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Department of Ethnic Studies

Spring 2022

Ethnic Studies: 2021-2022

Department of Ethnic Studies

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Ethnic Studies: 2021-2022

Message from the Chair

Sending all good wishes and paz for this academic year of 2021-22. I have returned as chair of the department after stepping down over ten years ago. I wish to acknowledge Professors Mills and Fu who have served over the past ten years and have done critical work in building and strengthening our wonderful department. Our one and only newsletter for this year recognizes the best and the brightest of our work and practice. From award winning faculty, to our committed alumni and our visionary and special graduating seniors - the Department of Ethnic Studies is an affirming and critical space on the USD campus. At present we are about to celebrate our 20th year anniversary next year! Enjoy our work - spread the good energy- and support our scholarship and our vision for our local communities of color!

Alberto López Pulido
Chair and Professor
Department of Ethnic Studies



**Ethnic Studies via Multiple Generations:
Their Stories**

Three generations of Ethnic Studies Scholars making connections.

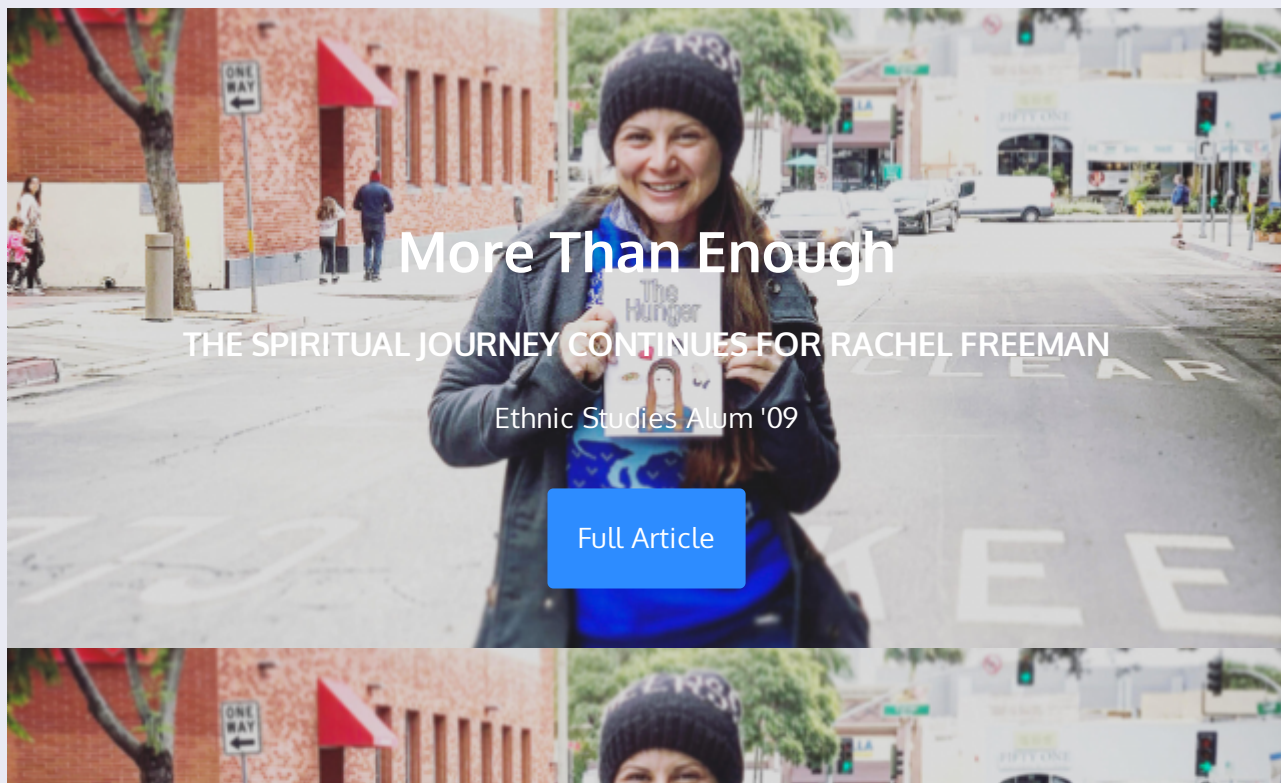
Yanet López (Class of 2011):

Not too long ago, I ran into a social media post quoting Ayesha Siddiqi. It read “Be the person you needed when you were younger.” This beautifully encapsulates my relationship with Ashley Gonzalez, Class of 2024, who I met a few years ago while working at a local nonprofit dedicated to preparing first-generation students, and their families, to reach their postsecondary goals starting as early as the third grade. Ashley greeted me with such warmth and was instantly curious to learn more about me even though I worked primarily with her younger sister, Wendy, and the rest of elementary school students who I was responsible for preparing them for college. She asked about what books I enjoyed, what advice I had for her in selecting a major, a college, a career, and a purpose. I saw in her a version of me: someone eager to know just how *una educación* might powerfully shape her future. I often shared life lessons, the code switching, that came with being first-generation to college. I shared how I was first exposed to Ethnic Studies and Sociology at the University of San Diego and how these majors (the coursework, professors, community experiences, and the cohorts) helped me understand the world, understand my own intersectionality, agency and self-determination. I was able to work closely with Ashley and her family during the college application and financial aid process. It was surreal to help her submit her commitment to USD twelve years after I had done my own. Ashley and I continue to work together. She is a community leader and involved in efforts to address inequities in the most deserving communities in San Diego.



Ashley Valentin Gonzalez (Class of 2023):

At a young age, I learned that my family's history and heritage are rooted in being resilient against storms of systemic barriers. Being born and raised in Logan Heights has led me to witness first-hand the unjust treatment that marginalized communities face in their daily lives, as well as their resilience. The passion I have for helping similar communities like Barrio Logan is deeply embedded in my heart, mind, and soul. Being part of Barrio Logan College Institute since third grade has allowed me to connect with amazing educators and inspiring students that challenged me to grow as an individual. Our stories, struggles, and aspirations were similar to each other which allowed us to feel like we are connected. Therefore, when I met Mrs. Yanet, it seems fate has brought us together. Mrs. Yanet opened a new world to me about the challenges of attending a higher institution and the importance of giving back in the community. Therefore, enforcing the importance of staying grounded with our community and never forgetting our roots. Many of our ancestors fought to make their existence known, and we must continue their fight to be listened to. Even if these institutions look down on us or try to silence us, we must stay grounded. I now find myself committed to telling the story of my community and the structural barriers and human costs of environmental racism as I now major in Environmental Studies with a minor in Ethnic Studies at the University of San Diego.



More Than Enough

THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY CONTINUES FOR RACHEL FREEMAN

Ethnic Studies Alum '09

[Full Article](#)



USD Women of Impact 2021

Congratulations to Dr. May C. Fu!

A well deserved honor for our colleague, Dr. May Fu, who until recently led the Department of Ethnic Studies and has been at the forefront of supporting BIPOC faculty, staff and students in addition to related initiatives of support at all levels of the university.

WHO IS A WOMAN OF IMPACT?

A Woman of Impact is one who lives principles of social justice. Through her work, activities, and relationships she supports others in finding voice, developing skills for transformation and

understanding who they are called to be. Her community is not merely a place in which she exists; it is a place she actively improves.

[Read more on her great work! A Tireless Advocate](#)

Ethnic Studies Faculty

Congratulations to Dr. Josen Masangkay Diaz

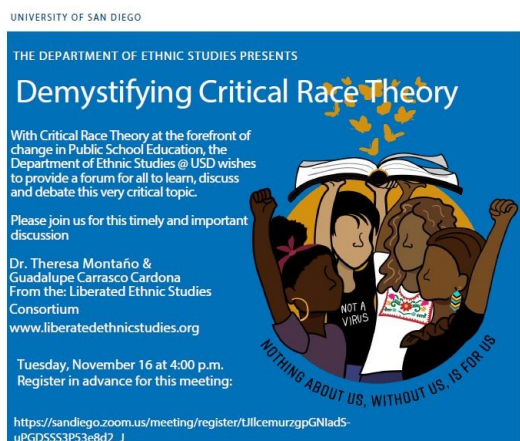
Described by her colleagues as a highly qualified ethnic studies scholar with a strong interdisciplinary research and teaching agenda that underscores a transnational and colonialism/postcolonialism vision that aligns beautifully with our expanding vision in ethnic studies.

We are both delighted and excited to announce that Josen was awarded tenure this academic year! Please join us in congratulating this amazing and creative scholar as an integral member of our community.



Critical Race Theory Presentations: Fall 2021 / Spring 2022

With Critical Race Theory at the forefront of change in Public School Education, this year the Department of Ethnic Studies @ USD provided multiple forums for all to learn, discuss and debate this very critical and timely topic.



November 16, 2021

Demystifying Critical Race Theory

Demystifying Critical Race Theory presented by Dr. Theresa Montaño and Guadalupe Carrasco Cardona from the Liberated Ethnic Studies Consortium.

Here is the zoom recording of their powerful presentation:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nrGFeTASyVb654FJ8p_01SbL3OKIJ3Y?usp=sharing



2022 Labovitz-Perez Ethnic Studies Lecture Series

Reclaiming Our Past, Reimagining Our Future

Tara J. Yosso, PhD

Prof. Yosso's virtual lecture asked us to consider how we might foster a critical historical perspective of the communities we aim to serve, and draw on the ingenuity and courage of those who have come before us in the struggle for justice.

For more information contact ethnicstudies@sandiego.edu

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Words from our Ethnic Studies Seniors



Hey everyone! I'm Sarah Babar and I'm a senior majoring in Ethnic Studies and minoring in Political Science.

Committing to the Ethnic Studies department at USD was easily the best and most important decision I've ever made. Finding my passions within Ethnic Studies has felt like falling in love. I've gotten more invested after every class, more impassioned after every conversation with my peers, and more inspired after every meeting with the faculty. Ethnic Studies and the people within it have encouraged me to strive to be a vehicle of change in the world. My favorite memory of being in the Ethnic Studies department has been the insightful and deep conversations I've had in our classes. The material we read is more than just words in a book to the

students in this department. In these conversations, we bring the readings to life and apply the themes to the world around us. We do not settle for surface-level reading or ignorance and we take pride in the lengths we are willing to go to understand and embody Ethnic Studies concepts. These conversations are impassioned, challenging, and perceptive and I am so grateful to have had these moments.

After graduating USD, I plan on taking a growth year in which I will work within the community, hopefully at a non-profit advocacy organization. I want to turn my education into action and directly support the communities I've been learning about for 4 years. I then plan on getting my PhD in Ethnic Studies or a related field and eventually becoming an Ethnic Studies professor. I truly want to dedicate my life to Ethnic Studies and be an accomplice to communities that have been consistently resistant to injustice. It's time to walk my talk! Thank you to the department, thank you to the students, thank you to the faculty, and a special thank you to Dr. May Fu who genuinely changed my life. Peace and love!

My name is Mia Godoy and I am from Anaheim, CA. I'm a first-gen student majoring in Environmental and Ethnic Studies.

I was initially intrigued by the conversations we had in my very first Ethnic studies course. I thought if I could grow so much from an intro course, I should take more classes. At one point I had taken so many courses, I decided to double major. I am very passionate about sustainability and urban design, however Ethnic studies made me realize that everything I do is rooted in a desire for justice. I love this department because I feel so safe and respected. Every professor in this department cares about your opinion and they treat you as an equal, but most importantly you can feel just how much they want you to succeed. Thank you to Dr. Pulido and Dr. Diaz especially invested so much time and energy into my academic career. I would not be able to manage my workload without their guidance. If you are longing for a community that welcomes you for who you are, join this department. I am inspired to rewrite history with the tools I have learned.



Hello friends! My name is Sydney Jungin Lee, a senior in the Department of Ethnic Studies. I identify as a Korean-American feminist theorist, who best lives the praxis of their politics through an intersection of art and academia—particularly in dance, visual art, and music.

My fondest memories of being an Ethnic Studies major are the office hour appointments with my faculty, which were really more like catch-up sessions with old friends. I've had the great pleasure of not only receiving advice from these mentors, but engaging with their loving souls in knowledge and affirmation sharing.

We never centered our conversations on academia. Rather, all appointments started with a question of well-being, and ended with a conjoined promise to health and happiness. Despite being nearly all over Zoom, these appointments encapsulated a healing space that transcended all borders of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ethnic Studies has never failed to remind me the “why” behind my worth as a person as much as it has in my academic work. I believe its greatest contribution to the academic institution has always been reminding scholars that their greatest work lies beyond the classroom walls of USD.

Hello! My name is Maggie Marrinson- I'm from Chicago, IL and I'm a double major in Ethnic Studies and Psychology!



Aside from my incredible professors and classmates, my favorite part about being an Ethnic Studies major has been the way that it compliments my education in Psychology. After graduation I plan to attend grad school to pursue a career in the field of Psych, with the ultimate goal of providing culturally competent care to children and adolescents with developmental disabilities. While I have a lot of great memories from the Ethnic Studies department, my best memory is from first semester freshman year when my LLC Intro to Ethnic Studies class went to the WorldBeat Cultural Center and took a West African drumming & dance class. I am easily one of the worst dancers I know, but nonetheless I had a great time with my classmates and I think our awkward dancing created an unbreakable bond between us! Experiences like

these and the close relationships I have been able to form through my Ethnic Studies classes have been the most rewarding part of my time at USD.

Hello! My name is Riley Steinley and I'm from Austin, Texas. I'm majoring in Ethnic Studies while double minoring in Gender Studies and History.

I absolutely love the Ethnic Studies Department and community for the tremendous support I've received during these chaotic last few years. This department has truly transformed the way I perceive and present myself in this society. I've learned the importance of compassion, education, solidarity, and community in my years of working with and studying prevalent social issues. My professors and peers have taught me what self- and community-love truly looks like and I know I'd be nowhere near the woman I am today without them. After graduation I plan to continue working with the International Rescue Committee or other similar non-profit organizations working to aid in the resettlement of refugees in our communities. Who knows, I may end up in grad school in a few years time! My favorite memory in the Ethnic Studies Department was Josen's Filipino American & Popular Culture course in Spring 2020. It was right before we were required to transition to online courses due to Covid-19. It was this semester that I committed to majoring in Ethnic Studies and I was on such a high of excitement for my future. I remember sitting in class surrounded by some of the most inspirational, well-rounded, and genuine people I've ever met. Our classes were filled with vibrant and intoxicating conversations about justice, equity, and solidarity. Josen and this amazing Ethnic Studies community opened my eyes those few weeks to what true human connection could look like alongside unconditional acceptance regardless of one's personal identities. I am forever grateful for that course with Josen and all



courses I've taken within the Ethnic Studies department as I can say without a doubt they were all truly life-changing.



Andrea Tecpoyotl Tepale

I am a first-generation student that happens to be an undocumented student. Navigating the University as an undocumented student was, to say the least challenging during my freshman year. Taking Ethnic Studies classes reminds me of the constant resilience of my community and gives me hope.



One of my favorite memories with the Ethnic Studies department is going out to Logan Heights giving COVID-19 vaccines for the community. Growing up in this community I saw the different ways this community was attacked and left behind. Many that received a vaccination that day would not have received one if it were not for all the work from different organizations and community organizers. Giving back to a community I grew up in was not only empowering but it was a reminder of the beauty of unity.



Closing Sonics

Closing Sonics explores the intersection of race, inequality, colonialism and sound. Contributions from faculty, students and community members will link sound [music] to expressions of inequality as identified in the creative spirit and imagination of musicians and practitioners.

Alberto Pulido offers the first contribution by featuring the work of the Motswana and South African composer Bokani Dyer and his recent composition entitled: Mogaetsho.

Bokani Dyer through music challenges the leaders of a nation when they stray or betray, even though it is easier to stay silent. The pianist, Dyer was born into a family that was in political exile in Botswana 34 years ago and returned to South Africa in 1990. Mogaetsho addresses questions of betrayal by politicians and leaders and an important message for all Ethnic Studies scholars and practitioners to remember. Enjoy!



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