

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans Caucus  
Black Caucus  
Chicanx/Latinx Caucus  
Disability Caucus  
LGBTQIA+ Caucus  
Native American & Indigenous Peoples Caucus  
Palestine, Arab, & Muslim Caucus  
Teacher Education Caucus  
Womxn's Caucus

## **EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023**

**Co-conspiring for an  
Equitable Future: Building  
the Social Justice Bridge**



**California Faculty Association**



**PRE-CONFERENCE BARGAINING INSTITUTE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 7 FROM 1:00-4:00PM**

**EQUITY CONFERENCE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 – SATURDAY, MARCH 11**

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

**PRE  
CONFERENCE**

*Tuesday, March 7, 1pm-4pm*

## **Bargaining Institute**



The Bargaining Institute is a three-hour session at the 2023 CFA Equity Conference that is intended to provide attendees with an opportunity to learn and become active in the 2023 bargaining campaign, centering anti-racism and social justice. We will present background information on our 2023 reopener and engage interactively in organizing and leadership exercises that equip attendees with knowledge and skills to effectively, through organizing and bargaining, win substantial gains for faculty.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 1

Wednesday, March 8 10am-6:30pm

## ARIANA BROWN

*Poet*



Ariana Brown is a queer Black Mexican American poet from the Southside of San Antonio, Texas, now based in Houston, Texas. She is the author of the poetry collections *We Are Owed*. (Grievland, 2021) and *Sana Sana* (Game Over Books, 2020). Ariana's work investigates queer Black personhood in Mexican American spaces, Black relationality and girlhood, loneliness, and care. Her debut poetry EP, *LET US BE ENOUGH*, is available on Bandcamp. She holds a B.A. in African Diaspora Studies and Mexican American Studies from UT Austin, an M.F.A. in Poetry from the University of Pittsburgh, and is pursuing an M.L.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas. Ariana is a 2014 national collegiate poetry slam champion and owes much of her practice to Black performance communities led by Black women poets from the South. She has been writing, performing, and teaching poetry for over ten years. Follow Ariana on Twitter and Instagram at ArianaThePoet.

## MELISSA MORGAN

*Education and Youth Advocate*



Melissa has a rich history of work in education, diversity and inclusion, civil rights and youth-serving nonprofits. She is a relationship builder and solution seeker who values working closely with community stakeholders of various backgrounds to find common ground and collaborative opportunities for the common good.

Melissa has a background in, and passion for, anti-bias education, nonviolence, hate crime education, racial justice, youth empowerment, the arts, technology, marketing, and all things communications (aka "Mar/Com").

Her professional experience has included work with the Anti-Defamation League, Orange County Human Relations Council, the Heart of America Foundation, the National Conference of Community and Justice, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and the City of Long Beach Human Dignity Program.

Melissa grew up in the southern region of the U.S. and graduated from the University of North Florida. Upon graduation, she served as a Rotary Cultural Ambassadorial Scholar of Good Will in Merida, Venezuela, before making Southern California her home.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 1

Wednesday, March 8 10am-6:30pm



## ANDREA RITCHIE

Author, Activist, and Lawyer

Andrea J. Ritchie (she/any) is a Black lesbian immigrant survivor, a leading expert on policing and criminalization, and the author of *Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color*, and co-author of *No More Police: A Case for Abolition*; *Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women*; and of *Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States*.

She has been documenting, organizing, advocating, litigating and agitating around policing and criminalization of Black women, girls, trans, and gender nonconforming people for the past three decades, and actively engaged in anti-violence, labor, and LGBTQ organizing, and in movements against state violence and for racial, reproductive, economic, environmental, and gender justice in the U.S., Canada, and internationally since the 1980s.

Andrea co-founded Interrupting Criminalization with Mariame Kaba, as well as the In Our Names Network, a network of over 20 organizations working to end police violence against Black women, girls, trans and gender nonconforming people, and led INCITE!'s work on law enforcement violence. In these capacities, and through the Community Resource Hub and National Black Women's Justice Institute, she works with dozens of groups across the country organizing to divest from policing and secure deep investments in community-based strategies that will produce greater public safety.

Andrea is an experienced public speaker, trainer, and facilitator skilled at engaging audiences large and small in community, academic, and organizational settings.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 1

Wednesday, March 8 10am–6:30pm



## DR. MARISA SALINAS

*Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Justice Studies at CSU San Marcos*

Dr. Marisa Salinas is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Justice Studies at CSU San Marcos. She has bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Chicana/o Studies from UC Santa Barbara, a master's degree in Sociology from San Diego State University, and received her Ph.D. in Sociology from UC Santa Barbara with a Race, Ethnicity, and Nation concentration and Black Studies emphasis. As a working-class origin, former first-generation student, mentor, and Chicana mamascholar, she believes in the transformative power of mobilizing struggle and is committed to supporting multiply marginalized communities. Her work broadly aims to disrupt the exceptionality and disposability continuum and focuses on Latinas in the Academic and Prison Industrial Complexes.



## DR. XUAN SANTOS

*Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology and Justice Studies at CSU San Marcos*

Dr. Xuan Santos is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology and Justice Studies at CSU San Marcos. He serves as the Executive Director of Project Rebound (CSUSM chapter). He earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of California Santa Barbara. Dr. Santos' areas of expertise and publications cover the following areas of interest: The Informal Economy/Global Capitalism; Transnational Migration; Convict/Barrio Criminology; Gangs and Adolescent Subcultures; Public Sociology; Race/Class/Gender/Nation; and Tattooing.

He served as the 2021-2022 President of the California Sociological Association. An award-winning professor, Dr. Santos received the following recognitions: the 2021 President's Award for "Scholarship and Creative Activity," The All-People's Celebration's "Builds Community Award," The Civility Champion Award, and the Civility Icon Award. A Chicano activist-scholar and self-taught artist from Boyle Heights, he works with the North San Diego Community on mural projects and Dia de Los Muertos displays. Santos delivers motivational keynote presentations at middle schools, high schools, college campuses, and forums. His teaching philosophy seeks to erase the margins by empowering students, invisible, and disenfranchised communities.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 2

Thursday, March 9 10am-6:30pm



## IMANI BARBARIN

*Disability Activist, Culture Writer, and Content Creator*

A graduate of Eastern University with a degree in Creative Writing and a minor in French from the Sorbonne, Imani Barbarin writes from the perspective of a black woman with Cerebral Palsy. She specializes in blogging, science fiction and memoir. Ironically, she did not like the idea of writing this mini bio.



## COURTLAND BRIGGS

*SQE Channel Islands Intern*

4th year Political Science major at CSU Channel Islands

I am an aspiring lawyer who is a very big advocate for the Black community. I am looking to make a change in the world while continuing to put smiles on people's faces. I love dogs and have a huge husky named Zeus.



# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 2

Thursday, March 9 10am-6:30pm



## GARRETT DASIGAN

*SQE Maritime Intern*

My name is Garrett Dasigan (he/they). I am a senior student at CSU Maritime majoring in Mechanical Engineering. This is my 2nd semester working as a SQE intern. I'm hoping for a world where queer people like me and my community could proudly thrive in a safe learning environment.



## DR. PAUL ESPINOSA

*Filmmaker and Professor Emeritus at the School of Transborder Studies at Arizona State University*

Paul Espinosa is an award-winning filmmaker who has worked at the intersection of social justice and Latino history over the last 40 years. He is president of Espinosa Productions, a San Diego production company specializing in films focused on the U.S.-Mexico border region. His films include: "Singing Our Way to Freedom", "The Lemon Grove Incident", "... and the earth did not swallow him", "The Hunt for Pancho Villa", "The U.S.-Mexican War: 1846-1848", "Los Mineros", "The New Tijuana", "The Price of Renewal", "Taco Shop Poets", "In the Shadow of the Law", "1492 Revisited" and "Ballad of an Unsung Hero".

Espinosa holds a BA from Brown University and a PhD from Stanford University where he explored connections between media and anthropology. He is Professor Emeritus and a founding faculty member in the School of Transborder Studies at Arizona State University and is a frequent guest lecturer at colleges and universities around the country. Espinosa has worked with the public television stations in San Diego and Dallas as a Senior Producer and Executive Producer. His films have been screened at festivals around the world and have won many awards including eight Emmys.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 2

Thursday, March 9 10am-6:30pm



## ANRI DE JESUS

*SQE Stanislaus Intern*

Anri de Jesus is an SQE intern at Stanislaus State and his pronouns are he/they. Anri is a psychology major set to graduate this spring. They have been a crisis counselor for almost two years and have been involved in local activist groups in the Turlock area for the past four years. He has had the privilege of getting to learn how to provide undocumented folks support along with working in solidarity with Black and Indigenous folks in the area. As a Filipino individual, he is inspired by the work of the elders in his community who worked together with activist groups in the past and hopes to carry on the hard work that they have put in to make the world much more welcoming and fairer for BIPOC individuals.



## MONISHIA "MOE" MILLER, M.S.

*Criminal Justice Professor at CSU Fullerton*

Monishia "Moe" Miller is a criminal justice scholar and childhood adversity expert. For more than 25 years, she has worked in the juvenile justice system as a youth advocate, restorative justice practitioner, and community service liaison. The focus of her work is to bring awareness to the issues surrounding social inequality and (in)justice on Black/African American youth in school, community, and justice systems. She serves as the Lecturer Representative at CSU Fullerton, CFA AVP Lecturer South, and Tri-Chair of Womxn's Caucus.



# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 2

Thursday, March 9 10am-6:30pm



## ANGELMARIE TAYLOR

*SQE Channel Islands Intern*

Hello all! My name is Angelmarie and I am a 4th-year business student at CSU Channel Islands. I am an organizer with SQE, but my activism exists both on and off campus. I am heavily involved with many organizations including BSU (Black Student Union), M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán), and URGE (Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity). Pleasure to share the space with everyone.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 3

Friday, March 10 10am–5:30pm



## DR. LYNN BOWES-SPERRY

Researcher, and Endowed Chair and Associate Professor of Management at California State University - East Bay

Dr. Lynn Bowes-Sperry conducts research on a variety of issues related to ethical decision-making in the workplace [e.g., bystander intervention, sexual harassment, voicing one's values effectively, and workplace diversity and inclusion] and provides consulting and training for organizations on these topics. Her research is published in top management and psychology journals, has been presented at numerous international conferences, and has recently appeared in articles on sexual harassment and bystander intervention in prominent outlets such as ABC News.com, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, and the Boston Herald.

In addition to conducting research, Lynn has held several leadership roles in the Gender and Diversity in Organizations division of the Academy of Management, testified as a subject matter expert on workplace sexual harassment before the Canadian Parliament, served as a Keynote speaker, provided consulting services to organizations, and conducted numerous professional development workshops.

She is currently an Endowed Chair and Associate Professor of Management at California State University - East Bay. She enjoys teaching courses in Workplace Ethics, Diversity & Inclusion, Negotiation & Conflict Management, Organizational Behavior, and Human Resources Management. She received her PhD in Management from the University of Connecticut, M.B.A (concentration in HR) from the University of New Haven, and BA in Economics from the College of the Holy Cross. Her past academic employment includes Western New England University, James Madison University, and Mitchell College. She has also been employed by Xerox Corporation, WNLC radio, and General Dynamics - Electric Boat division.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 3

Friday, March 10 10am–5:30pm



## DR. DIANE FUJINO

*Professor of Asian American Studies at UC Santa Barbara*

Diane C. Fujino is professor of Asian American Studies at UC Santa Barbara. Her research examines Japanese and Asian American activist history within an Asian American Radical Tradition and shaped by Black Power and Third World decolonization. As Director of the Center for Black Studies Research (2013–18), Fujino initiated an engaged scholarship program working within the Black Radical Tradition.

She is a core organizer of the Ethnic Studies Now! Santa Barbara Coalition, which won ethnic studies as a high school graduation requirement in the SBUSD in November 2018 and is a co-author of an article examining the organizing model of ESNSB (Kalfou, 2019). Fujino serves on the boards of the UCSB MultiCultural Center, the Intersectional Justice Facilitator Program, and the Food Security and Basic Needs Task Force. She is a Board member of the Fund for Santa Barbara and formerly with La Casa de la Raza. She is a founding member of Cooperation Santa Barbara, serves on the Blum Center's Cooperative Economics advisory committee, and is on the steering committee of the Regional Equity Study.



## ALEX LOCUST (SHE/THEY/HE)

*Disability Justice Educator, Activist, and Glamputee*

Alex Locust is a Black biracial, queer, disability justice educator, activist, and "Glamputee" who celebrates the harmony of his identities to help create the world they want to see.

Born disabled (above-the knee-amputee), Alex learned to navigate an ableist world that told him and other disabled people harmful, violent, and reductive ideas around which bodies are worthy and which bodies are beautiful. Alex synthesizes their lived experience with professional insight to educate others on how to adopt a disability justice framework that builds community and empowers fellow disabled folks.

With an M.S. in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, their approach highlights those who have been silenced and invisibilized while also activating those with privilege and power to recognize how to disrupt oppression and promote cultural shifts.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 4

Saturday, March 11 10am-2:30pm

## MELINA ABDULLAH

*Former Chair of the Department of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, a co-founder of the Los Angeles chapter of Black Lives Matter.*



Melina Abdullah is Professor and former Chair of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Southern California in Political Science and her B.A. from Howard University in African American Studies. She was appointed to the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission in 2014 and is a recognized expert on race, gender, class, and social movements. Abdullah is the author of numerous articles and book chapters, with subjects ranging from political coalition building to womanist mothering.

Professor Abdullah is a womanist scholar-activist – understanding the role that she plays in the academy as intrinsically linked to broader struggles for the liberation of oppressed people. Professor Abdullah is a leader in the fight for Ethnic Studies in the K-12 and university systems and was a part of the historic victory that made Ethnic Studies a requirement in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She was among the original group of organizers that convened to form Black Lives Matter and continues to serve as a Los Angeles chapter lead and contributes to the national leadership. She is co-host and co-producer of the weekly radio program Beautiful Struggle, which airs on KPFK, part of the Pacifica radio network. Dr. Abdullah also serves on boards for the Black Community, Clergy and Labor Alliance (BCCLA), California Faculty Association-Los Angeles, Los Angeles African American Women's Public Policy Institute, Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA-CAN), National Association for Ethnic Studies, Reverence-Wellness Salon, and Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE).

Melina is the recipient of many awards, most recently the 2016 Racial Justice Award presented by the YWCA, the 2016 Fannie Lou Hamer Award for outstanding community service presented by the Coalition of Mental Health Professionals, 2016 Fannie Lou Hamer Award presented by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, 2016 Sacred Sistahs Award, 2016 California Teachers Association Human Rights Award, 2016 BCCLA Ella Baker Award, 2015 Freedom Now Award, and the 2015 Communitas Award. She was recognized by LA Weekly as one of the 10 most influential Los Angeles leaders, "Urban Girl of the Year" by 2UrbanGirls, and one of the 15 "Fiercest Sisters" of 2015 by Fierce. She has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, TV One, ABC, PBS, KTLA, KCET, BET, Free Speech TV, and Al-Jazeera, and is featured in the films 13th, When Justice Isn't Just, and Justice or Else. Melina is originally from Oakland, California. She is a single "soccer mama" of three children and resides in Mid-City Los Angeles.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 4

Saturday, March 11 10am-2:30pm



## SHEILA BATES

*Black Lives Matter -Long Beach*

Sheila Bates is a graduate of Cal State Long Beach, with a bachelor's degree in both Child Development and Family Life Education and an associate's degree in Sociology with an emphasis on race, class, and gender. She started organizing with BLMLA in 2016, where she found her political home. She now serves on the action team, leads the policy team, and the work in Torrance following the murder of Christopher De'Andre Mitchell, and co-leads the healing justice committee. Sheila is also the policy coordinator with Black Lives Matter Grassroots, where she supports the policy work at the local, state, federal and global level.



## DR. JASON MAGABO PEREZ

*San Diego Poet Laureate, Performer, and Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at CSU San Marcos*

Jason Magabo Perez serves as the San Diego Poet Laureate 2023-24. Perez blends poetry, prose, performance, film/video, ethnography, and oral history to explore Filipino American historiographies, colonialism, state violence, migration, memory, and intimacy. Perez is the author of two hybrid collections of poetry and prose: *Phenomenology of Superhero* (Red Bird Chapbooks, 2016) and *This is for the mostless* (WordTech Editions, 2017). Perez has also written and performed three staged, multimedia performance works: *The Passion of El Hulk Hogancito* (Kularts, Inc. and others, 2009-2016); *You Will Gonna Go Crazy* (Kularts, Inc., 2011); and *Blue Bin Improvisations: Performing Yonie's Archive* (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions and MexiCali Biennial, 2018). Perez's work has also appeared in publications such as *Witness*, *The Feminist Wire*, *Entropy*, *Marías at Sampaguitas*, and *Interim*. Previous recipient of a Challenge America Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and former Artist-in-Residence at the Center for Art and Thought, Perez has been a featured performer at notable venues such as the National Asian American Theatre Festival, International Conference of the Philippines, San Francisco Public Library, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and La Jolla Playhouse. Perez is an Associate Editor of *Ethnic Studies Review*, Community Arts Fellow at Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies, and a core organizer with The Digital Sala. Currently, Perez is an Associate Professor and Director of Ethnic Studies at California State University San Marcos.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 4

Saturday, March 11 10am-2:30pm



## HENRY PEREZ

*Associate Director of Inner City Struggle*

Henry Perez began his activism as a first year undergraduate student at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1995. In 1996, California put Proposition 209, the measure to eliminate Affirmative Action, on the ballot. Henry was a part of the UCLA student activist leadership that rallied other students and influential leaders to oppose this proposition. The No on 209 campaign introduced Henry to the importance of engaging marginalized voters and building electoral power that would impact the outcomes in elections that either support or hurt low-income communities of color. The movement to defend Affirmative Action also highlighted for Henry the significance of higher education for low-income communities of color and the barriers that these communities face in reaching that goal.

Henry continued his student activism at UCLA, working on issues of college access and college retention, until he earned his Bachelors of Arts degree in 2000. Afterwards, he served as Director of the UCLA Student Retention Center Calmecac project for two years, assisting Chicana/o and Latina/o students graduate from the university. Henry went on to attend the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies where he earned his Masters degree in 2003 with a focus on Latina/o Critical Race Theory (Lat Crit).

Henry joined InnerCity Struggle in 2005 as the organization's first full-time Coordinator of Familias Unidas (FaU). As coordinator of FaU he led the outreach, recruitment and leadership development of hundreds of Eastside parents and residents, building a solid base of adults that continue to be a voice for change in the Eastside. Since 2009, Henry has led InnerCity Struggle's focus on Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE). His leadership in IVE has led to ICS engaging tens of thousands of Eastside voters and winning their support for progressive ballot measures. More recently, Henry has played the lead role in developing ICS' strategy in their Housing Justice work to protect tenants and prevent displacement of East Los Angeles' most vulnerable residents. Henry is currently the Associate Director of InnerCity Struggle, leading campaign and strategy development for the organization. He is leader in several local and statewide social justice alliances and coalitions with deep knowledge around base building, leadership development, college access, school climate and community schools issues.



# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 4

Saturday, March 11 10am-2:30pm



## LUIS LÓPEZ RESÉNDIZ

*Indigenous Interpreter Program Director at Comunidades Indígenas en liderazgo*

Luis López Resendiz is currently CIELO's Indigenous Interpreter program director; he is a Nuu' Savi. He is committed to taking the struggle for the respect of the rights of indigenous peoples to spaces where indigenous peoples are not represented and to make visible their migration to the United States. Mr. Lopez Resendiz is a graduated from the University of California Berkeley with a B.A. in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. He is a poet whose work has been presented at the Center for Race and Gender at UC Berkeley. Mr. Resendiz has been featured in La Jornada, la Trinchera , KPFK, The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, and El Excelsior. Currently, he is a host on Tu'un Dali Podcast, a podcast for and by Indigenous people.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

DAY 4

Saturday, March 11 10am-2:30pm



## YVONNE WHEELER

*President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and Vice Chair of the CA Democratic Party Labor Caucus*

A committed labor, civil rights, and community activist, Yvonne Wheeler has spent her life championing the rights of working people and is continuing that tradition as the newly elected President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, the second largest Central Labor Council in the country. Growing up as the daughter of a longtime union activist in Baton Rouge, Louisiana during the civil rights movement, at an early age, she applied the principles of direct action and civil disobedience when as a result of the 1965 Desegregation Decree, she was forced to attend desegregated Baton Rouge High School. The school district refused to provide school buses for Wheeler and her classmates, so she joined a group of African American students who marched on district offices, producing some arrests but compelled officials to provide the buses.

When holding dual roles as president of her local union and the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Wheeler focused on mentoring African Americans into leadership positions within the labor movement. For five years, she organized the A. Philip Randolph-AFL-CIO African American Organizing Institute with emphasis on recruitment, training, and job placement of African Americans in union jobs. Simultaneously, her local union won numerous awards to boost COPE participation, organize new workers, and embrace political activism. In 2002, she was recruited by the AFL-CIO as a national field representative. Her credits include crucial L.A.-area campaigns such as the longshore union lockout, supermarket strike/lockout, and helping to defeat Gov. Schwarzenegger's 2005 special election initiatives. Wheeler was co-chair of the L.A. Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride in 2003, championing the plight of immigrant workers. That year, she led AFL-CIO representative organizing the first annual International Human Rights Day, handling strategy, program, and logistics. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for her activism.

Currently, she serves as the President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and is the Vice Chair of the CA Democratic Party Labor Caucus. She is a mother of two, daughter L'Toya, and son Daryl, and a proud grandmother of two, Kamryn and Kaleb Tate.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

## MODERATORS



### DR. DIANE BLAIR

*Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Communication at CSU Fresno*

Dr. Diane Blair is a Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Communication at Fresno State. She teaches and researches in the areas of Rhetorical Criticism and Theory, Social Movement Rhetoric, and Feminist Theory and Practice.

She has published several articles and book chapters on women and politics, including the rhetorical performances of U.S. first ladies. Her research has appeared in the scholarly journals of Women's Studies in Communication and Rhetoric and Public Affairs, and in edited books Political Women: Language and Leadership and Leading Ladies of the White House: Communication Strategies of Notable Twentieth Century First Ladies. She is also a contributor and member of the editorial board for the NEH-sponsored Voices of Democracy: The U.S. Oratory Project.

Dr. Blair has served in several leadership positions related to her academic interests and activism. From 2010-2012 she served as President of the national Organization for Feminist Research on Gender and Communication. She is also the Immediate Past President of the Fresno Chapter of the California Faculty Association and is currently serving in a statewide officer position for CFA.



### LESLIE BRYAN

*Theatre Arts Lecturer at CSU San Bernardino*

Leslie Bryan has been a lecturer at CSU San Bernardino for 24 years. In addition to teaching dance at CSUSB, Bryan teaches classes and coordinates programs at Coyote Conservatory for the Arts in San Bernardino. The Coyote Conservatory for the Arts is run by CSUSB Theatre Arts Department as part of a community outreach commitment. It is located above Sturges Auditorium in San Bernardino and offers classes in the arts: dance, theatre, puppetry, music. Bryan has a special place in her heart for toddler and pre-school aged children.

She has also taught in local charter schools and in community centers to raise awareness about the importance of dance. Another project of Bryan's is working for the California Arts Project as an "Artist in Residence." Bryan goes into schools and trains the teachers about movement and dance.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

## MODERATORS

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### **DR. NICHOLAS CENTINO**

*Assistant Professor of Chicana/o Studies at CSU Channel Islands*

Nicholas F. Centino is an assistant professor in Chicana/o Studies at CSU Channel Islands. In 2020 he received the President's Award for Innovations in Teaching and Learning. As the Council on Racial and Social Justice Representative for his campus, he is most proud of the advocacy and action he helped organize in support of AB1460 calling for all CSU students to take an ethnic studies course prior to graduation.



### **MELISSA CARDENAS-DOW**

*Social Sciences Librarian at Sacramento State University*

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 is active with the California Faculty Association (CFA), the labor union representing teaching faculty, librarians, counselors, and coaches in the California State University System as a member of the CFA system-wide Librarians Committee and the Sacramento CFA Chapter's Anti-Racism and Social Justice (ARSJ) Committee. She is currently chair of the Association of College & Research Libraries Education & Behavioral Sciences Section (ACRL EBSS) Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Committee and a member of the American Library Association (ALA) Core Values Task Force. She holds a Master's in Library & Information Science from San Jose State University and a Master's in Assistive Technology Studies & Human Services from California State University Northridge.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

## MODERATORS



### **DR. SHELLY-ANN COLLINS**

*Licensed Psychologist, Equity & Inclusion Consultant, and Wellness Coach*

Dr. Shelly-Ann Collins is an experienced and respected licensed psychologist and National Certified Counselor with over ten years of experience in the field. She holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts and completed a nationally accredited doctoral internship at UCLA and a health psychology postdoctoral fellowship at the University of San Francisco in California.

She has received advance training in various evidence based therapeutic approaches and psychological assessments. Dr. Collins specializes in relationships, racial, gender, sexual minority mental health, increasing cultural competence, and in the promotion of access, equity, and inclusion. Throughout her career, Dr. Collins has helped individuals overcome mental health challenges and improve their overall well-being. She is well known for her compassionate and empathetic approach, and for delivering effective, evidence-based treatment to her clients. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Collins is also a researcher and scholar, with several publications and presentations on topics related to mental health and wellness and has been recognized with several awards and honors for her work.



### **DR. SHARON ELISE**

*Professor of Sociology and CFA Asst VP for Racial and Social Justice*

Sharon Elise, Ph.D. left a faculty position in Women's Studies at Fresno State to join the faculty of CSUSM in Sociology in Spring 1994. Her teaching and research center on critical race studies, Black Studies, Black Feminism, Intersectionality, women of color and sociopoetics. She has been active in the university and her discipline, and has held leadership positions in her department, college, academic senate, faculty union, and professional organizations. Dr. Elise's current research centers on anti-Black racism with ethnographic work at the university and in Puerto Rico. Dr. Elise helped to lead the union's Anti-Racism and Social Justice Transformation since the work began, and with Chris Cox, she co-Chairs the Council for Racial and Social Justice.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

## MODERATORS

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### ADE GUTTIEREZ

*Northern California Student Intern Organizing Coordinator*

Ade Gutierrez-Diaz (they/them) has been with SQE since 2018, first as an intern and then as the Northern California Coordinator. They have a BS in Political Science and have minors in Criminal Justice and Multicultural Gender Studies from Chico State. Ade has been passionate about approaching abolition in education and approaches their work by advocating for life affirming institutions ranging from their community to the CSU. They dream of a future where we approach the world and our work with love and care rather than anger and exhaustion.



### LUNA LUND

*Central California Student Intern Organizing Coordinator*

Luna Lund (they/them) is the newest addition to the SQE coordinator team as the Central California Student Organizing Coordinator. They have a BA in Sociology from UC Berkeley where they minored in Gender and Women's studies with a focus in queer and trans liberation. Lu is passionate about social justice and has a history of organizing in the Sacramento area as a community college student and in the bay area during their time at Cal. They are a very creative person, enjoying writing, singing, and making art in their free time. They seek to cultivate community with a compassionate, trauma-informed, and intersectional lens.



# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

## MODERATORS

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### **TALITHA MATLIN, MLIS**

*STEM Librarian at CSU San Marcos*

Talitha Matlin is the STEM Librarian at CSU San Marcos. She has a Master's of Learning, Design, and Technology from San Diego State University and a Master's of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. Her research interests focus on applying instructional design methodologies to nontraditional instructional settings and how to examine librarianship through an anti-racist lens.



### **AUDRENA REDMOND, M.A.**

*Director of Programs for Anti-Racism and Social Justice*

Inaugural CFA Program Director for Anti - Racism Social Justice. Her work includes: identifying policy and practice changes, developing and facilitating anti-racism workshops, organizing annual equity conferences and hosting a podcast, Radio Free CSU. For many years, she also organized the annual Leadership Institute for newly elected officers and member activists.

Audrena feels fortunate to be part of an organization and profession that align with her values and beliefs that education is a human right and Black Lives Matter.

# EQUITY CONFERENCE 2023

## MODERATORS



### DR. ALEXA SARDINA

*Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at CSU Sacramento*

Alexa Sardina, PhD is an Assistant Professor at California State University, Sacramento in the Division of Criminal Justice. Her scholarship focuses on how restorative processes can be used to address sexual harm. Dr. Sardina has written and presented on research that combines her scholarly expertise on sexual harm and restorative justice combined with and informed by her personal experience as a rape survivor. She believes that 'survivor scholarship' offers a critical perspective within the broader field of criminology. Dr. Sardina is a co-founder of Ampersands Restorative Justice and co-hosts the popular podcast Beyond Fear: The Sex Crimes Podcast.



### DR. CHARLES TOOMBS

*Professor of Africana Studies at San Diego State University and CFA President*

Charles Toombs is a Professor of Africana Studies at San Diego State University (SDSU). His areas of specialization and research include: Africana literature (African American, African, and Caribbean), American literature, and Black Queer Studies. His degrees are: BA (English), MA (English), MS (Industrial Relations), Ph.D. (English), all from Purdue University. He is President of the California Faculty Association (CFA) and SDSU CFA and AAUP Chapter Presidents. He has published several works on African American literature and culture, including, "Harlem Renaissance in San Diego: New Negroes and Community" in *The Harlem Renaissance in the American West*, Routledge, 2012 and "African American Uprising" in *California Literature*, Cambridge UP, 2015. He has presented papers, chaired panels, and served on panels at professional meetings and conferences, including lectures and workshops on African American Literature and Africana Studies at Gorlovka State Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages, Gorlovka, Ukraine. He is a faculty consultant to the Educational Testing Service. He was selected as African American Educator of San Diego County for 2011 by Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. He is committed to social and cultural justice, and is the 2014 San Diego State University Faculty Diversity Award recipient.