

UCLA

Recent Work

Title

Queered Science & Technology Center: Volume 4

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0zb930m0>

Journal

Queered Science & Technology Center, 4

Author

Carbajo, Sergio

Publication Date

2026-01-26

Peer reviewed

Queered Science & Technology Center: Volume 4

Sergio Carbajo^{*1-5}

¹*Electrical & Computer Engineering Department, University of California, Los Angeles*

²*Physics & Astronomy Department, University of California, Los Angeles*

³*Photon Science Directorate, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford University*

⁴*California NanoSystems Institute, University of California, Los Angeles*

⁵*Center for Quantum Science & Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles*

*Email: scarbajo@ucla.edu

Abstract: This volume captures the original works by students enrolled in the Winter '26 Humanities-Informed STEM (ENG184) course at the University of California Los Angeles Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

INTRODUCTION

Winter '26 constitutes the second official offering of Humanities-Informed Science, Technology, Engineering and Math / ENGR 184 as an Engineering-wide course aimed at diversifying epistemological approaches to STEM and the legitimacy of multiple forms of knowing. This volume captures the original works from about 65 course participants at the intersection of STEM, law, social sciences, arts, and humanities.

METHODS

During the 10-week, 4-unit course, students engage in self-reflective, analytical and group discussion, and rhetoric to achieve the following overarching learning outcomes:

1. Define implicit meanings of "epistemology"
2. Acknowledge different methods of generating knowledge beyond scientific processes
3. Discuss the benefits of legitimizing and incorporating multiple forms of knowledge production in scientific practice
4. Define and understand "settler colonialism," "racial capitalism," and "hetero-patriarchy," and identify their linkage to the modern Academic-Industrial Complex and its approaches.
5. Explain similarities/differences between feminist standpoint theory, Native feminist theory, Black feminist thought, critical queer theory, and disability theory, and be able to apply these frameworks in STEM contexts.
6. Identify the connections between industry, global/national/local/community interests, and the production of scientific knowledge, both as students and as consumers/future producers of technoscientific knowledge and byproducts.

As part of their learning assessment and grading criteria, participants write an original critical paper in which they (1) apply any of the course frameworks to a real-case study, (2) critically engage with the chosen topic by developing thoughtful questions and challenges to dominant STEM paradigms, theories, and/or praxis, and (3) integrate aspects of community engagement. Volume 4 is a collection of these works where participants (i) demonstrate critically analytical, (non-)quantitative, creative, and thorough scholarly writing, (ii) engage with STEM and STEM-

adjacent topics using critical theories, and (iv) investigate the social, cultural, economic, political, etc. impact of their chosen topic(s).

The grading criteria are distributed across the following three points:

1. Demonstrate the ability to create original commentary/critique/support of techno-scientific ideas, topics, or dynamics in a real-case study applying the critical course frameworks.
2. Develop thoughtful/thought-provoking questions, alternatives, or challenges to well-established STEM paradigms, theories, and/or praxis. Devise (a) strategy(ies) to integrate aspects of the case study into local/global community engagement initiatives. For example, writing reports or press releases for stakeholders, submitting an article to a broad STEM magazine, planning and implementing policy, etc.
3. You use adequate paper criteria and format, including structure, scientific writing, and citation style.

In this volume, we include for the first time an optional (bonus grade) project entitled "Systemic Resistance Project," which is tasked by a group of approximately 25 students who self-enrolled into this project to help transform our classroom into a collective design studio. For the Winter '26 term, the mission of this project is to collaboratively conceive, design, and propose a public-facing alternative to corporate rideshare platforms (e.g., Uber, Lyft). It is an exercise in applied critical theory and systemic resistance.

A full description of this new course curriculum can be found in the pre-print of a blueprint article authored by a collaboration of STEM, social sciences, and arts & humanities scholars and educators¹. Previous works have been presented in earlier volumes²⁻⁴.

REFERENCES

1. Lee, Ethan, et al. "Education for a Future in Crisis: Developing a Humanities-Informed STEM Curriculum." (2024).
2. Carbajo, Sergio. "Queered Science & Technology Center: Volume 1." arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.12318 (2023).
3. Carbajo, S. (2024). Queered Science & Technology Center: Volume 2. UCLA: Queered Science and Technology Center. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9647f49n>
4. Carbajo, S. (2025). Queered Science & Technology Center: Volume 3. UCLA: Queered Science and Technology Center. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4vh4n21n>