, leading him to organize many initiatives that facilitated the eventual passage the 26<sup>st</sup> Amendment, a fundamental law ratified in 1971, granting 18 year-old citizens the right to vote. In 1971

**Student Activism from the Civil Rights Era to the Present.**  
 A conversation with John B. Smith, co-founder of the *Invaders*, a 1960s Black militant youth group from Tennessee.

**Date:** Thursday Feb 16, 2023  
**Time:** 1:30p.m-2:45 p.m.

**Location:** Cottonwood Suite 2 and 3, University Union, Sac State  
**Send an announcement? email:** [tutschka@csus.edu](mailto:tutschka@csus.edu)  
**Questions: email:** Monicka at [tutschka@csus.edu](mailto:tutschka@csus.edu)

SACRAMENTO STATE  
 DIVISION OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

NEW CENTERS  
 CFA  
 CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Event Flier



Smith believed “one day a young generation would rise up and provide the margin of victory against older voters.” Today Smith believes “That day has arrived, and young voters are the ones who will save American democracy from fascism.”

The first collaborative event CRISJ organized, “Recognizing Activism at Sacramento State and in the Region,” was attended by roughly 90 Sac State employees, students and progressive regional partners. The Verge graciously hosted the event in the “Black Power Tarot” exhibition hall. Twenty-two large, richly decorated, fabric printed tarot cards representing powerful Black leaders hung on the walls for attendees to observe and explore. After mingling, folks came together to discuss the diverse forms of activism they practice and study. Speakers included distinguished guest Smith; Master of Ceremonies Dr. Monicka Tutschka; CFA, Sac Chapter President Dr. Margarita Berta-Avila; CRISJ Director Dr. Manuel Barajas; Democratic Socialist of America, Sac Chapter Co-Chair Margot Rinaldo, and Vice President of Inclusive Excellence Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell. Each speaker explained the kind of activism they do, and the strengths and weaknesses they associate with it. Audience members participated in a plenary discussion on activism’s various forms and the challenges facing collaborative action in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The second collaborative event, “Student Activism for the Twenty First Century,” brought Smith to the Sac State campus to meet with sixteen students who

identified as activists, or with activism, or both. The group met in CRISJ’s new office, located in the bowels of the campus’s main library. Students described the social problems of greatest concern to them, the forms of activism they do, and the struggles they experienced as social change makers. They asked Smith how he remained resilient after facing defeat. Smith mentored them by recounting his formative meeting with MLK, Jr. He insisted that the younger generation has the power to make effective social change, if only they study the situation seriously, take up the responsibility, commit to it faithfully, and organize effectively.

The third collaborative event, “Student Activism from the Civil Rights Era to the Present” was organized and led by students enrolled in Dr. Monicka Tutschka’s POLS 112: Current Political Thought course. It gave Smith the opportunity to interact in Sac State’s University Union with over 100 students enrolled in POLS 112 and various other courses, including POLS 165: Politics of the Underrepresented. In his email reflections on this event, Smith wrote, “[Students] probed insightfully, seemingly trying to understand whether their activism actually mattered.” Responding to their skepticism, Smith insisted that “Young Americans will have to save grandma and grandpa with their votes....Young activists are America’s only hope of beating back fascism....I say to young voters, “Accept the things you cannot change, but change the things you cannot accept!”” Smith’s concluding remarks resonate with CRISJ’s commitment to the kind of inquiry that enables individuals to see, explain and

understand unacceptable structures, forces, discourses, dialectics and agents that pervade our communities. His remarks also reinforce the idea that it will require collaborative action by young people and their allies to change the unacceptable, to improve our union, to make the world a better place for us all.

As lead CRISJ facilitator of the John B. Smith events, I would to thank everyone who attended and participated, our co-sponsors, and Ana Gutierrez who helped with many of the arrangements. I am grateful to Liv Moe for inviting CRISJ to participate. Above all, it was an honor to be in the company of John B. Smith, a committed activist, a force for change, a beacon of hope in our splattered world.

**Join us!**

**FIGHT TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**

**Recognizing Activism at Sacramento State and in the Region**

We invite Sacramento State employees and regional partners to join us for a two hour celebration where we mingle and discuss the diverse forms of activism we practice and study. Civil rights activist John. B. Smith, co-founder of the Invaders, who participated in the Tennessee sanitation strike, and met with MLK the day he was assassinated, will be in attendance. The 'Black Power Tarot' art exhibition will be up for all to explore. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. Space limited. Please RSVP.

**DATE:** Wed, February 15, 2023  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Verge Center for the Arts  
 625 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

**RSVP:** [https://surveys.csus.edu/jfe/form/SV\\_bkH53ZmlOu6uFRc](https://surveys.csus.edu/jfe/form/SV_bkH53ZmlOu6uFRc)

**Need Accomodations?** Contact [tutschka@csus.edu](mailto:tutschka@csus.edu)

**CFA** **CENTER ON RACE, IMMIGRATION & SOCIAL JUSTICE** **VERGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS** **SACRAMENTO STATE DIVISION OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**

**Event Flier**

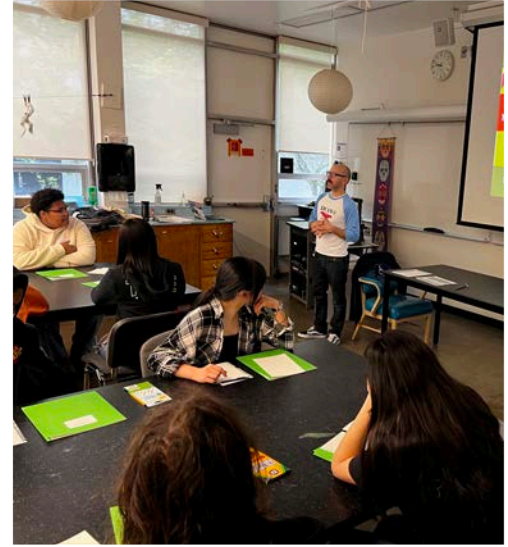
## CRISJ Youth Literacy Empowerment Day—A Literacy Empowerment Committee Event

BY DR. ARACELI FELIZ

The CRISJ Youth Literacy Empowerment Day took place on April 14, 2023. Titled *Seeds to Roots: Cultivating Healthy Futures; Semillas a Raices: Cultivando Futuros Sanos*, two workshops, an official campus tour, and lunch were featured offerings of the one day event. A group of 38 high school students and approximately 12 chaperones from various Elk Grove Unified School District high schools attended the event. As a result of a collaboration with Roberto Robles, Program Educator for Young Men of Color in the EGUSD Educational Equity Department, several student groups including the Black Student Union, Young Men of Color, Native Education, and the Student Equity Council were in attendance. The event was supported by ten volunteers including Sac State faculty, staff, students, and workshop facilitators Dr. Luis Garcia, assistant professor in the art department and Dr. Manuel Barajas, professor in the sociology department.

Dr. Garcia facilitated the Critical Lotería workshop where students participated in an arts-based workshop engaging in an analysis of the history and imagery of the game of lotería. In this workshop, Dr. Garcia guided students through a discussion of the origins and history of La Lotería. He also led the group through a discussion of issues of race, class, and gender portrayed in the lotería cards. Participants were asked to re-imagine positive images of our communities by drawing on their home knowledge. Students created their own Lotería cards as counternarratives to issues of race, class, and gender which were prominently displayed during lunch for their peers to see.

Mi Corrido/My Rap/My Story was the second workshop offered on the day of the event. Dr. Manuel Barajas and



*Dr. Luis Garcia facilitates Loteria workshop*

several of his students facilitated the workshop. A corrido is a song that tells a story about a major life event (e.g. migration, relationships, oppression, life lessons, loved ones). Dr. Barajas presented background and the history about the corrido as well as the oppression of underserved communities that contributed to the creation of the corrido. His student volunteer facilitators David Velasquez, Paulina Hernandez, Krysten Lee, and Rebekah Williams offered their own experiences with creating corridos in Dr. Barajas' class as well as shared their corridos as examples. Dr. Barajas also played portions of popular corridos and then students engaged in writing their own corridos, raps, or stories to share about their lived experiences.

The workshops were followed by a CRISJ sponsored lunch where students had an opportunity for social interaction and to view the lotería cards display. After lunch, students met campus tour staff for an official tour of the university. You can view a brief video with event highlights compiled by CRISJ student intern and event volunteer Ariana Vivianco at this link: [YLEday.mp4](#)

Participants were asked to complete a voluntary anonymous survey to provide feedback. Below are some quotes taken from the survey:

"enjoyed learning something new, getting to sit in the classroom with a professor leading the workshop. Both workshops were great!"

"Great event. I'm excited to see what comes of it."

Thank you to the Literacy Empowerment Committee, volunteers, the Sac State Art Department, the Community Engagement Center, Nayeli P. Gonzalez in Risk Management, Roberto Robles, EGUSD and community partners for their collaboration to make this event come to fruition.



*La Loteria Workshop*

## The News and Research Automated Curation Project

BY DIEGO BONILLA

Dr. Diego Bonilla (Communication Studies) gave a presentation to the university community titled "Knowledge Graphs: An Overview and The News and Research Automated Curation Project". This project is hosted at the Center for Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ) and aims to gather, process, and archive news articles loorelated to race, immigration, and social justice in both English and Spanish. The project uses public web knowledge graphs to extract news articles and their metadata on a daily basis, and the information is integrated into [publicly available RSS feeds](#) and archived in thematic databases for researchers and students. The project also serves the Chicano and Latino Faculty and Staff Association (CHLFSA) with [daily updated RSS feeds](#) of publicly available news and

research about Chicanos, Latinos and LatinX in North America. Dr. Bonilla presented the project again in the "Methods for Critical Digital Humanities" panel at the Association for Computers and Humanities 2023 annual conference ([ach.org](http://ach.org)). The presentation took place as part of the "Methods for Critical Digital Humanities" panel.

Dr. Diego Bonilla (Communication Studies) has authored an Open Educational Resource by using Python programming and artificial intelligence titled "Scholarly Stanzas" ([ScholarlyStanzas.net](http://ScholarlyStanzas.net)). The OER showcases more than 580 theories from Communication Studies and related fields, offering for each a definition, the lyrics for a song based on the theory, and most importantly, links to resources to study in depth each theory.

Dr. Bonilla presented "Generating Universal Narratives: Challenges for the Authentic Representation of Latin American Cultures in Media Production with Artificial Intelligence" (2023) 5th International Congress and 7th Ibero-American Meeting of Audiovisual Narratives. Antenor Orrego Private University, Trujillo, Peru.



SACRAMENTO  
STATE

Join us for an INFORMATIVE SESSION on

### The News and Research Automated Curation Project

Center for Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ)  
Chicano and Latino Faculty and Staff Association (CHLFSA)  
at California State University, Sacramento.

This project is dedicated to gathering, processing, and archiving news articles related to race, immigration, and social justice in both English and Spanish. Using public web knowledge graphs, the project extracts news articles and metadata on a daily basis and makes the information available through publicly available RSS feeds and thematic databases for researchers and students. The project also serves the Chicano and Latino Faculty and Staff Association with daily updated RSS feeds of news and research about Chicanos, Latinos, and LatinX in North America.



CRISJ  
CENTER FOR RACE, IMMIGRATION &  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
AT SAC STATE





CHLFSA



We invite you to join us for a presentation by Dr. Diego Bonilla  
**1:30 PM - 2:30 PM - Thursday, April 6th, 2023**  
Moderated ZOOM: <https://csus.zoom.us/j/89751088982>

**Get access to the knowledge graph used in this project!**  
Available for faculty and graduate students in attendance.

Event Flier



## Building Bridges for Community Empowerment

BY MANUEL BARAJAS

The Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) hosted the fourth annual Community Empowerment Faire on March 30th, 2023, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., at the Redwood Room at Sacramento State. Advancing the university-anchor initiative, CRISJ 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.

This academic year valuable campus co-sponsors made this empowerment faire a success. The Center for Community Engagement (CCE), a co-sponsor for the fourth year, provided support to both students and community partners in formalizing internship, service learning, and/or volunteer service. In addition, the Library Special Collections and University Archives—



*Fair participants*

another co-sponsor—exhibited art/posters aligned with our theme of “Shining the Light from the Margins for Social Justice,” by local artist, Francisco Dominguez. We also recognize the co-sponsorship of the Student Equity and Affinity Centers, who provided information and opportunities to connect with various university student centers, including the Multicultural Center, Serna Center, Dream Resource Center, among others.

We are happy to report that this year’s faire had over a dozen community partners, who energized and contributed to an exciting afternoon with powerful community voices, music, karaoke, food, and raffles. Participating organizations were selected from a broad and diverse group of organizations who responded to our call and that aligned with the Center’s mission. This year the participants include the following: Auburn Hip Hop Congress, NorCal School of the Arts, Sacramento Poor People’s Campaign, Community Lead Advocay Group (CLAP), Building Empowerment Skills Today (BEST), Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition, California Black



*Fair participants*

Agriculture Working Group, United Latinos, Benito Juarez Association, Social Justice Politicorps, The Sac Poderosas, and Sacramento ACT. 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 to learn, connect, and engage collaboratively for the empowerment of historically oppressed communities. In the time frame of three hours, we had hundreds of excited attendees and a festive and engaged social atmosphere.



*Fair participants*



*Fair participants*



*Fair participants*



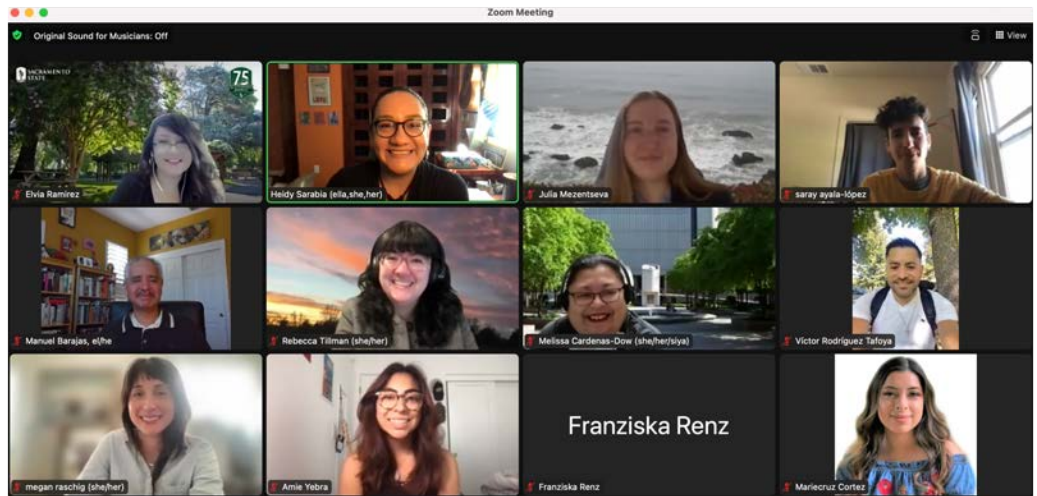
# Research Mentoring Conference

BY ELVIA RAMIREZ

During the 2022-23 academic year, the Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) hosted the second annual CRISJ Research Mentorship Program. The CRISJ Research Mentorship Program is an undergraduate research mentorship program that provides students with access to faculty mentorship, research experience, and preparation for graduate school. The program also strives to cultivate critical scholars and advocates for social justice. The CRISJ Research Mentorship Program is thus strongly aligned with Sac State's Strategic Plan. In particular, the CRISJ Research Mentorship Program supports the Strategic Plan's focus on: (a) learning and student success, (b) teaching, scholarship, and creative activity, and (c) justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

The 2022-23 cohort of CRISJ mentees consisted of 13 undergraduate students and a Sac State alum from several majors, including Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Biological Sciences, and Psychology. The program required a one-year commitment from student participants. During fall 2022 semester, CRISJ mentees enrolled in SOC 194, a 3-unit course taught by Dr. Elvia Ramirez, the CRISJ Mentorship Coordinator. During spring 2023 semester, students were paired up with a faculty mentor to work on either a student-led or faculty-led research project. A total of 13 faculty mentors from across campus volunteered to work with one or more CRISJ student mentees.

On May 18, 2023, CRISJ hosted the second annual CRISJ Research Mentorship Program Conference. The conference provided students and their faculty



Conference participants

mentors an opportunity to showcase their research and scholarly work. The conference was also open to graduate students at Sac State. The conference was hosted online via Zoom and featured a total of 8 presentations. The scholarly presentations focused on various social justice themes and issues, such as poverty, racial (in)equity in high schools, transgender identities, racial/ethnic minority undergraduate student experiences, student affinity centers, immigrant women and motherhood, indigenous Mayan families, and immigrants' experiences with regimes of illegality.

Overall, the CRISJ Research Mentorship Program has had a resounding success in recruiting outstanding students and faculty mentors. The CRISJ Research Mentorship Program helps support Sac State's commitment to student success, and we look forward to expanding the Research Mentorship Program in the years to come.





## Muxeres en Resistencia

BY MARIA VARGAS

On May 11th, 2023, I, Maria Vargas, had the pleasure of hosting a virtual event titled *Plática de Mujeres en Resistencia* (Women in Resistance), along with my Latin American and Caribbean studies class (ETHN 137). This bilingual panel was organized by CRISJ (Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice) and was moderated by Associate Professor in Sociology Heidi Sarabia. The panel included Marixa Amaya, an activist and lawyer who serves as the National Board Member of CRIPDES (The Association for the Development of El Salvador), and Maria Elena Martinez, a Salvadoran activist and psychologist. Maria Elena has spent her entire life and career fighting against military regimes and dictatorships in El Salvador, facilitating women's groups in various rural Salvadoran communities and helping survivors of domestic violence learn self-help techniques. As an associate professor of

Ethnic Studies and Chicana/Latina Studies, I also had the opportunity to serve on such a powerful and transnational panel and discuss the grassroots efforts and historical resistance from indigenous women against genocide in Guatemala. Marixa discussed the challenges and hardships that Salvadoran women endure against the threat of Maras (gangs linked to organized crime) and the lack of protection that women have from the Salvadoran government. Maria Elena shared heartbreaking stories of terrifying moments when the center where she met with the women's group in El Salvador was vandalized to intimate her and dismantle any semblance of safe spaces for healing. Marixa and Maria Elena also talked about the dire poverty and criminalization of women and youth by the current Salvadoran regime ruled under Nayib Bukele. After the panelists spoke, students engaged with the panelists and generated additional discussion on what students in the U.S. can do to participate in solidarity action with Salvadoran women, indigenous women, and the youth in El Salvador and Guatemala.

**CRISJ & CHLFA**  
Present:

# Plática de Muxeres en resistencia

**WHEN**  
**May 3**  
**11am – 12:15pm (PST)**

**WHERE**  
**online**  
zoom link: ADD

**PANELISTS:** Dr. Maria Vargas, Ethnic Studies · Mariaelena Martinez · muxer #3 · Estudiante · **Moderated by:** Heidi Sarabia, Sociology

**FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. FOR ACCOMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT HEIDY SARABIA (HEIDY.SARABIA@CSUS.EDU)**

**GRATIS Y ABIERTO PARA TODXS**

**PLÁTICA EN ESPAÑOL**

**ACOMPÁÑANOS**  
Discutiremos las experiencias de muxeres en varios contextos, y sobre las posibilidades y retos de la solidaridad

**MAYO 3**  
De 12pm-1:15pm (hora de El Salvador)

**EN ZOOM**  
Con Maria Vargas, profesora de Sac State en Estudios Etnicos; Mariaelena Martinez, B, C, y Heidi Sarabia moderando la plática.

Event Flier

# Community Partners

In an effort to remain relevant and connected to our communities, the Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ), maintains on-going partnerships with progressive community organization. Once a year we invite all our partners to come on campus and meet with

## Building Bridges for Community Empowerment and Social Justice

BY MANUEL BARAJAS

On May 9, 2023, CRISJ hosted the second Building Bridges for Community Empowerment Celebration to honor organizational partners working to create a more humane and healthier world, particularly for marginalized communities. This event also raised funds to support student and community partners aligned with this mission. The celebration included regional artists and musicians, a panel of social justice advocates representing different communities and generations, and a keynote speech from Jose Artiga, Executive Director of the SHARE Foundation, who exemplifies human rights and environmental justice advocacy across borders. This event was supported by the Community Engagement Center and the Provost Office.

Drs. Manuel Barajas and Heidi Sarabia provided a brief introduction, land acknowledgement, and CRISJ's mission, i.e., empowerment of historically subordinated communities in higher education and larger community through the production of critical knowledge, mentorship, and community engagement. After brief remarks and an outline of the evening program, attendees were encouraged to enjoy the music and art, to meet each other, and to try the diverse food representing various cultures, Middle Eastern, Asian Indian, Latin American. Among the artists include Cheryl Gleason with The Mill Station Arts & Cultural Center, Kachiside Madu and Jose Guerrero with the Sacramento Regional Arts, and Yvonne Saldaña and Mayra Ramos Chavez Sacramento State Alumni. We also had live music and dance performances with Raquel Ruiz and the Eclectic Artists "Bus con Remos."

Dr. Kristina Victor moderated a panel focusing on social justice work, insights, and recommendations for organizing effectively across groups. Among these exemplar advocates for social justice included Gaby Trejo, Executive Director, Sacramento ACT (inter-faith organization); Stan Oden, Emeritus Professor, Co-founder CRISJ; and Michael Lee-Chang, Student Office of Inclusive Excellence. Drawing from their organizational



Panel

experiences they provided insights, recommendations and visions for successful empowerment projects.

After the panel, Dr. Elvia Ramirez introduced the keynote speaker, Jose Artiga, who has a long history of organizing/weaving various communities to advance awareness and human rights to displaced and persecuted migrants from Central America. Artiga discussed the context that have displaced Salvadorans over the past five decades, where political repression and foreign interventions have contributed to 50 percent of its population being in the United States. Through the SHARE foundation they support the right not to migrate, to return to organic and healthy ways of producing food, e.g., *Vamos a La Milpa Project*; to take delegations in the thousands to El Salvador and Honduras to learn about the beauty and wealth of these politically subordinated regions of the Americas, now also being affected by climate change. Overall, the coloniality of the Americas continue to enrich the rich and impoverish the rest. Artiga concluded with some words of wisdom, "Sometimes we need to organize and pass on the struggle to the next and next generation; I have wisdom; you have wisdom, so let us strengthen the wisdom and action." Along the CRISJ mission, hope comes from organized action and coalition building across groups and borders to push for democracies from the bottom up.



# 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 on-going 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.

## The “Building Justice” Podcast Finishes a Very Successful Second Season

BY MONICKA TUTSCHKA

[WWW.CSUS.EDU/CRISJ/BUILDINGJUSTICE](http://WWW.CSUS.EDU/CRISJ/BUILDINGJUSTICE)

Podcast listening has gained in popularity over the last five years, probably because voice media has proven to be an effective and engaging learning medium and because podcasts in particular are affordable, accessible, and flexible learning tools. Through the use of a mobile device, busy individuals can listen to an episode while walking, driving, cooking, or working and they can replay episodes whenever they wish to gain deeper understandings.

With the help of an amazing team of faculty and students who served on CRISJ’s podcast committee over the course of the 2022-2023 academic year, the CRISJ’s ‘Building Justice’ podcast successfully completed Season 2, producing 31 thoughtful episodes addressing diverse social problems, featuring 62 guests/hosts, amassing over 4,900 downloads/plays from listeners in 19 countries across the globe (as of August 15, 2023), and spending less than \$1300 of CRISJ’s annual budget. Season 2 hosts and guests included elected officials, community organizers, Sac State faculty, students, and alumni, and faculty from other universities, including UCLA and UC-Boulder.

The podcast came into being because CRISJ affiliates believed social change agents at Sacramento State and across the Sacramento region did not have an adequate platform from which to amplify their social justice research, vision, voice, initiative, organization, and action. An adequate platform was needed in order to recognize and validate social change agents and their work. Hence, the podcast advances CRISJ’s objective of disseminating critical knowledge with the hope of fostering critical awareness and understandings, inviting solidarity, and sparking action and organization for social change.

SACRAMENTO STATE  
Center on Race, Immigration & Social Justice

CRISJ PODCAST  
**BUILDING JUSTICE**

INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO US?

Follow us on social media and subscribe to the “Building Justice Podcast” on your favorite streaming platforms!

The Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) is pleased to present a podcast that explores critical issues affecting our communities with the hopes of creating a healthier and more just world.

Scan for more information:

[@crisj\\_sacstate](https://www.instagram.com/crisj_sacstate)  
[sacstatecrisj](https://www.facebook.com/sacstatecrisj)  
 Listen on Spotify  
 Listen on Apple Podcast

<http://www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice>

Podcast Flier

These goals are especially important at a time when communities are reckoning with various social problems including, but not limited to: vast economic inequality, homelessness and housing unaffordability, climate change, educational inequities and divestment, economic underdevelopment, systemic racism, inadequate mental health systems, political fragmentation and polarization, prison expansion,

**BUILDING JUSTICE PODCAST**

**Amplify Your Social Justice Cause. Ask Me How!**

[www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice](http://www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice)

**The 'Building Justice' podcast is here to help you amplify your social justice voice.**

The podcast originates from SacState's Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ), and is run by students and faculty. We need your help raising critical awareness. No social issue exists alone and one voice can make a difference. Gain podcast production experience and build community engagement around social justice.

**Contact:**  
Dr. Monicka Tutschka  
tutschka@csus.edu

**SACRAMENTO STATE**  
Center on Race, Immigration & Social Justice

Create your podcast episode with us!

*Podcast Flier*

consistent weekly basis over the course of two semesters were two primary objectives for the podcast committee, but there were many more objectives the committee met over the course of the academic year.

Making sure that episodes aligned with CRISJ mission at every stage of the production process was one additional objective. The committee advanced it by providing better resources for episode creators. It adopted a code of ethics; it drafted a disclaimer policy; it revised its minimum requirements; it produced content warning guidelines; and it generated tips for title and description writing. Students also produced an informational slideshow and faculty created a best practices video. These resources are available on CRISJ's updated T4 'Building Justice' webpage [www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice](http://www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice), or by request.

The podcast committee also set out to disseminate episodes more broadly by increasing its listenership. To further this objective, it implemented various promotional campaigns. For its social media campaign, committee members created various social media graphics approved by university marketing and it produced short podcast reels. These launched on [CRISJ Facebook](#), [CRISJ Instagram](#) and Sac State's Buzly social media platform. For its student outreach campaign, committee members emailed relevant student clubs and organizations, inviting members to listen to episodes, join the committee, and produce episodes in alignment with CRISJ's social justice mission. For its print media campaign, the committee created and posted hundreds of 'Building Justice' flyers in campus

workforce exploitation, natural disasters, democratic erosion, privatization, restrictions on bodily autonomy, police brutality, nativism, misogyny, anti-Blackness, violence against the LGBTQAI+ community, anti-Asian, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate, ethnocentrism, anti-pluralism, sexual harassment, agism, xenophobia, and ableism.

Season 2 of 'Building Justice' provides listeners with the opportunity to learn more about many of these social problems from primarily local scholars and/or activists in these fields, and it invites listeners to explore possible solutions and actions alongside them. Season 2 episode titles and descriptions can be found at [www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice](http://www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice), or by scrolling through the 'Building Justice' playlist available on major streaming providers, including [ApplePodcast](#), [Spotify](#), [Google Podcast](#) and more.

Facilitating the creation of quality episodes and ensuring that they launched successfully on a

**BUILDING JUSTICE PODCAST**

**PITCH YOUR PODCAST COMPETITION**

**DETAILS:** [www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice](http://www.csus.edu/crisj/buildingjustice)

EASY WRITTEN APPLICATION

AWARD: \$150 each (conditions apply, see full description)

DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2023

NO PODCAST EXPERIENCE NEEDED

STUDENTS, CSUS EMPLOYEES, SACRAMENTO COMMUNITY ELIGIBLE

**SACRAMENTO STATE**  
Center on Race, Immigration & Social Justice

*Podcast Flier*



buildings. It also produced a public service announcement that broadcasted on Sac State's KSSU student radio. Additionally, the committee held a successful "Pitch your Podcast competition." Two students were selected. Each will receive \$150 after submitting their full episode for Season 3. 'Building Justice' also tabled at the AICP Symposium and participated in the Community Engagement Center's Annual Poster Session.

A third objective important to the committee was audience participation and engagement. To pursue this objective, the committee submitted an application to the Carlsen Center requesting help from a Business Honors Class. The request was granted and Business Honors students produced a survey in collaboration with the committee. Additionally, the committee created and launched a podcast feedback form now available on its official website. It intends to promote the form over the course of Summer 2023 through social media.

A final objective was revenue raising. The podcast committee completed its work under its allocated CRISJ budget with some additional support provided by the Political Science department. Although it failed in its effort to win a UEI campus grant, it

succeeded in gaining an \$3000+ ASI grant to fund student assistants in AY23/24 who will join the committee and help with decision-making, production, and promotion. The Political Science department has once again agreed to support 'Building Justice' with \$1400 to hire student assistants.

Overall, Season 2 was a great success and we are looking forward to launching Season 3 in August 2023 after our podcast committee potluck. Many community partners and Sac State employees and students are already on the Season 3 schedule. If you would like to create a podcast episode with us or if you wish to join the podcast committee, please contact Monicka Tutschka at [tutschka@csus.edu](mailto:tutschka@csus.edu). No podcast experience necessary. The podcast committee would like to conclude by thanking all the hosts and guests for creating amazing and thoughtful episodes and transcripts for 'Building Justice.' We would not have succeeded without your expertise, activism and passion. As chair of the podcast committee, I would like to especially thank committee members, particularly student volunteers, for their extraordinary service over the course of the academic year. We did it!





*Thinking, Writing, and Doing Social Justice*

## CRISJ's Brown Bag Series

BY HEIDY SARABIA

**T**he Center on Race, Immigration, and Social Justice (CRISJ) inaugurated its Brown Bag Series, "Thinking, Writing, and Doing Social Justice" this academic year. Through this brown bag series, CRISJ seeks to address social and educational inequalities facing the university and larger community by providing a space to faculty, students, staff, and community members to work on and develop ideas, manuscripts, and projects in a supportive environment. This brown bag proved to be an incredible space where many shared ideas, poems, proposals, and works in progress—all connected by a focus and commitment to social justice.

In February, Mario Galvan presented shocking data on military spending by the U.S., and the profiteering of the military-industrial complex; with the meeting ending with poetry and a discussion about the power of imagining worlds without borders—truly inspirational!

In March, Chris Towler shared his preliminary findings on some of the factors that mobilize the Black electorate,

and Nancy Huante-Tzintzun shared her upcoming project on Chicana/x Testimonio project in Stockton, CA.

In April, Macario Ortiz presented his work on the myth of La Llorona; and Manuel Barajas and Heidy Sarabia presented their current manuscript on the racialization of Mexicans in the United States.

In May, we concluded the brown bag series with Nadxieli Toledo Bustamante, who discussed the power of language ideologies and the need to walk away from deficit perspectives about language development; and we ended the conversation with Nancy Huante-Tzintzun, Heidy Sarabia, and Alex Sanchez discussing their project with the Stockton Scholars.


This CRISJ Brown Bag provided a space for faculty, students, staff, and community members to engage in critical conversations about wide-range of very current and timely topics!

Next academic year, we plan to continue to host these critical and intellectual spaces. CRISJ will host a Faculty Learning Community lead by Dr. Diego Bonilla, from the department of Communication Studies. For more information about the FLC, please [visit the course site](#).

*Join* the CRISJ brown Bag Series: Thinking, Writing, and Doing Social Justice!  
*Share* your research, stories, poetry, perspective, projects, ideas, or art; all mediums are welcomed!

*Sign up* with Heidy Sarabia ([heidy.sarabia@csus.edu](mailto:heidy.sarabia@csus.edu)).









## Addressing Social and Educational Inequities

### Manuel Barajas

#### Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice



<p><b>Introduction/Background</b></p> <p>Focusing on the areas of Mentorship, Community Engagement, Programing and Critical Research, CRISJ seeks to transform the educational culture at Sac State into an exciting and empowering one that reflects the strengths and needs of our local and diversified communities.</p>  <p style="font-size: small;">Considerably, the most transformative visions and advocacy come from among 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.</p> <p><b>Community Engagement</b></p> <p>For the past 5 years, CRISJ has hosted a Community Empowerment Faire focusing and addressing issues of social justice within our communities. In this event, local community organizations and students connect and learn about service opportunities whether through involvement or services they can benefit from.</p> <p>On March 2023, CRISJ hosted 19 local organizations (the highest number in our five years offering this event), that focused on issues of housing, environmental justice, cultural representation, sustainable and ethical agricultural, etc.</p> 	<p><b>Student Mentorship</b></p> <p>The Mentorship Program provides research opportunities to undergraduate students with an interested focus on social justice topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two cohorts from AY 2021-2022 - AY 2022-2023</li> <li>- 15 students were selected to participate</li> <li>- Students attended a class during the Fall semester.</li> <li>- Students were paired with Faculty mentors to help them through their career goals and research projects.</li> <li>- Students presented their projects at CRISJ Research Symposium.</li> <li>- Students will present their projects in person for this year on May 2023</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">2021-2022 Student Mentees Cohort &amp; Faculty Mentors</p>  <p><b>Critical Research/Programming</b></p> <p><b>Research</b></p> <p>CRISJ is hosting a monthly brown bag series titled, "Thinking, Writing, and Doing Social Justice." We invite members of the community and at Sac State, to share their work in progress, poetry, editorial pieces, proposals, reflections, etc. Members have presented work that might reflect how CRISJ members engage in the work of social justice academically and in the community.</p> <p><b>Programming</b></p> <p>Most approximately 6 events per Academic Year. Featuring some below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>CRISJ Podcast</b>- provides an outlet and explores critical issues affecting our communities with the hopes of creating a healthier and more just world.</li> <li>- <b>CRISJ Literacy Empowerment Project</b>- empowers historically marginalized and minoritized youth through multi-modal expressions of literacy by highlighting the cultural, community, and home literacies underserved students possess. Students learn to use their existing knowledge as tools that support their learning in academic settings while strengthening their identities, languages, and customs. We establish partnerships with local schools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>How do we advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produce critical scholarship by faculty and students on race, immigration, and social justice. The Center's research program is explicitly interdisciplinary, intersectional, and social justice relevant.</li> <li>- Continue to develop students' skills necessary to prepare them for graduate school or applied professions after graduation. This mentorship gives students an opportunity to do research or creative activity projects that support and enhance pathways to academic success and social justice commitments.</li> <li>- Through community engagement, promote collaborative relations and skill-sharing between the campus and community organizations. This experience makes education more meaningful and motivational for students.</li> <li>- Expose the students/faculty/community to critical knowledge related to issues of race and immigration through a social justice perspective, including curriculum development and pedagogy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lessons Learned/Take Aways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Everyone has a role in transforming this world into one that encourages healthy relationships with each other and all life forms.</li> <li>- With every project—mentorship, community engagement, critical research, academic programming—we work to advance the voices, interests, dignity of those at the margins of society.</li> <li>- It is important to elevate understandings, empathies, and motivations for social justice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Impact &amp; Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue data collection, evaluation, and other institutional operations to support equitable community engagement and representation.</li> <li>- Continue to seek more financial support from the University and donors for the growth and continuation of the Center, including release time for more faculty involvement.</li> <li>- Continue to expand participation. 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.</li> </ul>
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Poster shared at the Community Engagement Center's Spotlight Event (March 2023)

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](http://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!