

UC SANTA CRUZ

Dolores Huerta  
**RESEARCH CENTER  
FOR THE AMERICAS**



# Annual Report 2022-2023



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am proud to have been the director of this research center since 2018 and to have led the yearlong visionary naming campaign in honor of civil rights and feminist icon Dolores Huerta. To be known now as the **Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas at UC Santa Cruz**, comes with tremendous responsibility for the campus and the research center; to go beyond a mere naming to something more meaningful when it comes to institutional support and advancing knowledge on subjects such as feminism, migration, mobility, citizenship, human rights, and social movements, to name a few, to mentoring this generation of student leaders. Read more about the honorary naming in this annual report.

**This year was one like no other in the research center's history.** We welcomed Dolores Huerta and her family to campus, we launched a new legislative fellowship program, we sponsored 20 events with attendance ranging from 70-250 people, we conducted a site visit to the Dolores Huerta Foundation in Bakersfield to assess the archives of Dolores Huerta and the Dolores Huerta Foundation, and we hosted an artist-in-residence to co-create with our campus community a new beautiful mural on our building. It has been a whirlwind year that I won't ever forget. But of course, none of this is done alone. **I recognize and thank so many people for supporting my leadership these past five years, and for joining me on this incredible ride.** As the Huerta Center undergoes a major remodeling this summer and hires a new research program and operations manager, thanks to the generous support from the office of the Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, this upcoming academic year will be a whole new fresh and exciting start.

As I embark on a yearlong sabbatical and subsequently return to my former position on the faculty executive committee of the Huerta Center, I am delighted to pass the baton to Professor Jessica Taft as the Huerta Center's new director. The Huerta Center will be in very strong hands with Professor Taft and moves onward and upward and with so much gratitude!



Special thanks to Dean of Social Sciences Katharyne Mitchell, Acting Dean of Social Sciences Heather Bullock, Chancellor Cynthia Larive, Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Lori Kletzer, the Huerta Center staff, Darío León, Nancy Hernandez-Rocha, and Sophia Lilinoe Grewell, Graduate Student Researchers Roxanna Villalobos and Karina Ruiz, and the faculty executive committee of the Huerta Center.



### So much gratitude for colleagues and supporters who made our work possible!

**Gracias** Dolores Huerta Foundation, Lalo Alcaraz, Bettina Aptheker, Chris Benner, Peter Bratt, Sarah Carle, Laura Ciravolo, Hollie Clausnitzer, Mark Delos Davis Reyes, Saskia Dunkell, Paulina Fisher, Nick Gonzales, Jennifer Gonzalez, Reyna Grande, Rebecca Hernandez, Scott Hernandez-Jason, Patrick Hipolito, Diana Hogue, Linda Hunt, Carolyn Lagattu, State Senator John Laird, Ned LeBlond, Andrea Limas, Xiomara Lopez, Jacob Martinez, Yvette Martinez, Priya Mehta, Glenn Mitoma, State Senator Bill Monning (ret.), Teresa Mora, Christina Navarro, Rachel Nelson, Ursula Oberg, Jemzi Ortiz, Irena Polić, John Raedeke, Catherine Ramírez, Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz, Josué Rojas, Juan Perez, Tonya Silvestri, Elisa Smith, Erika Solberg, Paul Sosbee, Allison Soergel, Daniel Story, Kristin Palma, Casey Protti, Joop Rubens, Christy Tall, Traci Takeuchi, Joe Pitt, Melissa Whatley, and Tiffany Winslow.

So much appreciation for our 19 campus and community event cosponsors.

# Our New Name

LEARN MORE



*celebrate*

In 2022, UC Santa Cruz named its Research Center for the Americas in honor of social justice and feminist icon Dolores Huerta, whose legacy has influenced the Center's work and values for decades.

The **Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas** is proud of its long history of working to drive positive social change and continues to innovate and build relationships in service of this goal.



click here!

*Watch Our Tribute Video!*



## Our Mission

Since its founding in 1992 by faculty in Latin American and Latino Studies, the Huerta Center's scope has always been hemispheric. The Huerta Center advances three core areas in higher education that fulfill the University of California's public mission:

1

Supporting multidisciplinary research and community initiatives.

2

Mentoring and creating professional development opportunities for primarily under-represented and/or first-generation students.

3

Hosting thought-provoking public events about issues and questions that matter to both scholars and the communities in which we live and work.

**Left:** Honoree Dolores Huerta with Cristina Jiménez, activist and co-founder of United We Dream, the first keynote speaker of the newly named Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas on October 20, 2022 at the Cowell Ranch Hay Barn, UC Santa Cruz.

# At a Glance

## Student Impact

367

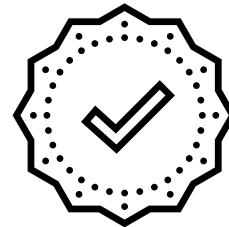


Through fellowships, scholarships, research opportunities, and conferences.

## Research Grants

17

To support students, faculty, and research clusters through our grants.



## Events & Programs

20



30th anniversary celebration, professional development workshops, legislative fellowship program, and several more events.

## Publications

6

The Human Rights Investigations Lab released six research reports.



## Funds Raised

**Grants & Donations: \$431,056**

**Campus Support: \$34,750**

**We would like to thank our incredible event cosponsors:** American Indian Resource Center, Arts Division, Arts Research Institute, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Chancellor's Office, Cowell College, Cowell Provost House, Division of Social Sciences, El Centro, Feminist Studies Presidential Chair, Humanities Division, Institute for Arts and Sciences, Institute for Social Transformation, John R. Lewis College, The Humanities Institute, Latin American and Latino Studies Department; Politics Department, Office of Research; and University Relations.

**Thank you to the Division of Social Sciences** for supporting the Huerta Center with a general operations budget and staff support.

# 30th Anniversary Celebration

Described by many attendees as the most inspiring event they had ever been to at UC Santa Cruz, the 30th anniversary celebration on October 20, 2022 commemorated our three decades, and culminated in the official recognition of our new name in honor of Dolores Huerta.

Dolores Huerta's life has long been an inspiration to people affiliated with the research center from Huerta's tenacity to get things done to her steadfast leadership. We are honored to now be named after someone we have long admired.

The occasion was also celebrated with touching tributes from U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, California State Senate Majority Leader Emeritus Bill Monning, Third District Supervisor of Santa Cruz County Ryan Coonerty declaring October 20th to be "Dolores Huerta Day" in the County of Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz Mayor Sonja Brunner awarding Huerta a key to the City and also issuing a proclamation celebrating the center's 30th anniversary. California State Senator John Laird presented a joint resolution with Assemblymember Mark Stone and Assemblymember Robert Rivas, recognizing both Huerta and the research center. Distinguished Professor Emerita Angela Davis—a longtime comrade of Huerta's -- congratulated her friend and reminded the audience that UC Santa Cruz is the one honored to have Huerta's name on our campus. Dolores Huerta then took to the stage amidst a standing ovation and gave a resounding speech.

This incredible dedication was then followed by a powerful keynote address from Cristina Jiménez, co-founder of United We Dream, who became the first official speaker of the Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas. See photo highlights on the following pages.

The evening included music, dancing, and delicious food. **We thank everyone from University Relations to the Huerta Center team for putting on this spectacular celebration.**

**Learn More**

- [Press release announcing new name!](#)
- [The post-event press release with highlights!](#)
- [The beautiful 30th anniversary program!](#)
- [30th anniversary event photos!](#)







# Our Public Events

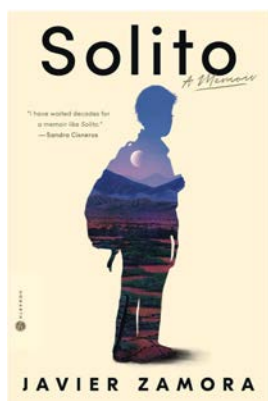
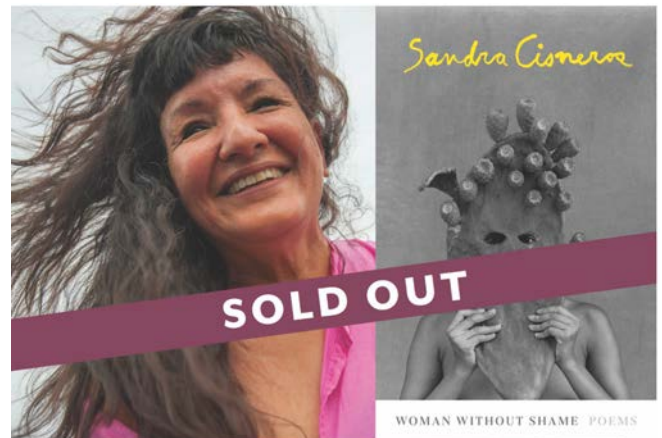


## UCSC - UNICAMP Symposium: “The Far-Right and Democracy: Brazil and the Américas”

This symposium brought together Brazilian social scientists from the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) and faculty and doctoral students from UC Santa Cruz to reflect on the political and cultural effects of the rise of the far-right in the Américas and its impacts on democracy.

## Acclaimed author Sandra Cisneros and *Women Without Shame*

*Woman Without Shame* is a moving collection of songs, elegies, and declarations that chronicle award-winning and celebrated author Sandra Cisneros's pilgrimage toward rebirth and the recognition of her prerogative as a woman artist. For Cisneros, *Woman Without Shame* is the culmination of her search for home—in the Mexico of her ancestors and in her own heart.



## Author Javier Zamora and *Solito*

Poet Javier Zamora read from his powerful memoir, *Solito*—the unforgettable story of his harrowing migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine. Zamora was born in El Salvador and his father fled the country when he was one, and his mother when he was about to turn five. The U.S.-funded Salvadoran Civil War forced both parents' migrations.

## Stories of Action: Community Activism in the Face of Racism in Latin America with Natalia Barrera Francis

Natalia Barrera-Francis, an award-winning journalist and anti-racist activist from Lima, Perú, delivered two talks at UC Santa Cruz, one in Spanish and one in English, to share her experiences as a youth activist and inspire the audience to take action against racism in Latin America.





# Our Public Events

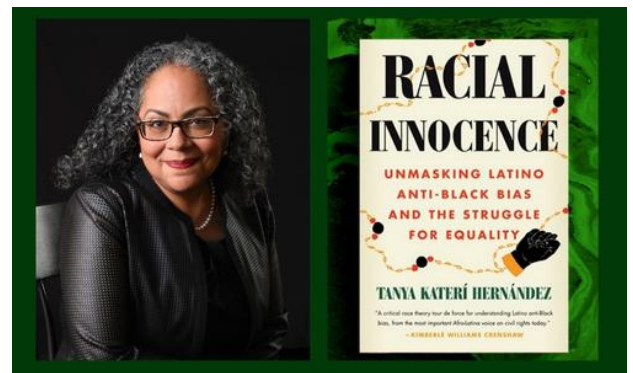
## International Women's Day: Celebrating Feminist Scholarship from the Americas



We celebrated International Women's Day with two keynote speakers: Professor Michelle Téllez of the University of Arizona and Professor Esther Hernandez-Medina of Pomona College. Their talks and facilitated dialogue explored the critical themes of resistance, survival, intersectionality, and reproductive justice in the Americas.

### *Racial Innocence*

Praised as the "most important Afro-Latina voice on civil rights today," Tanya Katerí Hernández gave a lecture on her book *Racial Innocence: Unmasking Latino Anti-Black Bias and the Struggle for Equality* (Beacon Press, 2022) about how Latino anti-Black bias is essential for fostering multiracial democracy in the United States. She is the Archibald R. Murray Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law.



### *The Force of Witness: Contra Femicide*

In *The Force of Witness* (Duke University Press, 2023), Dr. Rosa-Linda Fregoso, an Oakland-based writer and Professor Emerita in Latin American and Latino Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz, examined the contra-femicide movement in Mexico and other feminist efforts to eradicate gender-based violence.



### Creating Art in/with Community

A public conversation at the Institute of the Arts and Sciences between artist Josué Rojas, a Salvadoran-American artist from the Bay Area who has done murals throughout the country, and Professor John Jota Leños of UC Santa Cruz explored subjects such as identity, immigration, and culture in Josué's work. Josué was the Spring quarter artist-in-residence.



# The Social Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award



Peter receives award from Acting Social Sciences Dean Heather Bullock.



Peter moves crowd to tears speaking about the impact UC Santa Cruz had on him and with CA First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom.



Sylvanna Falcón, Huerta Center Director, facilitates a fireside chat about Peter's film and community work. Peter with Dolores Huerta, the subject of his award-winning documentary "DOLORES."

**Peter Bratt (1986 Cowell College, Politics) was the 2023 Social Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award recipient** and the Huerta Center was a proud event cosponsor! This prestigious award is presented annually to a graduate whose career is characterized by sustained and exemplary contributions to society through research, practice, education, policy, or service. **Peter has been a long-time distinguished alumni affiliate of the Huerta Center.**

Bratt is a renowned producer, writer, director, community organizer, and social justice activist. He was instrumental in the naming of UCSC's Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas and is the Principal Lead of The Village SF, a project formed by a coalition of Native American organizations to provide services to the over 18,000 Native peoples living in San Francisco. The spectacular event celebrating Bratt, included the return of Dolores Huerta and her family, opening remarks by California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, showing Peter's award-winning documentary DOLORES, and closing with a fireside chat with Huerta Center Director Sylvanna Falcón.



# Faculty Grants & Research Cluster

The Huerta Center has been funding cutting-edge faculty research for over three decades. We also offer grants to support independent and collaborative research clusters. Below are the recipients of the 2022 faculty and research cluster awards.



**Dr. Mark Amengual**  
Languages and Applied Linguistics Department

"The Role of Social Factors in Shaping the Perception of Spanish in California"



**Dr. Fernando Leiva**  
Latin American and Latino Studies Department

"The Social and Ecological Underside of Desalinization Plants in California and Chile"



**Dr. Carlos Martinez**  
Latin American and Latino Studies Department

"The Necrotemporality of Confined Asylum on the U.S- Mexico Border"



Photo Credit: Dr. Carlos Martinez

## Research Cluster: Archival Methods

A yearlong reading group with participants Brittney Jimenez, Bree Booth, and Mariana Dadico, Department of Latin American and Latino Studies; and Graciela Sierra-Moreno, Department of Literature.

# Graduate Student Grants

The Huerta Center awards up to \$1K research grants for UC Santa Cruz graduate students conducting research in the areas of Chicanx, Latinx, Latin American, migration, cross-border/hemispheric, and human rights studies.

## Social Sciences Division



**Amando Argueta-Vogel**  
Latin American & Latino Studies  
"Migrations Otherwise and Studies of Central American Mobility"



**Nathan Edenhofer**  
Politics  
"Effects of Popular and Elite Strategies in Mining Contention"



**Bhavyaa Sharma**  
Economics  
"How much is a formal job worth? Evidence from Mexico"



**Daniel Rodriguez Ramirez**  
Psychology  
"Enacting Change: Learning from Activists' Transformative Change Processes and Actions"



**Mario Gomez-Zamora**  
Latin American & Latino Studies  
"Redefining Indigeneity, Colonial Violence, and Strategies of Resistance among Queer P'urhépecha People in Michoacán and the United States"



**Alejandra Watanabe Farro**  
Latin American & Latino Studies  
"Strategies of extraction for a Green Transition: the emergent politics of environmental conflicts in Chile and Peru"



**Lucia Vitale**  
Politics  
"The Borderlands of Global Health Citizenship: Inclusion & Exclusion along the Dominican-Haitian Border"

## Congrats!

## Arts & Humanities Divisions



**Pablo Escudero**  
History of Consciousness  
"Between the western model of law, and the commons: Caso Pueblos Tangaeri y Taromenane vs. Ecuador"



**Meru Sharma**  
Film and Digital Media  
"Unrooted"



**Livia Perez de Paula**  
Digital Arts and New Media  
"Finding Norma"



**Mitra Ghaffari**  
Film and Digital Media  
"Island Cycles / Ciclos de la isla"

# Cantú Memorial Award and the 2023 MALCS Summer Institute

## Lionel Cantú Memorial Award



The Lionel Cantú Memorial Award celebrates the life and work of Dr. Lionel Cantú (1965-2002), former Assistant Professor of Sociology at UC Santa Cruz. Professor Cantú's scholarship bridged and advanced Latino sociology, immigration studies, transnational/cross-border studies, gender and sexuality studies, and the study of gay men and masculinity.

The Huerta Center partners with the Sociology and Latin American and Latino Studies Departments on selecting graduate student awardees.

### Congratulations

**Azad Azizyan, MFA student**  
**Social Documentation**  
"Against Forgetting"

"Against Forgetting" is a short documentary exploring the traumatic memories of four diasporic Kurds in the United States to counter the official histories of Kurdistan colonizers.

**John Ortiz Vargas, MFA student**  
**Social Documentation**  
"Amanecer: The Indigenous Landback Movement in Costa Rica"

Developed in collaboration with the Bröran Indigenous people of Térraba, Costa Rica, "Amanecer" is a short documentary film that follows the Bröran community as they construct the Utlalá, or the Elders' Abode, revitalize their recently repatriated soils, and grieve the murder of one of their own children at the hands of non-Indigenous settlers.

## MALCS Summer Awardees



**Brittney Jimenez**  
PhD student  
Latin American  
& Latino Studies



**Graciela Sierra-Moreno**  
PhD student  
Literature

## About MALCS

MALCS (Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social) hosted a 2023 summer institute at UC Davis. The Huerta Center is proud to have sponsored two UC Santa Cruz graduate students to attend this important gathering.

In 2023, MALCS celebrated its 40th year as "a professional organization for self-identified Chicana, Latina, Native American/indígena mujeres and gender non-conforming academics, students, and activists."



# Legislative Fellows



“

I had a very fulfilling and rewarding experience as a fellow at Senator Laird’s office. The Dolores Huerta Research Center has given me such a rewarding experience that has opened so many doors for me and my academic future. I learned so much about the legislative process and what it truly means to work in public service.

-Lourdes Ornelas

”

“

This experience was way more than I ever expected it to be. It was so special and important to me and absolutely helped clarify several paths forward to achieving my career goals in public service. I would recommend this experience to any student. We were so lucky to be equipped by the best support from the Dolores Huerta Research Center.

-Desiree Rodriguez

”

We launched a new initiative for students interested in learning about the legislative process. This new program meets our goal of providing meaningful mentoring and professional development opportunities for primarily under-represented and/or first-generation students.

This paid fellowship opportunity for two UC Santa Cruz undergraduate students, Lourdes Ornelas and Desiree Rodriguez (pictured below with State Senator Laird and meeting Dolores Huerta), gave them a unique opportunity to learn about the legislative process up-close and to experience the daily operations of an elected official's office. The experience even included a private tour of the California State Capitol in Sacramento!

The students accepted fellowship positions with the office of State Senator John Laird, who is the California State Senator for District 17. The experience proved unforgettable for both of them. Thank you to #TeamLaird for the amazing partnership.

**Fun Fact:** State Senator Laird presented a joint resolution to Dolores Huerta with Assemblymember Mark Stone and Assemblymember Robert Rivas honoring Huerta at the 30th anniversary celebration on October 20, 2022.



**Left to right:** Lourdes Ornelas, State Senator John Laird, and Desiree Rodriguez.



# Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas

The Human Rights Investigations Lab completed its fourth year in training students with digital literacy skills to assist with human rights investigations. The Huerta Center worked with a cohort of two dozen students to complete investigations on the 2022 US midterm election, the political crisis in Perú, the targeting of indigenous land defenders in Brazil, and the impact of the controversial Title 42 policy on migrants in Mexico.

In April, we hosted the first ever digital human rights for the UC Network for Human Rights and Digital Fact-finding, which brought together students from UC Santa Cruz, UCLA, and UC Berkeley. Students received a resiliency training by a well-being (mental health) expert and presented on their research.

In June, we traveled to Costa Rica to present on one of our investigations at RightsCon, the largest global summit on digital human rights.



**From top to bottom order:** Prof. Falcón with lab students at end of year celebration dinner. Prof. Falcón, far right, with (left to right) Prof Jess Peake (UCLA), Sophia Lilinoe Grewell (UC Santa Cruz), and Sofia Kooner (UC Berkeley) after presenting our seminar at RightsCon in Costa Rica. Group picture of attendees at the first symposium for the UC Network for Human Rights and Digital Fact-finding with students and staff from three UC campuses.

## About the Lab

Launched in Fall 2019, the Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas offers digital verification support to NGOs, news outlets, and other advocacy partners that are initiating open source investigations. Our Lab harnesses digital technologies to address alleged human rights violations in order to achieve accountability for communities adversely affected by these abuses. We are part of the UC Network for Human Rights and Digital Fact-finding, with partner labs at UC Berkeley and UCLA.

Learn more: <https://humanrights.ucsc.edu/>

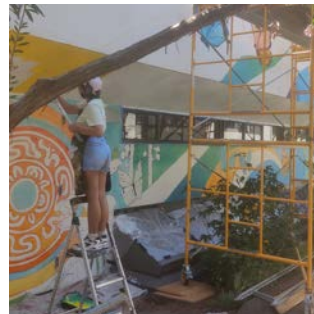
# Artist-in-Residence: Josué Rojas

Josué Rojas is a practicing visual artist, muralist, and educator. Rojas has worked in the Bay Area for over 25 years, particularly creating public art. Rojas's work is characterized by conversations with the community and engagement and turning those values, concerns, and stories into aesthetic expression. The intention behind the work is to bring critical consciousness and beauty while delivering subtlety and expertise on the craft of painting-- paying respects to decades of muralists that have come before.

In Spring 2023, Josué participated in a host of listening sessions with faculty, staff, and students affiliated with the Huerta Center and his finished work is a reflection of those powerful conversations.



*"What an honor to be selected as the artist-in-residence for the Dolores Huerta Research Center. My heart is full from working with the community through the conception process, listening sessions, and completion of the mural. I believe this experience affirms the values the center represents at UC Santa Cruz. ¡Adelante!"*  
 -Josué Rojas



**From top left to right:** Josué Rojas on top left with original photo of building underneath him and students Lorena Hernandez Rivera and Emily Tran. Student Ben Banelos and Anthony Jimenez, Josué's artist assistant, on the scaffolding. **From bottom left to right:** Louise Leong and Veriche Blackwell, staff from the Institute for Arts & Sciences, Ben Banelos, and Josué's mother.



*Gratitude*

The completion of the mural was made possible thanks to the dedication and support from Ben Banelos, Veriche Blackwell, Lorena Hernandez Rivera, Dario Leon, Louise Leong, Carlos Martinez, Rachel Nelson, Emily Tran, Josue Rojas's family, Tam Welch, and Anthony Jimenez.

The residency received generous campus cosponsorships from the Institute for Arts and Sciences, the Arts Research Institute's Arts and Oppression initiative, and The Humanities Institute. UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement's VOICE initiative and Dr. Carlos Martinez of the LALS Department also sponsored the residency.







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**3<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration**

**2022-23**

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**¡GRACIAS!**