

# UC Santa Barbara

## rEvista: A Multi-media, Multi-genre e-Journal for Social Justice

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News from Nepantla

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Peer reviewed

## “LA ESCUELITA DE VENUS”



“It’s a social justice issue,” Jack Rivas stated while others on Adelante Charter School’s governing board murmured in agreement. “That’s what first caught my interest in the school and that’s why I’m serving on the board.”

Formerly Cesar Chavez Charter School, Adelante Charter School (ACS) is a bilingual immersion school in Santa Barbara’s east side. Several UCSB students, faculty, and staff are involved with the school: on the board (Jack Rivas (Student Affairs), Brianna Aguilar (Gevirtz School of Education), Monique Limon (Graduate Division), me (CHST and CSI)); as educational collaborators: Richard Duran (Gevirtz School of Education); and as consultants Lisa Figueroa (EAOP)). The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade

classes at ACS also participate in UCSB’s Kids In Nature program.

During the Winter Quarter 2011, the CHST Department joined the collaboration, through “La Escuelita de Venus,” an event put on for all ACS students by the undergraduates enrolled in CHST 150 “Mesoamerican Technologies.”

“Cuando hicimos los centros con los estudiantes de UCSB era increíble!” – Diego

Students in CHST 150 combined ancient Mesoamerican cultural expressions with modern science concepts to create culturally relevant learning activities. On March 17, 37 UCSB students interacted with over 200 Adelante students

through six different small group activities.

At one station, a team of UCSB undergrads introduced ACS students to Mayan architecture and then invited them to work in groups of three to create Lego replicas of specific structures from Tikal, Palenque, and Chich’en Itza.

“A mí me gusto cuando hicimos el pirámide porque yo hice la parte de arriba.” – Johan

“Me gustó que pude hacer muchas cosas con el pirámide.” – Deseriee  
“A mí me gusto cuando hicimos un pirámide de lego porque era divertido.” – Diego

Another station found ACS students acquiring Nahuatl

vocabulary through a game of loteria. Aztec calendric terms were combined with various elements of everyday culture to replace the familiar characters of traditional loteria.

“Me gusta la lotería y también la ropa de usted.” – Angela  
“A mí me gustó jugar lotería porque yo gané un bate de béisbol.” – Richard

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

It has been a very difficult year for the field of Chicana and Chicano Studies, Raza Studies, and Ethnic Studies. As part of the overall political attacks on immigrants, Latinas/os, Mexicans, and Chicana/os, Arizona's governor signed the controversial law (HB2281) banning Mexican American Studies in K-12.

There is no doubt that HB2281 will prove to be detrimental to the well-being and intellectual development of Chicana and Chicano students. In fact, a series of research reports have been generated documenting the positive effects of the program that the bill eliminated--the Mexican American Studies program--on the educational achievement of Chicano/as students. As summarized below:

"A Tucson Unified School District report issued March 11, 2011 concludes that TUSD's Mexican American Studies program give students a measurable advantage over non-MAS students in passing standardized AIMS reading and writing tests, and that MAS students graduate at higher levels than their non MAS counterparts

([http://www.saveethnicstudies.org/proven\\_results.shtml](http://www.saveethnicstudies.org/proven_results.shtml))."

Debates over the value of programs like the one eliminated in Arizona often overlook the positive effects that Mexican American Studies and Ethnic Studies have on students who may not be familiar with students of Color, or their culture or history. As the most recent U.S. Census reminds us, Latinos/as are the fastest growing demographic group in the country. In California the majority of students in K-12 are Latinos/as. Mexican American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Raza Studies and Chicana and Chicano Studies will benefit all students, as they are prepared in higher education to take professional roles making them more likely to take leadership positions giving them considerable decision-making power in all social and economic arenas. The future of California and the rest of the country will depend on having educated citizen-leaders who understand and appreciate our diverse constituencies. Contrary to the claims of its opponents, Mexican American Studies will not lead to ethnic conflict and divisiveness; ignorance surely will. Fear and hostility are fostered by a lack of knowledge. Learning the history, culture, language, and struggles of different groups in the United States leads to mutual respect, greater civic unity, and more effective political engagement.

Learning the history, language and culture of the dominant group—whites, especially privileged white men—was the single unquestioned standard to which all other groups in our society were required to

adhere. The educational success of People of Color depended in part on their ability to assimilate into the dominant cultural paradigms. However, the United States has become a truly multicultural nation where all students now need the skills and flexibility to understand a multiplicity of worldviews and, most importantly, not be threatened by the diversity. White students, too, will be disadvantaged by an educational system that provides them with anything less. Furthermore, technological advances and increasing globalization require educated citizens to be adroit at engaging diversity and navigating multiple social realities, languages, and cultures. As college educators, we should all urge university students of all backgrounds to take as many Ethnic Studies courses as they can, regardless of their majors. The skills and understanding they provide are rapidly becoming prerequisites for professional success as well as real political effectiveness.

In solidarity,  
**Aída Hurtado**  
Chair of the Department of Chicana/o Studies and Luis Leal Endowed Chair

**Look for our  
Department Colloquium  
Series to continue next  
year:**

**"Come Take a Sip  
of Knowledge"**

**UCSB  
CHICANA/O STUDIES**

**Department Faculty**

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- Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval
- Edwina Barvosa
- Dolores Inés Casillas
- Mario Garcia
- María Herrera-Sobek
- Aída Hurtado
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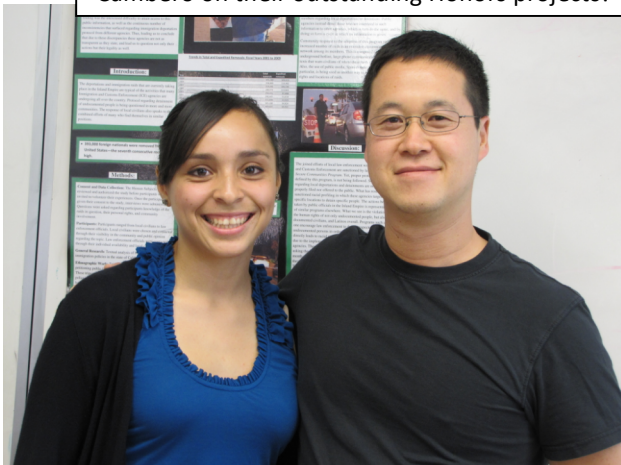
**JEANNETTE MARTINEZ** and **JOSÉ CAMBERO** presented their Chican@ Studies Department Honors thesis research at our annual colloquium on May 24, 2011.

Ms Martinez worked with Professor John S.W. Park (Asian American Studies) to investigate the experiences Latina/os have had with immigration officials in the Inland Empire. Ms Martinez interviewed government representatives from enforcement officers to politicians as well as members of her neighborhood who have been in contact with immigration officials. In her presentation, Ms Martinez described how federal agencies work with local law enforcement to provide incentives for the deportation of greater numbers of undocumented persons. During her research, she encountered various forms of community activism countering these pressures, but Ms Martinez was surprised by the degree of legal runaround she experienced in seeking data. This she attributed to a continuation of immigration policies prevalent throughout the twentieth century.

Mr. Cambero worked with Professor Gerardo Aldana to investigate the meaning of graffiti to individuals who engage in tagging. Mr. Cambero conducted a series of interviews with a friend from elementary school who left behind tagging on public architecture; "Pedro" now only produces "pieces" on paper using a variety of media. Mr. Cambero found that Pedro intentionally changed his artistic production so that he now only produces artwork for two reasons: either a friend or acquaintance requests that he create a piece using that person's name; or he creates pieces on his free time as an escape from the pressures of everyday life. Mr. Cambero suggested in his presentation that his friend was engaging an Anzaldúan Tlilli Tlapalli consciousness through tagging, outside of any higher education training.

Both honors projects demonstrated the critical role that Ethnic Studies scholarship plays in the academy today, giving voice to citizens who otherwise go ignored or are actively silenced by traditional scholarship.

The Department of Chican@ Studies wholeheartedly congratulates Ms Martinez and Mr. Cambero on their outstanding Honors projects!



HONORS COLLOQUIUM





## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Associate Professor Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval

*Professor Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval joined the faculty in 1998. Prior to that, he earned his Ph.D. at UC Riverside in Sociology.*

NEWS: The first question I have for you is what you think are the most exciting trends in your field? And you can define your field however you'd like.

RAS: One of the big things in social movements that's exciting, is the work on emotion and what makes people do what they do. So I think that, one of the things I'm interested in doing with the work that I'm doing right now is: [pause] what leads people to move, and once they start moving, what leads them to take ever increasing risk to bring about change? And oftentimes I think what trips people off is this sort of general feeling of "this isn't right." But to move there, to move to someplace else? Which someone might give up their life to bring about change is another sort of open question. So I like the thing about emotion and trying to figure out what is the deal with that.

NEWS: Another question that is somewhat related is: do you think there are any intellectual fads that have passed their limelight? Things that you think now just need to be either discarded or rethought.

RAS: Well, I think the irrational model is recognized as passé. I think maybe some focus on identity politics, which was a big fad too in the 80s and 90s. There was a field called new social movements, too, where people were sort of organizing. And there was a discourse around strategy or identity, and even though obviously folks are still organizing around identities it's not the end-all/be-all of what they're doing. Possibly that moment has not become passé, but is not as important as it used to be.

NEWS: And they feed into your project? The perspective that you have on these things fading away?

RAS: The movements I'm studying around hunger strikes are led by Chicano students, and so I think they have some [basic questions.] Who am I? Who are we? Where have I come from? What do we want to build? That kind of thing. Some of the people that are talking with me—that were on strike or that were involved in the strikes—[t]he notion of indigeneity was really important for a lot of [them]. Not for the majority of people, but for a lot. I think that lots of different factors—maybe the alternatives of the Soviet Union and socialism—had collapsed and something new was emerging. In '94 things came to a head with the Zapatista movement. And oh, by the way, that

happened to be a very strong moment in the Chicano Movement too. So it's hard to characterize what these movements were about. Yes it was about identity. It was about something more than that. And what was the identity? I'm not really clear. Because I think they were unclear themselves.

NEWS: Who were two unique contributors to your academic aspirations and formation?

RAS: They're both teachers. Undergrad I had a favorite professor, a political scientist, John Warner who did his thesis on C. Wright Mills. He looked at political power and political sociology and was somebody that was just very, very formative for me when I was an undergraduate. So I was a political science undergraduate major, and taking his classes really opened my eyes. It was exciting to come to class, buy books, read them. Underline them. Take notes.

Then my grad advisor, grad mentor, was Edna Bonacich, a leading Marxist sociologist on race. She developed a notion of how racism and capitalism intersect and interlink with one another. And she was studying the garment industry too, in the early '90s. It wasn't just the garment industry per se. It was labor, which fit into the whole kind of Marxist motif that it's going to be the people that are leading the revolution. Which is what Mills derisively called the labor metaphysic. It's some kind of non-religious faith that there was going to be a new world that was going to be created and was going to be led by the working class. It really turned me on to the further development of

my incipient Marxism that came from the underground.

NEWS: You have a couple of kids and a partner who also works full time? Do you have any rituals or anything that help you keep some kind of balance, or do you worry about balance?

RAS: We're unbalanced. [Laughs] So, you know, it's something to aim for, some kind of elusive thing. On a personal level as well. You know, can I be personally balanced as well as our little micro-unit of four people? In the evening, one of the things that we do is we try to read a couple of books. Try to find out where everybody is at. We watch TV a little bit, a kids' video. It's good to have

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## HONORS COLLOQUIUM

Photographs, Page 3

Top Picture, from left to right: Sonya Baker, Jeannette Martinez, José Cambero, Aída Hurtado,

Lower Picture, from left to right: Jeannette Martinez, John S.W. Park, José Cambero, Gerardo Aldana.

**NACCS XXXVIII**  
**"SITES OF EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE"**  
**PASADENA, CA MARCH 30-APRIL 2, 2011**



Actor Eva Longoria joins NACCS President Professor Devon Peña and President and General Counsel of MALDEF Thomas Saenz in a session on the attacks on immigrants in Arizona.

*UCSB Chicana and Chicano Studies Scholars Conference Presentations*

**REVISIONING BORDERLAND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Gustavo Lopez. "Wetbacks and Illegal Aliens: A Comparative Analysis of Post WWII and Post 9/11 Immigration Enforcement"

**(RE)IMAGINING BOUNDARIES: CHICANA FEMINIST EPISTEMOLOGIES AND PEDAGOGIES**

Eddy Francisco Alvarez. "Desired Spaces: Queering Chicana Feminist Pedagogy."  
 Jessica Lopez Lyman. "Mi Cuerpo: Performance Studies Approaches to Chicana Feminism"  
 Chair: Aída Hurtado

**UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ACTIVIST ROLES**

Marla Ramirez. "DREAM vs. Reality: A Critical Analysis of the Federal DREAM Act"

**PERFORMING THE LATIN@ BORDERLANDS: TOWARDS A DECOLONIAL PERFORMATICS**

Chela Sandoval. "Towards a Decolonial Performatics"

**SPACES OF (RE)CONSTRUCTION AND GROUNDED PEDAGOGIES: TRANSFORMING EDUCATIONAL SITES FOR LATIN@ STUDENTS**

Aída Hurtado. "Grounded Pedagogies: Madrinaje/Padrinaje as a Radical Intervention in High School Students' Educational Achievement"

**LISTENING TO LEARN AND LEARNING TO LISTEN: MEXICAN CUSTODIANS' MUSIC LISTENING PRACTICES**

**AT A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY**

Jose Anguiano "The Soundscape of Work"

**EMBODIED CULTURAL RESISTANCE**

Carisa Cortez. "Identity in Ink: Chicana College Students, Tattoo and Embodied Resistance"

**ADALIZA SOSA-RIDDELL: SCHOLAR, INTELLECTUAL, MENTOR, ACTIVIST AND FRIEND**

Dolores Inés Casillas. "Becoming Feminist, Becoming Chicana"

**PLOTTING A FUTURE FOR CHICANA/O STUDIES: TOWARD 2025 AND BEYOND**

Discussant: Aída Hurtado

**LOCATING HIDDEN HISTORIES WITHIN EXPRESSIVE CULTURE OF AGGRIEVED COMMUNITIES**

Tomas Carrasco. "Oppositional Performance: A Social Historical Analysis of Avant-Garde Comedy Troupe Chicano Secret Service"

**ROUNDTABLE: CHICANA CULTURAL ACTIVISM AND SPACES OF BELONGING**

Amber Rose González. Discussion of Mujeres de Maíz



## RECENT DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

(Not an exhaustive list)

Aldana, Gerardo. "Fewer Than You'd Think: Records of Venus observations in Classic Mayan hieroglyphic texts." Presented at *Maya at the Lago*, Davidson, North Carolina, April 15, 2011.

Aldana, Gerardo. "The End of Times: the Maya Mystery of 2012" Book Review in the *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, Volume 42 Part 1, February 2011, No. 146.

Armbruster-Sandoval, Ralph. 2011. "The Life of the Party: Alice McGrath, Multiracial Coalitions, and the Struggle for Social Justice," *Aztlan* (Spring): 69-98.

Casillas, Dolores Inés. "Becoming Feminist, Becoming Chicana" Panel paper in honor of Adaljiza Sosa Riddel. National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies. Pasadena, April 2011.

Casillas, Dolores Inés. "US Spanish-language radio and immigration reform" Presented at Stanford University's Center for Comparative Studies on Race & Ethnicity.

Garcia, Mario and Sal Castro. *Blowout! Sal Castro and the Chicano Struggle for Educational Justice*. University of North Carolina Press, Charlotte, 2011.

Lomelí, Francisco. "Cuadro de vivencias de Don Luis Leal (17 septiembre 1907-25 enero 2010): Semblanza personal entre copa y copla," in *Confluencia: Revista Hispánica De Cultura Y Literatura* 26.1 Fall 2010: 5-9.

Lomelí, Francisco. "Paradigmatic Interventions: Five Foundational Cultural and Literary Happenings in Chicano Letters," in *Pasaporte Latino*, ed. I. Rodeno (Valladolid), 2011: 69-85.

Roque Ramirez, Horacio. "Gay Latino Histories/Dying to Be Remembered: AIDS Obituaries, Public Memory, and the Gay Latino Archive." In *Beyond el Barrio: Everyday life in Latina/o America*, ed. Gina M. Perez, Frank A. Guridy, and Adrian Burgos Jr., 103-128. NYU Press, New York, 2010.

Roque Ramirez, Horacio, "This Desire for Queer Survival." In *Ambientes: New Queer Latino Writing*, ed. Lazaro Lima and Felice Picano. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 2011.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT (cont.)

a partner that you can check in and find out how they're doing.

Sometimes we're able to go on little trips. We're able to go on little vacations to kind of get back together. But it's a challenge.

NEWS: Are you reading anything "for fun"?

RAS: I recently read this book that's apart from what I'm working on. Manning Marable's new book on Malcolm X. He wrote this magnum opus, supposedly, of Malcolm X that took him twenty years to do. It's about five hundred pages long. So I read that.

I'm also reading this book *The Origins of Altruism* by George Price, who is a biologist, I believe.

NEWS: Sociobiologist?

RAS: Yeah. You've heard about this? So I've just picked that up and I'm on page fifty. It's really interesting the debates of the late nineteenth century about Darwin. People are always asking me in class: if somebody's really being altruistic, they're really being selfish, aren't they? There's no such thing as [being] selfless. Even if you're being selfless, you're being... still being selfish. So I wanted to pick that book up and read it.

I read this LA writer named Nina Revoyr. She wrote this book called *Wing Shooters*. That was a little lighter read than Manning Marable and evolution and [Laughs] altruism. But it was about this bi-racial woman—Japanese mother, white father—who grew up in Wisconsin around the

seventies, early eighties. Gen X people that are tweeners, so to speak, between Baby-Boomers and Millennials. So a lot of her pop culture references were helpful and interesting and the bi-racial [aspect] speaks to me too.

NEWS: Where did you grow up and do you think it has an impact on what you do today?

RAS: Well, I grew up in Ontario, California. I think that I got interested in labor because my dad was a retail clerk. Basically working in a grocery store in the sixties and seventies. He got fired from his job for slashing a guy's tires that was a scab. Crossed the line. It was a very intense struggle. Nineteen-seventy-eight; something like that. I was ten years old.

Evidently it was confrontational. And got my dad thrown in jail. And he wound up losing his job, as a result of that. A result of him losing his job in part caused us to have downward class mobility, increased financial and marital stress at home. Folks split up, eventually, a couple years after that. So I think that made me attuned to labor issues. Of course I didn't know that at 10, 11, 12 years old. But I knew something was wrong. And I knew I appreciated my dad's courageous move to do this. I don't know if it was his wisest move. But he did say "okay, well, you're supposed to do something." Even though it threw our whole family into chaos.

And I think the other big thing is that I come from an intersection of two worlds. So Ontario was always and pretty much still is—even though it is more so today brown and white, Mexican and white—it

(continued on Page 8)





**ESCUELITA (cont.)**

A similar activity had ACS students learn Mayan numbers and calendric hieroglyphs through matching games. ACS students had to match the (Arabic) numeral representations of the numbers 1 through 13 with their bar-and-dot Mayan representation.

“Yo y mi grupo ganamos a las otras personas en el juego de memoria. Me gustó hacerlo con números pero no con los meses porque era más difícil.” – Ellis

Yet another activity made use of the portable planetarium acquired this year by the Nepantla Techn

Calpulli of the UCSB Chicano Studies Institute through a Pearl Chase grant. ‘U Chan Otot Chak Ek’ or ‘La Escuelita de Venus,’ giving the event its name, the inflatable globe houses a fish-eye digital projector so that students can look up at a hemisphere of celestial bodies. One group of CHST 150 students adapted an Aztec myth to introduce ACS students to the Mesoamerican conceptualization of the birth of the universe.

“Me gustó cuando yo me metí en un globo y nos sentamos en el suelo. Nos contaron una historia donde un mono se rompió en dos y su cabeza fue arriba y su pies fueron

abajo. Se llama Tlatecuhtli.” – Leonardo

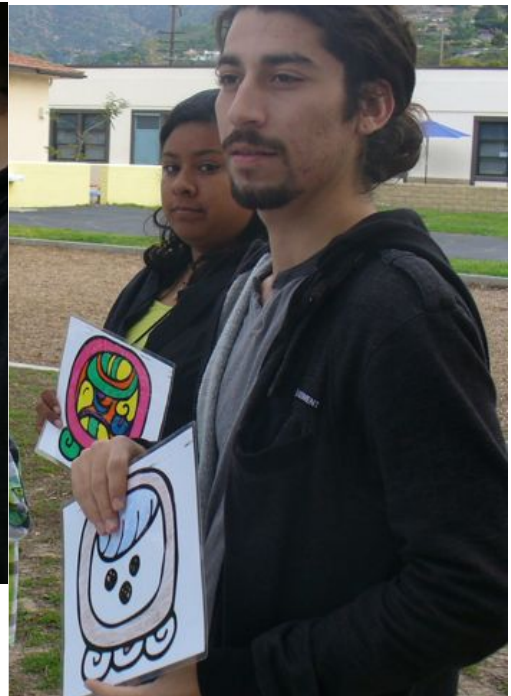
Completing her first year as principal, Juanita Hernandez appreciated that the activities were delivered in Spanish and English, matching the school’s theme, and that:

“Along with learning more about math and science from an ancient time, the experience gave the Adelante students an opportunity to see themselves in the future - university students sharing their knowledge and love of learning in the community.”

Rosa De La Torre, ACS Sixth Grade Teacher said of her class that: “The kids really enjoyed [La Escuelita de Venus] and we had a great discussion about it in class after.”

After the event, Mary Alvarado, CHST 150 student and UCSB graduating senior, said that she sees a role for the material she learned in class for outreach programs

*(continued on Page 9)*



**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT (cont.)**

was majority white. Today it's majority Mexican, or Latinos. So it created all these weird dynamics. Do I be with the white side of my family? And somebody invariably would say something that was not too flattering about Mexicans. [Laughs] And I would be present, saying: "hello, I am here." I didn't have any wherewithal to explain all this—to put it in context as a sociologist. And then the other [Latino] space, it wouldn't be necessarily things that were anti-white, although that certainly came up too. But feeling like my Spanish was very poor at that time. It's marginally better now. Just feeling like I don't belong here; I don't belong there. Which later I came to find out is the Chicano condition. But I didn't understand that. I guess that feeling of being not home in either location, to not be welcome in either area. But also there's some strength that comes from that too. Because you can kind of forge your own way. It was a little bit lonely at times, but it's not exactly totally lonely, because you find some other people that are like that too, some in-betweeners. Goes back to that thing about Gen X.

NEWS: When did you realize you were a Chicana/o Studies scholar?

RAS: I think that coming here in '98 I had been totally imbued in sociology. Of course I knew some debates better than others in Ethnic Studies. Chicano Studies was my minor, too, at Long Beach State, way back when. But that seemed way far back in the recesses of my mind. I think it's just a continuing evolution for me. I think I was

a sociologist who got a job in this department. And I think that by virtue of conversations with people here, people like you, Guisela [Latorre], Jonathan [Inda], other colleagues, and reading more deeply and talking to other students about these kinds of issues, it's become more apparent to me that that's who I am.

NEWS: What was your favorite class in graduate school?

RAS: Graduate school's a long time ago now. I don't know what the title is; I think it was a class on race and ethnicity. We read some really great things in there. We had some really, really deep debates. I still remember one of the seminars, how charged it was and how good it was. How people weren't yelling at one another, but they were very, very passionate, very angry. It was one of those transformative moments for people. Crying, people are shouting, people are laughing, but eventually we kind of came together as a unit. About 10, 12 people who really became friends as a result of that. So it wasn't only the content, although the content was there. That's what drew us together. I mean it had some really good books. Maybe it had one or two clunkers in there. We surveyed all the leading race theories at that time.

NEWS: I'm wondering if you teach something like it now? Either at the graduate or the undergraduate level?

RAS: Racism in American History.

NEWS: You can trace it back somehow?

RAS: One of my first classes I was a TA to was very formative to me. I was TAing with Edna. This class was called Racism in Western society. That class intersected a long time ago with the LA Riots back in 1992. Her predilection was race/class, origins of imperialism, Europe's colonization of most of the world in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. That's how I first started teaching that class here. But it morphed into something else, which really focuses a lot on reconciliation and forgiveness. Which is born out of some of my fascination with South Africa and what they did in terms of trying to move from apartheid to a post-apartheid society, having this truth and reconciliation commission. I was thinking, at one point, toying around with the idea of: we need to do something like that here. When are we going to actually, as a society, come clean if you will?

NEWS: What do you think some of the critical issues are that confront Chicana/o Studies today.

RAS: I think that part of it is trying to figure out how to deal with this on-going crisis. What kinds of tools do we use to respond to the devastation that we're seeing right now. I read that in California, our unemployment rate is still 13%. So there's a jobless crisis. There's the housing crisis. Education is a mess. So one of my biggest influences too is this notion in El Salvador of something called "the national reality." Ignacio Ella Curia, was a liberation theologian, a university rector and chancellor at the University of Central America,

and was assassinated in November of 1989. He was penning these essays talking about: we have a national reality. There is a truth, and the truth is millions of our sisters and brothers are being killed, and being liquidated standing up for their rights. I think there is a national reality that exists in the United States. I think that in addition to being involved with various intellectual debates, that part of my understanding of Chicano Studies is that it's incumbent upon us "as scholars," to try to do what we can to respond to that. To try to mitigate it as much as we can. How to do that—I'm not really clear. It's depressing as all hell. What's happening right now. It seems to me as a field, at times, we're not doing enough about those various interrelated crises.

NEWS: At some level, that situation that kind of fomented the department itself and field, is coming back to a head and you don't see that we've necessarily set up that space or set up that means of interacting with it? Engaging it?

RAS: No. And it's timely because at the K - 12 level, Ethnic Studies is being threatened with demolition.

NEWS So the Tucson...

RAS: exactly. What's going to happen there? The earliest targets, I think, in the college system will be us. Right? I mean, they're not going to get rid of physics, chemistry, or math. Because I guess they're still useful.

NEWS: What do you think the role of activism should be in academia?

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT (cont.)**

RAS: Well I think it needs to be a central component of it. My question is always how much?

NEWS: Of academia as a whole? Or Ethnic Studies?

RAS: Yes, of academia as a whole. Yeah, it's a debate that's driven sociology for over a hundred years. The

very beginning of sociology, of people being sort of madrins of power, someone who's going to be challenging those with power. Kant, and Marx, and Weber, Durkheim, and all these people in the nineteenth century... if you go back to that book. I think that they were all debating those kinds of issues. Like what do we do here? If there are these objective immutable

laws, there's nothing we can do about it. Survival of the fittest. Spencer came along and applied Darwin to a social world. Marx said, "well no that's not really the way it is." Again, the metric that was used in El Salvador, which is not obviously appropriate and applicable here, is people were evaluated not only on the terms of their production, of articles, but what they did

in order to transform the reality. You get called to task, so to speak. I know that we're not existing in that kind of reality. But I do think that more needs to be done, not only in terms of direct engagement with organizations, but from the topics that we choose. And how to make sure that they do some good. And again, how much do we do of that?

MAYAN SUDOKU, 04

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**ESCUELITA (cont.)**

directed at children who have suffered from domestic violence in her community in Los Angeles.

"Seeing Adelante's children ecstatic to play loteria, to do Mayan math, to know Mayan architecture, made me think and strive to give back what I have learned in the UC System."

"Once I graduate I will be returning back home to Los Angeles; however, I would like to take what I have learned from [CHST 150] to my community's children."



**CONTACT US!**

With community or alumni news items, to provide comments, or just to get back in touch.

ucsbchstnews@gmail.com

**SUPPORT US!**

In this time of budgetary crisis, any contribution is welcome, from \$5 toward student scholarships to \$10,000 toward an endowed professorial chair.

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