



2018 - 2019

RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS

Annual Report



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**RESEARCH CENTER
FOR THE AMERICAS**
DIALOGUES WITHOUT BORDERS

FROM THE DIRECTOR



My first year as the Director of the Research Center for the Americas came with significant transitions. After twenty-five years, we changed our name from the Chicano Latino Research Center: Cross-Border Perspectives Linking the Americas to the **Research Center for the Americas: Dialogues without Borders**.

Based on internal deliberations over the last decade, the new name continues to meet our original mission as a research center: to explore the incredible diversity of the Americas. We accomplished a lot together in this academic year, which you'll see reflected in this annual report: from organizing well-attended public events to publishing research reports and scholarly commentaries to our yearlong journalism project in Watsonville to hosting a successful Fiesta fundraiser. It has been a privilege to lead the RCA. I feel such appreciation for the people who support and value what we offer to the campus, the state of California, and the region.

Special thank you to Social Sciences Dean Katharyne Mitchell, the RCA Program and Events Manager Jacquelyn Powell, the RCA interns Andrea Rosas and Luis Ramirez, GSR Juan Carlos Davila, and the RCA Steering Committee members for contributing to the RCA's success. We relied on several stellar colleagues on campus to do the Center's work this year. Thank you to Chris Benner, Mykell Discipulo, Judith Estrada, Nick Gonzales, Howard Heevner, Rhonda Kinard, Ben Leeds Carson, Jennifer McNulty, Teresa Mora, Susan Moran, Christina Navarro, Caroline Rodriguez, Keith Rozendal, Lynne Stoops, Kevin Wasbauer, Dan White, and Joni White. Thank you! We also want to recognize all 22 campus and community cosponsors for our events, which make offering a robust public programming all year possible.

Thanks to our 2018 – 2019 Program & Event Cosponsors

Bookshop Santa Cruz, Center of Expertise on Women's Health, Gender, and Empowerment, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Educational Opportunity Programs, El Centro: Chicanx Latinx Resource Center, Feminist Collective of Sisters in the Borderlands, Feminist Studies Department, Film and Digital Media, First Generation Initiative, Graduate Studies Association, History of Art and Visual Culture Department, Kresge College, Latin American and Latino Studies Department, Literature Department, Merrill College, Oakes College, Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Patricia and Rowland Rebele Endowment for the History of Art and Visual Culture, Politics Department, Porter College, Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History, Sociology Department, and The Humanities Institute.

AT A GLANCE

STUDENTS SUPPORTED

40

Through professional development, scholarship awards, and internships



RESEARCH GRANTS

15

To support students, faculty, and research clusters in any Division



PROGRAMS

5

Journalism Project, Activist-in-Residence, Photo Contest, Publications, and Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program



20

Film screenings, public lectures, and a memorable FIESTA



EVENTS

FUNDS RAISED

Grants	\$78,000
Community Gifts	\$8,260
Campus Support	\$3,950

We would like to thank the Division of Social Sciences for supporting the RCA with a general operations budget and part-time staff support.

RESEARCH GRANTS

GRADUATE STUDENTS



JACOB MOE

Social Documentation
Radio Saracura



SAUGHER NOJAN

Sociology
Afghan Refugees' Racialization, Belonging and Political Subjectivities



CHRISTINE ROSALES

Psychology
Exploring the Hidden Worlds of Resistance Enacted by Latina Women in Santa Cruz



KARINA RUIZ

Latin American and Latino Studies
Powerful Children: Governance and the Mixed-Status Family



MARINA SEGATTI

Feminist Studies
Mapping Narratives: Language, Sexuality, and Citizenship in Queer Brazilian Immigrant Women's Lives

FACULTY



MARK AMENGUAL

Languages and Applied Linguistics
An Acoustic Description of Early and Late Spanish-English Bilingual Speech



SASKIAS CASANOVA

Psychology
Resilience in Action: Reflections from Latinx Students in a Youth Participatory Action Research Club



REGINA LANGHOUT

Psychology
Change 4 Good Confronts ICE Raids



KRISTIAN LOPEZ VARGAS

Economics
Promoting Bicycle Use in Urban Perú



PATRICIA PINHO

Latin American and Latino Studies
Latin American Studies Association Congress 2019



BRENDA SAMANIEGO DE LA PARRA

Economics
Linking Survey and Administrative Data in Mexico to Study Informal Labor Markets

PUBLIC EVENTS

HIGHLIGHTS



REYNA GRANDE: *A DREAM CALLED HOME*

Hosted by Bookshop Santa Cruz and The Humanities Institute, award-winning author Reyna Grande launched her book tour in Santa Cruz for her new memoir, *A Dream Called Home*. Grande is a UC Santa Cruz alumna & Luis Leal Award winner for Chicano/Latino literature.

CHIAPAS MEDIA PROJECT/PROMEDIOS

The Chiapas Media Project/Promedios, an award-winning binational indigenous media organization, stopped in Santa Cruz during their 20th anniversary film tour. The RCA hosted four short film screenings at the Nickelodeon Theater followed by Q&A with CMP co-founders Alexandra Halkin and Francisco Esau Vazquez Mota.



***THE TRIAL* DOCUMENTARY WITH DIRECTOR MARIA RAMOS**

The Trial is a documentary film about Brazil's 2016 coup d'etat. Professor Patricia Pinho of Latin American and Latino Studies organized the event and facilitated the Q&A with Maria Ramos, the film's director.



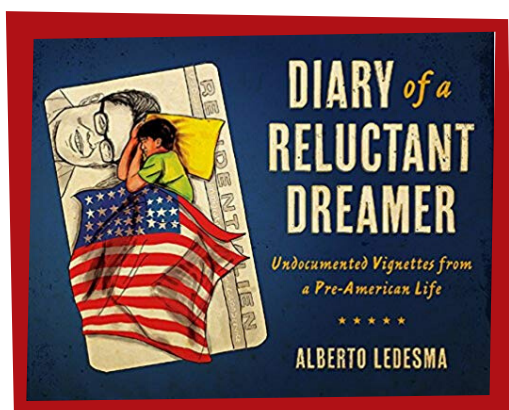


PATRICK LOPEZ-AGUADO:
STICK TOGETHER AND COME BACK HOME

Dr. Patrick Lopez-Aguado discussed his new book about the experiences of seventy youth and adults from the Central Valley of California as they navigate juvenile justice and penal facilities before returning to their homes.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: CELEBRATING FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE AMERICAS

This symposium celebrated International Women's Day by exploring the themes of resistance, survival, intersectionality, and trauma/hardships with two leading feminist scholars. The featured speakers were Dr. Ranita Ray of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who discussed teenage poverty in the U.S., and Dr. Barbara Sutton of the University of Albany, SUNY, who discussed Argentinian's women resistance to state repression.



ALBERTO LEDESMA:
DIARY OF A RELUCTANT DREAMER

We welcomed Alberto Ledesma of UC Berkeley and author of *Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer: Undocumented Vignettes from a Pre-American Life*. This book about Ledesma's life explores his life from nervous undocumented kid to university professor, administrator, and undocumented student advocate.

STORIES UNDER THE INFLUENCE: BEYOND BORDERS

This event included entertaining talks from speakers affiliated with the RCA about their personal experiences transcending borders. Professor Patricia Pinho, originally from Brazil, shared her family's journey to accepting Halloween as a fun family tradition; Sociology graduate student Michelle Gomez Parra and Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) undergraduate student Gina Fernandez discussed the complicated journeys of leaving their homes (Los Angeles & Santa Barbara, respectively) to come to Santa Cruz; and LALS graduate student Juan Carlos Davila shared the challenging process of covering Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico as a journalist who is also Puerto Rican.

PROGRAMS

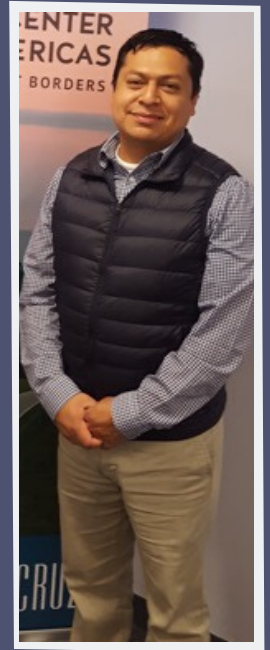
JOURNALISM PROJECT: ECUCHAR, COMPARTIR, COMUNIDAD

In collaboration with Digital NEST and KZSC 88.1 FM, this community-university project empowered young adults in Watsonville to become civically-engaged leaders of media. These new citizen-journalists produced English/Spanish bilingual programming. The RCA published, "Audio Visual Journalism: Lesson Plans for Community Media," available online.



ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE: ISAÍ AMBROSIO

Bridging community and university, this residency gave the Director of Davenport Resource Services Center, Isaí Ambrosio the opportunity to engage with UC Santa Cruz students and faculty. During his residency, Isaí worked on a project to strengthen the quality of relationships with families in North County, specifically conceptualizing a program to support mothers.



STUDENT PHOTO CONTEST: LOVE.COMMUNITY.HOME.

This contest sustains the arts, recognizes creativity, and encourages dialogue. The winners received scholarships and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History displayed and archived their images..



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

First Place
Divine by Emma McWaid
(Art and Sociology)

Second Place
Intimacy Between Friends
by Mars Bolden
(Sociology)

Third Place
My Nani by Shanti Kumar
(Art and Feminist Studies)

DOCUMENTARIES AS STORYTELLING ABOUT LATIN AMERICAN MIGRATION

Nine undergraduate students analyzed thirty years of PBS documentaries on the subject of Latin American migration to the United States. Their results supported a four-year research project known as ÉXODOCS. Visiting Scholar of Film & Digital Media, Alexandra Sanchez, a doctoral student at the University of Leuven in Belgium where the project is based, served as the students' mentor.



FIESTA

LOVE.COMMUNITY.HOME.

On April 27, 2019, the RCA hosted a dance-party fundraiser for student scholarships at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH). Local band Calico played Latin-fusion and salsa music and the over 200 guests in attendance also enjoyed performances by *Mariachi Eterno* and *Los Mejicas*, two UC Santa Cruz student performance groups. Much appreciation to the local business partners that donated to the Fiesta Insider tickets, silent auction items, and various desserts for our guests to enjoy. Thanks also goes to the MAH, Front & Cooper, Trike-a-Pose photo booth, and to our many volunteers who made the event a huge success.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

30

Auction and Dessert Donations, Party Services, and Advertising

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS RAISED

\$6,895

Tickets, Silent Auction, and Donations



RESEARCH CLUSTERS

INTERROGATING THE INTERSECTIONS OF GENDER, RACE, AND CLASS TO EXAMINE BRAZIL'S CURRENT REACTIONARY WAVE

Responding to the political crisis in Brazil, this cluster formed a reading group and organized three public events. They invited anthropologist Rosana Pinheiro-Machado from Federal University of Santa Maria, Brazil to discuss the rise of extreme conservative politics in Brazil. The cluster also organized a public demonstration in downtown Santa Cruz to demand justice for the brutal assassination of activist Marielle Franco in 2018 as well as a symposium with Eliane Cavalleiro (Visiting Professor of Latin American Studies, Stanford University) and Cecilia McDowell Santos (Professor of Sociology, University of San Francisco).



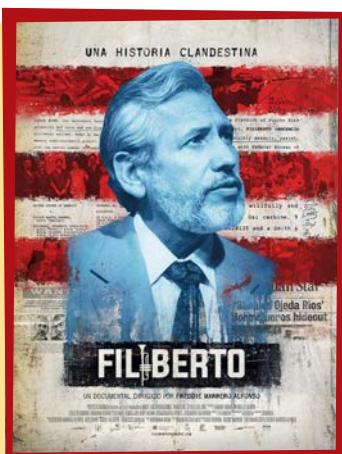
WOMEN'S HEALTH, GENDER, AND EMPOWERMENT STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Rethinking Gendered Violence and Immigrant Lives was a one-day symposium that created a space to rethink gendered violence centering on the lived experiences of immigrant women. The panels consisted of faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, and community organizers in order to inspire critical and fruitful dialogues across disciplines, generations, and workplaces.

INDIGENOUS FUTURISMS IN THE AMERICAS: DECOLONIZING SPACE-TIME(S) IN FEMINIST SCIENCE

This cluster formed a reading group to discuss notions of the human from the perspective of speculative fiction, animal studies, anthropology and critical race and ethnic studies. The cluster also supported the *Indigeneity and Climate Justice Conference*.

CARIBBEAN STUDIES



This cluster attended the 2019 Caribbean Studies Association Conference held in Colombia and organized a showing of the documentary film *Filberto*, which tells the story of a Puerto Rican revolutionary who fought for the island's independence.



THANK YOU!



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