

THRIVING THROUGH THE CHAOS: RESISTANCE DURING TURBULENT TIMES

UNION POWER

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12 - SATURDAY MARCH 14

FEATURED SPEAKERS



**ASH-LEE
WOODARD
HENDERSEN**

**Saturday, March 14, 2026
1:00pm - 2:30pm**



ELIE MYSTAL

**Friday, March 13, 2026
2:00pm - 3:30pm**



**MATTHEW
BOEDY**

**Thursday, March 12, 2026
4:00pm - 5:30pm**



RUHA BENJAMIN

**Friday, March 13, 2026
12:00pm - 1:30pm**

FEATURED SPEAKERS BIOS

FEATURED SPEAKERS



ELIE MYSTAL

Justice Correspondent, The Nation

Elie Mystal is the Justice Correspondent for The Nation, where he writes about politics and social and racial justice. Elie's first book, *"Allow Me To Retort: A Black Guy's Guide to the Constitution"* was on the NYT's bestsellers list in April 2022. His next book, *"Bad Law: 10 Popular Laws That Are Ruining America,"* is due out March 25, 2025. Mystal was executive editor of Above the Law, a website with around 2,000,000 unique visitors that focuses on law, courts, and justice. He's known for writing about the law and politics, breaking down Supreme Court decisions and up to the minute coverage of Supreme Court confirmation battles. Mystal received his undergraduate degree in Government from Harvard University, his J.D. from Harvard Law School, and worked as an associate at Debevoise and Plimpton from 2003-2005.



RUHA BENJAMIN

Professor, Princeton University

Ruha Benjamin is Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, founding director of the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab, and author of the award-winning books *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code* (2019) and *Viral Justice: How We Grow the World We Want* (2022), 2023 winner of the Stowe Prize, among many other publications. Her work investigates the social dimensions of science, medicine, and technology with a focus on the relationship between innovation and inequity, health and justice, knowledge and power. In *Imagination: A Manifesto* (2024), Ruha calls on us to take imagination seriously as a site of struggle and a place of possibility for reshaping the future. Her work is published in numerous journals and reported on in national and international news outlets, including NBC News, Fast Company, WIRED, Slate Magazine, CBC, CNET, The Guardian, National Geographic, and Nature.

FEATURED SPEAKERS BIOS

FEATURED SPEAKERS



ASH-LEE WOODARD HENDERSEN

Strategist, storyteller, and organizer

Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson is an Affrilachian woman from Southeast Tennessee, rooted in the working class and raised in the long tradition of Southern freedom movements. A lifelong strategist, storyteller, and organizer, she has devoted her life to turning liberation from theory into practice—building pathways where courage, collaboration, and imagination meet. Through Utopian Visions, her evolving home for strategy and imagination, Ash-Lee helps movements, coalitions, and institutions build interdependent ecosystems of real power. One branch of this work, Experiments4Good, imagines and implements experiments that serve our common good—including WeAct, an emerging app designed to deepen community through shared calls to action. Her work invites people to remember that freedom isn't only possible—it's something we can design, build, and live together.



MATTHEW BOEDY

Professor, University of North Georgia

Matthew Boedy has written for many publications and authored three books. He's appeared on CNN and MSNBC and in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and other media outlets. He has been a leader in faculty organizing since 2020 as president of the Georgia conference of the American Association of University Professors, a national higher education advocacy group. He completed his Ph.D. in English in 2015 at the University of South Carolina where he also received in 2010 a master's in creative writing. He is a full professor of rhetoric at the University of North Georgia. He researches and writes about religious rhetoric, particularly in the last few years about the rise of Christian Nationalism.

PRESENTERS BIOS

FEATURED SPEAKERS



ALEX TOM

Executive Director, Center for Empowered Politics

Alex Tom is the Executive Director of the Center For Empowered Politics, a movement capacity building hub that trains and develops leaders and grows movement infrastructure at the intersection of racial justice, organizing and power building. With nearly 25 years of experience, Alex has organized in the Chinese working class community in solidarity with other communities of color. He has also played a leadership role in forming local, state and national power building formations.



ANDREA GONZALEZ

Members and Communications manager, CLEAN

Andrea Gonzalez is the membership and communications manager at CLEAN. As the eldest daughter of immigrants and an immigrant herself, Andrea deeply believes in community led organizing that centers the voices and experiences of those directly impacted. While at CLEAN, Andrea has led efforts to liberate over 35 car wash workers and several campaigns that helped workers identify and collect millions in stolen wages. Andrea holds a B.A. in Chicano/a Latino/a Studies from CSULB. When she isn't building worker power, you can find Andrea making her own flower arrangements, out in nature, or baking.



BARRY TRACHTENBERG

Professor, Wake Forest University

Barry Trachtenberg is an American historian and professor, currently holding the Rubin Presidential Chair of Jewish History at Wake Forest University. As a Jewish scholar specializing in Jewish history, Trachtenberg has been an outspoken critic of both American support for Israel and Israeli policies.

PRESENTER BIOS

FEATURED SPEAKERS



BEN LORBER

Senior Research Analyst, Political Research Associates

Ben Lorber is a writer, researcher and movement strategist. He works as Senior Research Analyst at Political Research Associates, a think tank that works to understand and counter authoritarian movements, where he focuses on antisemitism and white Christian nationalism. He is co-author of *Safety Through Solidarity: A Radical Guide to Fighting Antisemitism* (Melville House, 2024).



CESAR CHÉ RODRIGUEZ

Associate Professor, San Francisco State University

His scholarship focuses on the re-/production of racial capitalism through criminalization, a form of racialization and hegemonizing occurring in the seemingly colorblind terms of balanced budgets and law and order. In particular, he explores criminalization as essential to advancing the neoliberal warfare state. He also examines “popular self-activity,” the collective protagonism of historically-expropriated, -exploited, and negatively-racialized peoples as they author knowledge and history through struggle.



DR. CUTCHA RISLING BALDY

Associate Professor, Cal Poly Humboldt

Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy is an Associate Professor of Native American Studies at Cal Poly Humboldt who researches Indigenous feminisms, California Indians, Environmental Justice, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and decolonization. She is the Co-Director of the NAS Rou Dalagurr Food Sovereignty Lab & Traditional Ecological Knowledges Institute where she leads several research projects focused on the resurgence of Indigenous Science and place-based learning.

PRESENTER BIOS

FEATURED SPEAKERS



DR. DEBRA MALMBERG

Professor, CSU Northridge

Dr. Debra Berry Malmberg founded the CSUN Autism Clinic to serve the community and as a training setting for undergraduate and graduate students in psychology. The clinic provides families access to evidence-based treatments for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. She applies her skills in Developmental Psychology and Applied Behavior Analysis to train and support emerging professionals to provide exemplary services to the community. The Extraordinary Service Award honors Dr. Malmberg's clear commitment to her students, CSUN, and the community.



GISELLE GARCIA

Programs Director, NorCal Resist

Giselle Garcia currently serves as the Programs Director at NorCal Resist, a mutual aid organization dedicated to uplifting marginalized community members and creating a political organizing home for all. NorCal Resist is the immigration rapid response network for 25 counties in Northern California and is dedicated to strengthening our region's united front of resistance against immigration enforcement action and government abuse inflicted upon our immigrant neighbors.



JANE LEHR

Professor, Cal Poly

Dr. Jane L. Lehr is the Director of the Office of Student Research and Professor in Ethnic Studies and Women's, Gender & Queer Studies at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She is also Director of the CSU Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Student Participation (LSAMP) in STEM Program at Cal Poly.

PRESENTER BIOS



DR. JESS NERREN

Lecturer, CSU San Bernardino

Dr. Jess Block Nerren is a researcher of Disability Inclusion, Public Relations and Teacher Education and she serves as a full time faculty member at CSUSB in the Department of Communication Studies. In 2023/24 and again in 2025/26, Dr. Nerren was on special assignment as the Faculty Disability Inclusion Fellow at CSUSB. She is the editor and contributing author of the scholarly book *Rethinking Perception and Centering the Voices of Unique Individuals: Reframing Autism Inclusion in Praxis*.



DR. JOSIE BLAGRAVE

Professor, CSU Chico

Chico State Kinesiology Faculty member, Autism Clinic Director, and one of the driving forces behind the Northern California Neurodiversity & Disability Symposium. Dr. Blagrove's work focuses on creating meaningful opportunities for Neurodivergent and Disabled folks, including physical activity programs and educational initiatives.



DR. KAITLIN REED

Associate Professor, Cal Poly Humboldt

Kaitlin Reed (Yurok/Hupa/Oneida) is an Associate Professor of Native American Studies at Cal Poly Humboldt. She serves as her university's Traditional Ecological Knowledge Faculty Fellow and the Co-Director of the Rou Dalagurr Food Sovereignty Lab & Traditional Ecological Knowledges Institute. Her research is focused on tribal land and water rights, extractive capitalism, and settler colonial political economies.

PRESENTER BIOS



KARMA R. CHÁVEZ

Professor, The University of Texas at Austin

Their scholarship is primarily informed by queer of color theory and women of color feminism. Methodologically, Karma is a rhetorical critic who utilizes textual and field-based methods. They are interested in studying social movement building, activist rhetoric, and coalitional politics. Karma's work emphasizes the rhetorical practices of groups marginalized within existing power structures, but also attend to rhetoric produced by powerful institutions and actors about marginalized folks and the systems that oppress them (e.g., immigration system, prisons etc.).



LOREN CANNON

Lecturer, Cal Poly Humboldt

Loren specializes in applied and environmental ethics, trans theory, feminist ethics, ethical theory, and legal theory. His publications have focused on trans theory, feminist ethics, and applied ethics in a variety of contexts. Loren has presented nationally and internationally on trans-related subjects, as well as other topics in philosophical ethics. For MQS and WS minors, Loren develops and teaches a course on Tran -Lives and Theory.



LORI BARALT

Professor, CSU Long Beach

Lori Baralt received her BA in Women's Studies and Political Science from the University of Florida in 2002. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Michigan State University with expertise in feminist theories, social movements, and women's health. She also completed a specialization in Gender, Justice and Environmental Change through the Women and International Development Program. Her dissertation, "Health Social Movements in a Transnational Context: Racing around the World for a Cure" critically examined the global expansion of biomedical breast cancer advocacy.

PRESENTER BIOS



NATHAN HEGGINS BRYANT

Associate Professor, CSU Chico

He works in American literature and film and regularly teach both, usually using those classes to examine social justice issues concerning prison writing, working-class studies, critical race studies, and multiethnic American and world literature (particularly science fiction).



PEDRO RIOS

Director, American Friends Service Committee's U.S./Mexico Border Program

Pedro Rios is director of the American Friends Service Committee's U.S./Mexico Border Program and has been on staff with AFSC since 2003. He directs a program that documents abuses by law enforcement agencies, collaborates with community groups, advocates for policy change, and works with migrant communities to build collective leadership locally and throughout the border region. He is a steering committee member and board member of several organizations that advocate for humane and dignified policies for the Southern Border. These include the Southern Border Communities Coalition, the Friends of Friendship Park Coalition, the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium.



RANA JALEEL

Associate Professor, University of California, Davis

Rana M. Jaleel is an Associate Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Davis. She holds a PhD in American Studies from New York University, a JD from the Yale Law School, and an MFA in Poetry from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Dr. Jaleel also runs the Creative Methodologies Cluster, a mixed genre writing workshop modeled on the creative intelligences, traditions, and activism of women/queer/trans of color and transnational feminisms.

PRESENTER BIOS



DR. SARA MCDANIEL

Assistant Professor, CSU East Bay

Dr. Sara L. McDaniel is an Assistant Professor of Special Education at California State University, East Bay who works to prepare highly qualified special educators. A former high school special education teacher, Dr. McDaniel has contributed to numerous projects in the area of secondary transition. Her other research interests include disability justice, interventions to support TK-22 students with high-incidence disabilities in inclusive settings, autism spectrum disorder, college and career readiness, and effective collaboration amongst school-based practitioners.



SHANE BURLEY

Author and Filmmaker

Shane Burley is an author and filmmaker based in Portland, Oregon. He is the author of *Why We Fight: Essays on Fascism, Resistance, and Surviving the Apocalypse* (AK Press, 2017) and *Fascism Today: What It Is and How to End It* (AK Press, 2021). His writing has appeared in places such as NBC News, Al Jazeera, The Daily Beast, The Baffler, Jacobin, Jewish Currents, Haaretz, Oregon Humanities, Protean, Yes Magazine, In These Times, and the Oregon Historical Quarterly. He is the co-author of the forthcoming book *Safety Through Solidarity: A Radical Guide to Fighting Antisemitism* (Melville House, 2024).



SHIU-MING CHEER

Lecturer, UCLA School of Law

Shiu-Ming Cheer is a Lecturer at UCLA School of Law and teaches Problem Solving in the Public Interest: Law 541. Previously she co-taught the An Introduction to Public Interest Law & Policy class and the Immigrants' Rights Policy Clinic from 2020-21. She earned her B.A. in English and Ethnic Studies from U.C. Berkeley, and a J.D. from UCLA School of Law as a graduate of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy. Shiu-Ming has over 25 years of experience at the intersection of immigrant rights, criminal legal reform, and anti-state violence work.

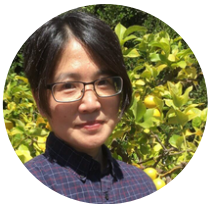
PRESENTER BIOS



THANDISIZWE CHIMURENGA

Author and Freelance Journalist

Thandisizwe Chimurenga is an award-winning multi-media freelance journalist and activist based in Los Angeles, CA. She is a former Assistant Editor of the LA-Watts Times newspaper and a former reporter and co-anchor for Free Speech Radio News and the KPFK Evening News (Pacifica-Los Angeles). She has been a commentator for Hard Knock Radio, a daily public affairs show for the Hip-Hop generation heard on the Pacifica-Berkeley Radio Network, and she has been recognized as a “Champion of National News Reporting” by the San Francisco BayView National Black Newspaper, Block Report Radio and the County of San Francisco.



TOMOMI KINUKAWA

Lecturer, San Francisco State University

Tomomi Kinukawa (they/them/theirs) is a queer scholar-activist with Zainichi Korean and Japanese ancestors. They are currently teaching in the Department of Women and Gender Studies at San Francisco State University. They have a Ph.D. in the history of science from the University of Wisconsin Madison and BA from the University of Tokyo.



TURNER WILLMAN

Organizer, 18 Million Rising

Turner Willman is a dedicated organizer and digital strategist working to grow an abolitionist Asian America amidst the rise of fascism. They have over a decade of experience in racial justice movements and have been instrumental in developing the leadership of thousands of Asian American organizers through political education campaigns, trainings, and events. Turner's work with 18 Million Rising has focused on issues such as immigrant rights, gentrification, and policing, and they have played a crucial role in mobilizing the organization's members to take action on these issues.

PRESENTER BIOS



DR. VERÓNICA OBREGÓN

Lecturer, Cal State LA

Dr. Verónica Obregón is a mental health expert with over 24 years of experience. She is a licensed clinical social worker who received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the USC Dworack-Peck School of Social Work and her Doctorate Degree in Education with an Educational Psychology concentration from the USC Rossier School of Education. Dr. Obregón began her career at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and has since worked as a psychiatric social worker at the Los Angeles Unified School District-School Mental Health Program.

MODERATOR BIOS



DR. ADISA ALKEBULAN

Associate Professor, San Diego State University

Dr. Adisa A. Alkebulan is chair and Associate Professor in Africana Studies at San Diego State University. He is a native of Cleveland, OH but also has strong roots in Philadelphia. He received his B.A. in Pan-African Studies from Kent State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Temple University. He has also done research in Africa and Europe on language and colonialism. He is a major contributor to the Encyclopedia of Black Studies and the Encyclopedia of African Religions. His work appears in several disciplinary journals as well as in anthologies on rhetoric and Malcolm X.



DR. AHLAM MUHTASEB

Professor California State University, San Bernardino

Dr. Ahlam Muhtaseb is a professor of media studies at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) and a senior data justice fellow with Princeton's Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab. She is the recipient of the 2024 Activism and Social Justice Scholarly Influence Award by the National Communication Association's (NCA's) Activism and Social Justice Division. She is also the recipient of the 2020 CSUSB Outstanding Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities Award and the 2019-20 Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Faculty Mentor Award. In 2019, she won the Rebuilding Alliance "Story Teller" Award. She co-produced and co-directed the documentary 1948: Creation & Catastrophe, winner of the Jerusalem International Film Festival's 2019 Special Jury Award in the Feature Documentary category.

MODERATOR BIOS



DR. ALEJANDRA MARCHEVSKY

Professor, Cal State LA

Dr. Alejandra Marchevsky is a Latina immigrant scholar-activist whose work critically interrogates gendered racism and state violence, focusing in particular on Latinx migrants in the U.S. Her research has explored topics of Latinx immigrants, low-wage labor, and U.S. welfare policy, the welfare rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s, and the gendered dynamics of U.S. immigrant detention and deportation policies in the late 20th and 21st centuries. Professor Marchevsky is the co-author of *Not Working: Latina Immigrants, Low-Wage Jobs, and the Failure of Welfare Reform*, and a contributor to *Chicana Movidas: New Narratives of Women's Activism and Feminism in the Movimiento Era*.



AUDRENA REDMOND

Director for Anti-Racism and Social Justice, California Faculty Association

Audrena Redmond, is the inaugural Anti-Racism and Social Justice Director for the California Faculty Association. Her work is multi-faceted and matrixed throughout the organization; it includes identifying policy and practice changes, strategic campaign development, building internal and external relationships, creating, and facilitating anti-racism workshops, organizing annual equity conferences, and periodically hosting podcast series. In her time at CFA she has always found creative paths to build leadership and foster organizational development for CFA member leaders, activists and staff. Audrena has several years of organizing experience having worked as a national political campaign organizer and other CFA positions as Senior Field Representative, Southern California Political Organizer, and as interim Southern California Organizing Director. In addition, Audrena has taught part time in the Labor Studies Program at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

MODERATOR BIOS



CESAR CHÉ RODRIGUEZ

Associate Professor, San Francisco State University

His scholarship focuses on the re-/production of racial capitalism through criminalization, a form of racialization and hegemonizing occurring in the seemingly colorblind terms of balanced budgets and law and order. In particular, he explores criminalization as essential to advancing the neoliberal warfare state. He also examines “popular self-activity,” the collective protagonism of historically-expropriated, -exploited, and negatively-racialized peoples as they author knowledge and history through struggle.



CHRIS COX

Lecturer, San José State University

Chris Cox is a lecturer in the department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Science at SJSU, where he has taught for 25 years. He has been a CFA activist for 19 years and is currently the Associate Vice President for the Council for Racial and Social Justice (North). He is also an advisory board member for the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor (COCAL). Chris was named the SJSU Outstanding Lecturer in 2017, and has also been recognized by various community organizations for his work as an educator.



DR. CHRISTINA CHIN-NEWMAN

Professor, Cal State East Bay

Dr. Chin-Newman co-leads the Disability Justice Working Group, and is a founding member of the Center for Disability Justice Research: Health Equity, Education and Creativity. She is a faculty leader who formerly served in the roles of Academic Senate Chair, and Diversity and Equity Liaison Officer (an elected faculty position).

MODERATOR BIOS



DR. EARL AGUILERA

Associate Professor, CSU East Bay

Dr. Earl Aguilera (any pronouns) is an Associate Professor in the Teacher Education Department at California State University, East Bay. He is an award-winning teacher educator, as well as an internationally-recognized scholar on issues at the intersection of literacy, educational technology, and critical pedagogy.



GEORGE STATION

Lecturer, Cal State Monterey Bay

George Station is a long-term Lecturer and CSUMB alumnus who has taught in several local departments and programs over the past two decades, and contributed to many CSU-wide and international initiatives as well. Most recently, George has been a Faculty Associate in the Center for Teaching, Learning and Assessment, and a Lecturer in First Year Seminar and Liberal Studies. This work allows him to continue his contributions to the campus community via local initiatives such as Culturally Relevant Education at TLA (CRE@TLA).



DR. JAY HOWELL

Psychologist, California State University, San Marcos

Dr. Jay Howell is a licensed Psychologist and tenured Counselor Faculty at the California State University - San Marcos. He has worked in college mental health for over 20 years working at both public and private institutions. He's an advocate for social justice and is involved in a number of campus committees that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. He works clinically from a generalist perspective with an emphasis on multiculturalism. One of his priorities is improving access to care and improving mental health disparities for marginalized groups. He has a specific focus with the LGBTQIA+ community. He has been involved with the CFA Counselors Committee for the past 5-6 years.

MODERATOR BIOS



JOHN CARAVELLO

Lecturer, CSU Channel Islands

John is a lecturer in philosophy at Channel Islands, proud CFA union member, dedicated community organizer, and unabashed socialist. Solo el pueblo salva al pueblo!



LALITHA NATARAJ

Librarian, CSU San Marcos

Lalitha Nataraj is the Social Sciences Librarian at California State University, San Marcos and serves as her campus representative to the CFA Council on Racial and Social Justice. She holds an MLIS from UCLA and a BA in English and Women's Studies from UC Berkeley. Her research interests include feminist pedagogy, critical information literacy, and South Asians in librarianship.



LESLIE BRYAN

Retired Faculty, CSU San Bernardino

Leslie Bryan is a recently retired California State University, San Bernardino faculty member for Theatre Arts and College of Arts & Letters, teaching dance and assessment courses for Liberal Studies students studying to become teachers. She is the founder of the Family Night at the Theatre program where CSUSB students along with elementary school children devise and perform theatre pieces based on themes from children's literature. She has choreographed several CSUSB Theatre Arts performances over the past 25 years and has mentored Liberal Studies students in their preparation for the Multiple Subjects Credential program. Ms. Bryan is also a teacher leader for The California Arts Project providing professional development training in dance for K-6 teachers.

MODERATOR BIOS



LOREN CANNON

Lecturer, Cal Poly Humboldt

Loren specializes in applied and environmental ethics, trans theory, feminist ethics, ethical theory, and legal theory. His publications have focused on trans theory, feminist ethics, and applied ethics in a variety of contexts. Loren has presented nationally and internationally on trans-related subjects, as well as other topics in philosophical ethics. For MQS and WS minors, Loren develops and teaches a course on Trans-Lives and Theory.



MARK ALLAN DAVIS

Assistant Professor, San Francisco State University

Mark Allan Davis, MFA, is a native New Yorker and an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies in Black Performance Studies/Dramatic Literature and Music/Theatre History at San Francisco State University's College of Ethnic Studies. His explorations and research focus on the politics of the Black body on stage and in dramatic literature, Black Lives Matter, and the Politics of African-American Performance on Racial & Social Movements.



MARTY BEHLER

Lecturer, San José State University

Marty Behler, a member of the Osage/Oto-Missouria Tribes, attended San José State, graduating with double majors in Cultural Anthropology and History focused on Native Americans. Behler, a San José State Kinesiology Lecturer and an accomplished Soccer Coach, worked with her professors to include native voices and content.

MODERATOR BIOS



DR. MELINA ABDULLAH

Professor, Cal State LA

Melina Abdullah is Professor of Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA's College of Ethnic Studies, Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter - Los Angeles and Black Lives Matter Grassroots, where she is also Director. She is a leader in the California Faculty Association (the faculty union), both locally and statewide, and mama of three. Dr. Abdullah earned her Ph.D. from University of Southern California in Political Science and her B.A. from Howard University in African American Studies. Abdullah has authored numerous articles and book chapters. Known by the moniker, Doc Melly Mel, she is creator, host, and producer of the radio programs Move the Crowd on KPFK 90.7 FM and This Is Not a Drill! on KBLA Talk 1580, and is a recognized expert on race, gender, class, and social movements.



PREETI SHARMA

Assistant Professor, CSU Long Beach

Preeti Sharma, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of American Studies at California State University, Long Beach. Her current research project, "The Thread Between Them: Affective and Intimate Labor in Los Angeles' South Asian Threading Salons," examines the transnational beauty practice of threading in salons across Los Angeles County through their emergence, labor, regulation, and contestation in the neoliberal immigrant service sector. Dr. Sharma is also one of the editors of the book, *The Auntie Sewing Squad Guide to Mask Making, Radical Care, and Racial Justice* (University of California Press, 2021).

MODERATOR BIOS



DR. RABAB ABDULHADI

Associate Professor, San Francisco State University

Rabab Abdulhadi, founding Director/Senior scholar of Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies Program, SFSU, and past director of Center for Arab American Studies, University of Michigan-Dearborn, is co-founding Editorial Board member of Islamophobia Studies Journal, lead editor of book volumes and author of over 80 articles and book chapters in seven languages. She received scholarly awards and community honors, including Sterling Fellowship, New Century Scholarship, best non-fiction book award, Angela Davis Award, American Association of University Professors, Middle East Studies Association, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Al-Awda, American Muslims for Palestine, Day of Remembrance, and National Women's Studies Association. She writes on settler colonialism, Zionism, Third world, Arab liberation, critical archival studies, abolition, and narratives of resistance and the indivisibility of justice.



SANDY KEWANHAPTEWA-DIXON

Professor, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Sandy Kewanhaptewa-Dixon, E.D. (Hopi) received her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Change from Fielding Graduate University in 2006. An MA in Educational Administration in 1998 from California State University Los Angeles, and another MA in Multicultural/Multilingual Special Education from California State University, Los Angeles in 1983. Her BA is in Special Education, with emphasis in Humanities and Social Work from Utah State University. She is currently a full-tenure professor in the Ethnic & Women's Studies Department and appointed by the President as CPP's Tribal Liaison at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

MODERATOR BIOS



DR. TRACEY SALISBURY

Associate Professor, CSU Bakersfield

Dr. Tracey M. Salisbury is Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies and founding department chair of the Ethnic Studies Department at California State University, Bakersfield, where she has been a faculty member since 2017. She is the current President of CSUB's CFA chapter (2023-present) and tri-chair of the CFA Black Caucus (2018). She has previously served as the chapter's ARSJ representative (2018-2023) and political action chair (2017-2018). She absolutely loves horror movies and deeply misses her beloved dog, Pancho (2009-2024).

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIO



DR. ADISA A. ALKEBULAN

Associate Professor, San Diego State University

Dr. Adisa A. Alkebulan is chair and Associate Professor in Africana Studies at San Diego State University. He is a native of Cleveland, OH but also has strong roots in Philadelphia. He received his B.A. in Pan-African Studies from Kent State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Temple University. He has also done research in Africa and Europe on language and colonialism. He is a major contributor to the Encyclopedia of Black Studies and the Encyclopedia of African Religions. His work appears in several disciplinary journals as well as in anthologies on rhetoric and Malcolm X.



DR. AHLAM MUHTASEB

Professor, California State University, San Bernardino

Dr. Ahlam Muhtaseb is a professor of media studies at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) and a senior data justice fellow with Princeton's Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab. She is the recipient of the 2024 Activism and Social Justice Scholarly Influence Award by the National Communication Association's (NCA's) Activism and Social Justice Division. She is also the recipient of the 2020 CSUSB Outstanding Scholarship, Research and Creative Activities Award and the 2019-20 Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Faculty Mentor Award. In 2019, she won the Rebuilding Alliance "Story Teller" Award. She co-produced and co-directed the documentary 1948: Creation & Catastrophe, winner of the Jerusalem International Film Festival's 2019 Special Jury Award in the Feature Documentary category.

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIO



DR. ANDREA TERRY

Associate Professor, CSU Sacramento

Andrea Terry is an Associate Professor of Rhetoric in Communication Studies at Sacramento State, where she serves as Faculty Policies Committee Chair and Affordable Learning Solutions campus coordinator. She is chair of the Political Action & Legislation Committee for the Sacramento Chapter and co-chair of the White Antiracism Collective. When she's not teaching, researching, doing service, or hanging with her three cats, she's trying to heed Trisha Hershey's advice to take a nap: rest is resistance!



CHRIS COX

Lecturer, San José State University

Chris Cox is a lecturer in the department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Science at SJSU, where he has taught for 25 years. He has been a CFA activist for 19 years and is currently the Associate Vice President for the Council for Racial and Social Justice (North). He is also an advisory board member for the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor (COCAL). Chris was named the SJSU Outstanding Lecturer in 2017, and has also been recognized by various community organizations for his work as an educator.



DAHNA STOWE

Lecturer, CSU Bakersfield

Dahna Stowe is a full-time lecturer in the Sociology department at CSU Bakersfield. She has been a faculty member and a proud union member for 10 years, joining CFA at New Faculty Orientation. Dahna is a union member "because CFA is the only organization that fights for the well-being of both faculty and students." She currently serves as the ARSJ and Bargaining Team representative for her campus. Dahna understands firsthand how important and impactful the CSU can be for families. As a CSUB double alumna and the parent of three CSUB alumni, she appreciates the education she and her children have received.

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIO



DR. DALE ALLENDER

Associate Professor, CSU Sacramento

Dale Allender is the author of *From Cultural Deprivation to Cultural Security*, and the co-editor of *Our Stories in Our Voices*. Dale is certified Level I and II Reiki practitioner, and a 2nd Dan (Degree) Black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He facilitates energy healing work into every aspect of his work as an associate professor at Sac State University, and school districts throughout the United States. Dr. Allender has also been a long-time consultant for the National Urban Alliance partnership with school districts in the first rung suburbs of Minneapolis, Minnesota participating in a voluntary desegregation order and in Buffalo, New York. As Co-Chair of the Ethnic Studies Teaching Credentials Consortium, Dale facilitates and provides professional development in Ethnic Studies and Racial Social Justice for teachers in the Sacramento City Unified School District, San Juan Unified School District, and Roseville Joint Secondary School District in Northern California.



GLORIA RHODES

Librarian, CSU San Diego

Gloria Rhodes is the Outreach and Diversity Initiatives Librarian at San Diego State University (SDSU). With over 30+years of experience in the library field, she has worked in school, public, and academic libraries. Rhodes is actively involved in several professional associations, including the American Library Association, the Oral History Association, and the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums. In her role, she serves as the library liaison to the departments of Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, and Religious Studies, where she provides instruction, research consultation, and collection development.

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIO



LESLIE BRYAN

Retired Faculty, CSU San Bernardino

Leslie Bryan is a recently retired California State University, San Bernardino faculty member for Theatre Arts and College of Arts & Letters, teaching dance and assessment courses for Liberal Studies students studying to become teachers. She is the founder of the Family Night at the Theatre program where CSUSB students along with elementary school children devise and perform theatre pieces based on themes from children's literature. She has choreographed several CSUSB Theatre Arts performances over the past 25 years and has mentored Liberal Studies students in their preparation for the Multiple Subjects Credential program. Ms. Bryan is also a teacher leader for The California Arts Project providing professional development training in dance for K-6 teachers.



DR. LIBBY LEWIS

Professor, Cal State LA

Dr. Libby Lewis became a member of CFA as a Lecturer at Cal State LA. She is currently an At-Large Representative for the Cal State LA campus. She is also a proud Tri-Chair of the CFA Black Caucus, who was recently appointed to the CFA Bargaining Team. Dr Lewis' publications center on issues of race, gender, and sexuality, and expands on notions of hate, Freedom of the Press, and Academic Freedom. Dr. Lewis' book, *The Myth of Post-Racialism in Television News*, covers how raced Black journalists navigate their race, gender, and sexuality in a corporate newsroom culture. Her recently published article for the *Journal of Academic Freedom* entitled, "The War Over the Future of Academic Freedom" speaks to the dangers of recent attacks on Academic Freedom and Freedom of the Press.

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIO



MARGARITA BERTA-ÁVILA

Professor, CSU Sacramento

Margarita Ines Berta-Ávila is the president of the California Faculty Association (CFA). In addition, Margarita is a Professor of Education at Sacramento State University. As a professor of teacher education at Sacramento State, she prepares students who will go on to teach in middle/high schools across California.



MARK ALLAN DAVIS

Assistant Professor, San Francisco State University

Mark Allan Davis, MFA, is a native New Yorker and an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies in Black Performance Studies/Dramatic Literature and Music/Theatre History at San Francisco State University's College of Ethnic Studies. His explorations and research focus on the politics of the Black body on stage and in dramatic literature, Black Lives Matter, and the Politics of African-American Performance on Racial & Social Movements.



PREETI SHARMA

Assistant Professor, CSU Long Beach

Preeti Sharma, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of American Studies at California State University, Long Beach. Her current research project, "The Thread Between Them: Affective and Intimate Labor in Los Angeles' South Asian Threading Salons," examines the transnational beauty practice of threading in salons across Los Angeles County through their emergence, labor, regulation, and contestation in the neoliberal immigrant service sector. Dr. Sharma is also one of the editors of the book, *The Auntie Sewing Squad Guide to Mask Making, Radical Care, and Racial Justice* (University of California Press, 2021).

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIO



DR. RABAB ABDULHADI

Associate Professor, San Francisco State University

Rabab Abdulhadi, founding Director/Senior scholar of Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies Program, SFSU, and past director of Center for Arab American Studies, University of Michigan-Dearborn, is co-founding Editorial Board member of Islamophobia Studies Journal, lead editor of book volumes and author of over 80 articles and book chapters in seven languages. She received scholarly awards and community honors, including Sterling Fellowship, New Century Scholarship, best non-fiction book award, Angela Davis Award, American Association of University Professors, Middle East Studies Association, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Al-Awda, American Muslims for Palestine, Day of Remembrance, and National Women's Studies Association. She writes on settler colonialism, Zionism, Third world, Arab liberation, critical archival studies, abolition, and narratives of resistance and the indivisibility of justice.

EQUITY CONFERENCE 2026

ANTI-RACISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (ARSJ) TEAM



CHRIS COX

CFA Associate Vice President, Racial & Social Justice, North / Equity Conference Committee Member / Moderator



PREETI SHARMA

CFA Associate Vice President, Racial & Social Justice, South / Equity Conference Committee Member / Moderator



AUDRENA REDMOND, M.A.

Director for Anti-Racism and Social Justice / Equity Conference Committee Member / Moderator



N'DEA JOHNSON M.A.

Program Director of Anti-Racism & Social Justice / Equity Conference Committee Member



ADRIAN PARRA

Regional Organizer of Anti-Racism & Social Justice / Equity Conference Committee Member



CAILEY BRONNY

Anti-Racism and Social Justice Administrative Assistant / Equity Conference Committee Member

STAFF BIOS



ADRIAN PARRA

Anti-Racism & Social Justice Regional Organizer, California Faculty Association

Adrian is a non-binary queer, third generation descendant of migrant farm workers, mixed race organizer, creative and neighbor. Their work in this role is informed by 8 years of organizing alongside Trans, Queer and Two-Spirit youth and his experiences as a student organizer in housing cooperatives and artistic collective projects. She believes in deeply relational work that invites reciprocity and mutual trust in the service of building collective power. Outside of work you can find Adrian... outside! Either on trail with their partner and pup, in the garden planting natives, or otherwise planning some form of nature adventure.



AUDRENA REDMOND

Director for Anti-Racism and Social Justice, California Faculty Association

Audrena Redmond, is the inaugural Anti-Racism and Social Justice Director for the California Faculty Association. Her work is multi-faceted and matrixed throughout the organization; it includes identifying policy and practice changes, strategic campaign development, building internal and external relationships, creating, and facilitating anti-racism workshops, organizing annual equity conferences, and periodically hosting podcast series. In her time at CFA she has always found creative paths to build leadership and foster organizational development for CFA member leaders, activists and staff. Audrena has several years of organizing experience having worked as a national political campaign organizer and other CFA positions as Senior Field Representative, Southern California Political Organizer, and as interim Southern California Organizing Director. In addition, Audrena has taught part time in the Labor Studies Program at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

STAFF BIOS



CAILEY BRONNY

Anti-Racism and Social Justice Administrative Assistant, California Faculty Association

Cailey (pronouns: she/her/hers) is the administrative assistant for the Anti-Racism and Social Justice department with California Faculty Association. Her expertise is working with young people who have been trafficked and / or sexually exploited. She is a big believer in youth and survivor voice. Lastly, she is a member of the National Lawyers Guild and a legal observer to ensure the rights of activists and protesters are upheld and protected at actions.



JONATHAN CHEN

Lecturer, CSU Sacramento

Jonathan Chen has been a lecturer in the philosophy department at Sacramento State University for the past 13 years and is a Communications Specialist at the California Faculty Association (CFA).



KELLY BURNS

Director of Political & Strategic Campaigns, California Faculty Association

Kelly Burns serves as the Political and Strategic Campaigns Director for the California Faculty Association. She grew up in Liberia, India, El Salvador and Morocco then completed her undergrad and graduate degrees at UC Santa Barbara where she emerged herself in student activism and studied transnational labor organizing. Over the years, Kelly has co-founded several community nonprofit organizations and has served as an appointed and elected leader on several boards and commissions. After developing new tools to help create change from different stakeholder perspectives, Kelly came back to her home in the labor movement and has been at CFA since June of 2020.

STAFF BIOS



KENYON FARROW

Strategic Communications Director, California Faculty Association

Kenyon Farrow is a writer, editor, and strategist, whose work has long focused on public health, housing/homelessness, and the social safety net with a focus on racial, gender and economic justice. He has also served in communications, policy and advocacy roles with AVAC, PrEP4All, Treatment Action Group (TAG) and Housing Works, and Queers for Economic Justice.



KIARRA "KIKI" LEE

Events Specialist, California Faculty Association

Kiarra "KiKi" Lee is CFA's Events Specialist. She loves her job and hopes that it shows. After spending her entire career in corporate media, while simultaneously planning parties for friends and family on the side, KiKi decided it was time to work towards her true passion which is events! She is honored to be of service back in her hometown of Sacramento working her first union job at CFA. KiKi is especially honored to be able to make meetings, conferences and events fun, no matter how big or small, no matter if virtually or in-person. Her true goal is to make the time spent in solidarity with colleagues filled with as much joy as possible and is always searching for innovative ways to bring positive energy, light and fun to any space that she's in. Feel welcome to send her your ideas to make events joy-filled and wellness focused. Who said labor can't be fun? Not KiKi!

STAFF BIOS



MARIO GUERRERO

Government Relations Director, California Faculty Association

Mario Guerrero (he/him) is CFA's Government Relations Director, LGBTQ advocate, and United States Marine Corps Veteran. Professionally, he has worked in the non-profit sector for many years and is a former Governor's Appointee. He also teaches in the Political Science Department at Sacramento State.



N'DEA JOHNSON

Program Director of Anti-Racism & Social Justice, California Faculty Association

Stemming from her experiences in social justice activism, community-building, and advocacy, N'dea is a dedicated leader with a passion and drive to serve. This passion has opened doors for N'dea to make an impact in various communities in different sectors across the nation. N'dea strongly believes that DEB&I (Diversity, Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion) can be a critical point of growth for individuals. N'dea currently works at the California Faculty Association as the Program Director of Anti-Racism and Social Justice.