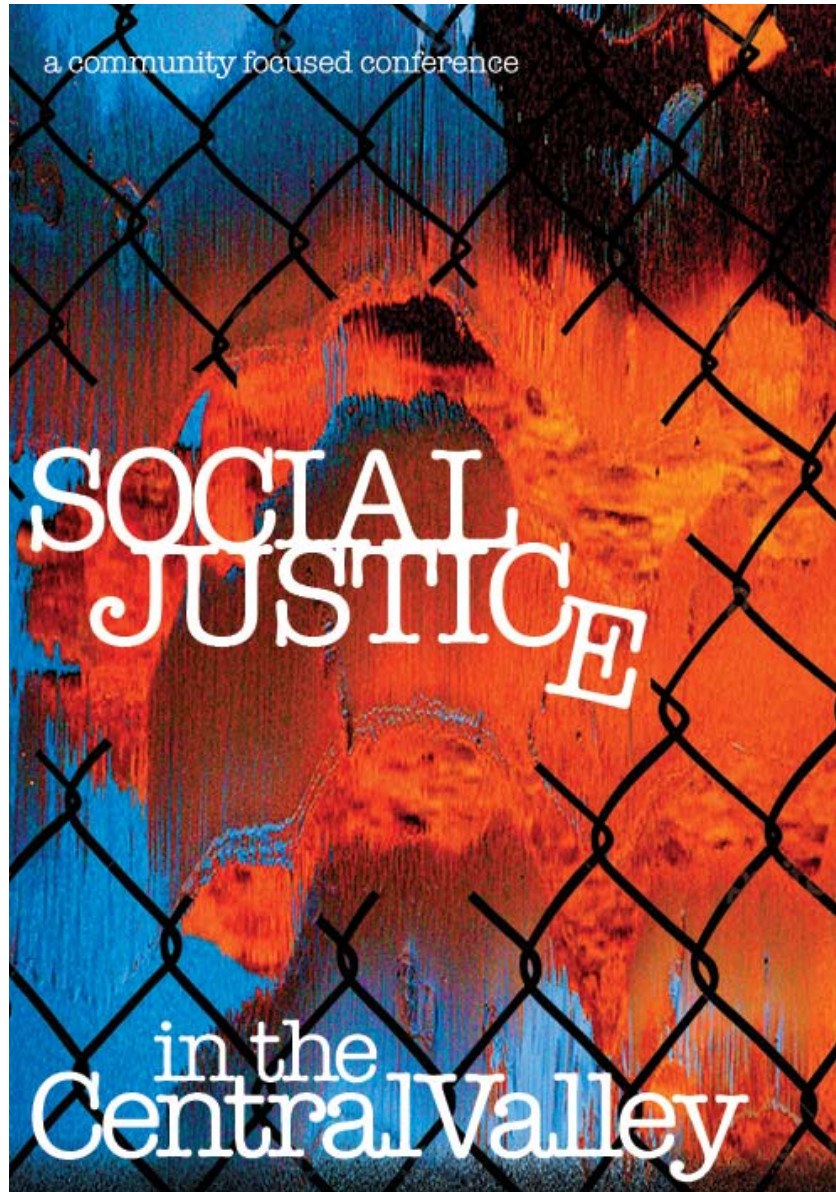


*SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY  
A COMMUNITY FOCUSED CONFERENCE*



*CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,  
STANISLAUS*

*NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2017*

*<https://www.csustan.edu/social-justice-conference>*

## *EVENING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS*

### *\*Tuesday Evening Keynote Program —Snider Recital Hall, 6-9pm*

**6:00pm:** Welcoming Remarks (**Dr. Kimberly Greer, Provost**)

**6:10pm:** **John DeCure** (Administrative Law Judge): “Assessing the Impact of Under-Representation on Disadvantaged Civil Litigants and the Critical Importance of Legal Aid Services” — intro by Dr. Blake Wilson

**6:45pm:** **Cathi Tactaquin** (Executive Director, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights) “Immigrant Rights as Human Rights” — intro by Dr. Sari Miller-Antonio

**7:30pm:** **Mona Malik** (Assyrian Activist, Indigenous Rights): “Connecting Immigrant Populations to their Indigenous Roots: their Obligation to be a Voice for their Indigenous Community in the Homeland” — intro by Dr. Stacy Fahrenthold

**8:00pm:** **Andrew Conteh**: “The United Nations and Social Justice: Assessing the *UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* as a Basis for Confronting Inequality and Poverty Among Underrepresented Populations of the World” — intro by Dean James Tuedio

### *\*Wednesday Evening Keynote Program —Mainstage Theatre, 6-9pm*

**6:00pm:** Welcoming remarks (**Dr. James Tuedio, CAHSS Dean**)

**6:10pm:** **Alejandra Rincón** (Assistant Vice Chancellor, UCSF): “Understanding the Struggle for Dreamers' Access to Higher Education” — intro by Dr. Aletha Harven

**6:50pm:** **Nitasha Tamar Sharma** (Northwestern University): “Artists, Activists, and Academics: Ethnic Studies and Studying Ethically in a Time of Deplorability” — intro by Dr. Bao Lo

**7:30pm:** **Dayvon Love** (Baltimore-based political activist/organizer; Public Policy Director for “Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle”): “View from the Trenches of Social Justice Activism” — intro by Dr. Kilolo Brodie

**8:10pm:** **Mi'Jan Celie Tho Biaz**: “Narrative Work for Social Change” — intro by Dr. Matthew Cover

### *\*Thursday Evening Keynote Program —Snider Recital Hall, 6-7:30pm*

**6:00pm:** **Milcha Sanchez-Scott** (“Roosters” playwright) — Intro by Cynthia Santos DeCure, MFA

**6:45pm:** **Ariana Brown** (award winning Afro-Mexican poet & spoken word performer) — Intro by Dr. Xamuel Bañales

# DAYTIME CONFERENCE PROGRAM

*Tuesday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> (All Sessions in MSR 130)*

*Human Rights, Community Activism and the Fight for Community Equity:*

**11:00-12:15pm: Estefania Hermosillo** (Educators for Fair Consideration): “Neither Here, Nor There: a DACA Discussion” (with screening of short documentary “**Ni Aquí, Ni Allá (Neither Here, Nor There)**” and follow-up panel discussion with members of campus community) – intro by Dr. Betsy Eudey

**12:30-1:45pm: Marisol Aguilar** (California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA)/Modesto): “Community Equity Issues: Some Recent Cases in the Stanislaus County Region”

**2:00-3:15: Im/migrant Rights (as Human Rights):** a panel discussion featuring **Estefania Hermosillo** (Educators for Fair Consideration) and **Mona Malik** (Assyrian Activist, Indigenous Rights)

**3:30-5:00pm: Yosimar Reyes** (nationally acclaimed poet and spoken word activist): Autobiographical Spoken-Word Solo Performance of “**Prieto**”

**6:00-9:00pm: Evening Keynote program (Snider Recital Hall)**

*Wednesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> (All Sessions in South Dining)*

*View from the Trenches: Documenting the Human Cost of Social Injustice:*

**10:00-11:50am: African American Policy Forum: Social Justice SOS Revisited** (Special Event **Webinar Broadcast** with follow-up audience discussion)

**12:00-12:50pm: Gautam Jagannath** (Founding Director, Social Justice Collaborative, Oakland/Modesto/Stockton): “Importance of Defending the Humanitarian Rights of At-Risk Immigrant Populations Facing Deportation”

**1:00-1:50pm: Dayvon Love:** “Community Activism to Advance Racial Justice: Disarming the Paradigm of White Supremacy & Empowering Local Constituencies”

**2:00-3:30pm: Mi’Jan Celie Tho-Biaz:** “Being a Listener, Witness & Recorder of/with Social Justice Movements”

**3:45-5:00pm: DACA Panel/Interactive Discussion: Alejandra Rincón, Yosimar Reyes, Aletha Harven** (moderator)

**6:00-9:00pm: Evening Keynote Program (Mainstage Theatre)**

*Thursday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> (All Daytime Sessions in South Dining)*

*Community Activism and Human Equity:*

**11:00-12:15pm: Creative Arts and Social Justice:** a panel discussion featuring **Yosimar Reyes** and **Joey Krebbs** (aka the **Phantom Street Artist**)

**12:30-1:45pm:** “Community Equity Issues in the Central Valley” (**Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**)

**2:00-3:15pm: Claudia Gonzalez** (Founder, Formerly Incarcerated Xingonas (FIX) & 2017 Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow) and **Victoria Castillo** (PICO/Faith in Merced): “Tackling Mass Incarceration in the Central Valley through a Healing and Female Perspective”

**3:30-4:00pm: Blake Wilson** (Criminal Justice): “From Black Market to Supermarket: Glimmers of Justice in California’s New Cannabis Codes”

**Additional Thursday Events:**

*Featured Artist Performance*

*(University Art Gallery):*

**4:00-5:30pm: Performance/Presentation** by the **Phantom Street Artist** (in conjunction with Art Gallery installation: **MAKE AMERIKA JACK’d AGAIN**) — Intro by Dan Edwards, MFA (w/Artist’s Reception in Mainstage Lobby)

*Evening Keynote Program*

*(Snider Recital Hall):*

**6:00-7:30pm: Evening Keynote Program (Milcha Sanchez Scott & Ariana Brown)**

*Evening Reception/Performance of “Roosters”*

*(Mainstage Lobby & Mainstage Theatre):*

**7:00-7:50pm: Reception for Milcha Sanchez-Scott** (Mainstage Lobby)

**8:00pm: “Roosters”** (Mainstage Theatre, opening night performance)

**For Advance Tickets:** <http://siteline.vendini.com/site/soa.csustan.edu/stan-state-department-of-theatre-event-calendar>

**Note:** Post-show Q&A with **Milcha Sanchez-Scott** (Mainstage Theatre)

## *Featured Keynote Speakers*



**John DeCure** is an Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings (Sacramento) and a member of the California State Bar's Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct. A long-time prosecutor for the State Bar of California and past defense attorney for Dependency Court, John also served as a senior deputy attorney general with the Office of the Attorney General in Los Angeles. He is the author of three novels, *REEF DANCE* (2001) and *BLUEBIRD RISING* (2003), published by St. Martin's Press, and *HE SAID, SHE SAID* (2016), published by Skyhorse Publishing.



**Cathi Tactaquin** is Executive Director and co-founder of the [National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights](#). The daughter of an immigrant farmworker from the Philippines, Cathi was involved for many years in grassroots organizing and advocacy in the Filipino community on issues of discrimination and foreign policy. She is a frequent speaker on topics ranging from global migration and human rights, to race and gender perspectives, and immigration reform. In 1994, Cathi helped to found [Migrants Rights International](#) (MRI), a global alliance of migrant associations and other non-governmental organizations. She sits on the Steering Committee of MRI, represents NNIRR in the [Global Coalition on Migration](#), and is a founding member of the [Women and Global Migration Working Group](#). In 2013, Cathi was selected as the "Grand Rapporteur" for the [United Nation's Interactive Dialogue on Migration and Development](#) and later [spoke on behalf of global civil society](#) at the United Nation's [High Level Dialogue](#) on International Migration and Development in New York, and at a 2015 OHCR panel session in Geneva on [Human Rights at International Borders](#).



**Mona Rasho Malik** is an Assyrian activist who emigrated from Iraq to Chicago in 1969, at the age of nine, when the Baath Party gained full control of Iraq's government. As the granddaughter of genocide survivors (the 1915 genocide of Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks by the Turks and Kurds), Mona has devoted most of her adult life to the Assyrian cause. Mona has volunteered with

non-profit organizations for the past 26 years helping Assyrians in Iraq. Her nonprofit work with Assyrian Aid Society of America led to multiple trips to Northern Iraq, the most recent being in August 2016. In the past three years Mona has also traveled to New York to participate at the [United Nations Forum for Indigenous People](#) and to [Washington DC](#) to advocate for Assyrians in their homeland. Mona's goal is to bring awareness to the plight of Assyrians and their struggle to persevere and thrive in their ancestral homeland, Assyria.



**Andrew Conteh** was Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the USSR from 1976-81, delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1981-82, and Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and as Senior Assistant Secretary in Sierra Leone's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Conteh [recently completed 30 years](#) as a distinguished Professor of Political Science specializing in International Relations and Law at Minnesota State University —Moorhead; he now teaches in the Political Science Department at Cal State Stanislaus. Dr. Conteh is the author of numerous articles addressed to issues on international human rights law.



**Mi'Jan Celie Tho-Biaz, Ed.D.**, is a documentarian, [oral historian](#), multicultural educator and public scholar. Mi'Jan Celie's cultural work practice has been featured by the [Rockefeller Foundation](#) and [THE Magazine](#). Mi'Jan Celie has extensive practice in the fields of arts education and creative leadership, as well as 15 years of experience in multicultural curriculum design and instruction. [Mi'Jan Celie](#) is currently Documentarian-In-Residence with the American Indian Arts Institute's Essential Studies Department, as well as Santa Fe Community Foundation lead designer for the Women of Color Leadership Initiative and founding convener for the 2017 Black and Indigenous Social Movement Documentarian Summit, hosted at Omega Institute. Mi'Jan Celie has been a [Visiting Scholar](#) at Columbia University's Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics; Spring 2017 Documentarian-In-Residence with the Institute of American Indian Art's Essential Studies Department; and the Steinem Initiative lead designer and facilitator for the 2016 public policy digital storytelling and documentation pilot project with women organizers who labor for reproductive justice, at Smith College. Mi'Jan Celie's deepest passion and commitment resides in stories: writing, gathering, amplifying and uncovering [healing narratives](#) of personal transformation and community social change.



**Alejandra Rincón** is Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Diversity and Outreach at the University of California, San Francisco) and author of an influential book on [UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS AND HIGHER EDUCATION: ¡SÍ SE PUEDE!](#). Having earned her doctorate in Education Administration, Alejandra is an acclaimed and avid advocate for immigrant rights in the educational system. She was active in the passage and implementation of Texas legislation that allows undocumented high school students to attend Texas colleges at in-state tuition rates. Recipient of the 2006 Human Relations Award (conferred by the National Association of College Admissions Counseling (NACAC) to acknowledge her advocacy efforts in support of making postsecondary education opportunities available to historically underrepresented students), Alejandra continues to work with individuals and organizations to make higher education available for immigrant students and to support changes in federal legislation that would provide documentation to allow these youth to work and live in the United States.

From [The Harvard Educational Review](#) (Winter 2009): “Based on firsthand experience as an educator and advocate, **Alejandra Rincón** chronicles decades of work to increase college access for undocumented immigrants, linking the present movement to past civil rights struggles. In this thorough account, she proposes reframing the debate on the rights of undocumented immigrants from a lens focused on economics and assimilation to one that emphasizes the struggle for human dignity and equality. In doing so, she advances a framework that may help bridge the deep ideological divides permeating the immigration debate and advance educational policies that reduce inequality in our nation.



**Dayvon Love** is a prominent Baltimore-based political activist/organizer. He is co-founder and Director of Public Policy for [Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle](#), a grassroots social justice think-tank that advances the public policy interests of Black people in Baltimore. Founded in 2010, **Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle** (LBS) works “to radically change the discourse around local and regional politics by injecting community voices into political conversations through policy research, advocacy, and community organizing from a grassroots perspective.” LBS worked with other organizations to successfully pressure the state of Maryland to disband its plans to build a juvenile jail downtown. LBS has also led

successful legislative efforts to increase civilian oversight of law enforcement in Maryland. LBS was also a key force in fighting the bail bond industry to institute bail reform in Maryland. Love is co-author of [THE BLACK BOOK: REFLECTIONS FROM THE BALTIMORE GRASSROOTS](#), a collection of essays describing important issues facing grassroots activists and organizers in Baltimore. The book is designed to be a crucial resource and call to action for those who are genuinely interested in advancing racial justice in our society and calls out the liberal white academic community and what the authors refer to as the "[Nonprofit Industrial Complex](#)" for advancing institutional racism. Dayvon is featured in "Baltimore Rising," an HBO documentary about post-uprising Baltimore. The film is scheduled for release in Nov. 2018 and documents both his youth education work around public policy and his legislative advocacy in behalf of police reform.



**Nitasha Tamar Sharma** is Associate Professor of African American Studies, Asian American Studies and Performance Studies at Northwestern University. Dr. Sharma was also recognized as the Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence (2013-2016). Dr. Sharma's academic activities are based on an interdisciplinary, comparative and ethnographic approach to the study of difference, inequality and racism. The central goal of her teaching, research and writing is to develop models for multiracial alliance building by zeroing in on cultural phenomena that unearth and challenge the factors that structure contentious race relations. Dr. Sharma is writing an ethnography, *HAWAI'I IS MY HAVEN: RACE AND INDIGENEITY IN THE BLACK PACIFIC*, based on interviews with 60 people of African descent in the islands. Hawai'i's Black residents illustrate what the Pacific offers people of African descent as a place of "reprieve," and reveal how the racial lens that African Americans bring to the Hawaiian Islands illustrates inequalities. Her first book, [HIP HOP DESIS: SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS, BLACKNESS AND A GLOBAL RACE CONSCIOUSNESS](#) (Duke University Press, 2010), analyzes how second generation members of an upwardly mobile and middle-class immigrant group use hip hop to develop racial—not just ethnic—identities. The racial consciousness expressed by these hip hop artists as "people of color" facilitates the development of multiracial coalitions that cross boundaries while explicitly acknowledging "difference."





**Joey Krebs, aka the Phantom Street Artist, is a long-standing force in the LA Street Artist scene and conspiring/founding member of Art Saves Lives, the Collective.** A long-term commentator and journalist for many editors, media outlets and publications, Joey is an internationally recognized artist and album cover artist (for Rage Against The Machine). He founded **Art Saves Lives** and an independent

advocacy media channel, [PVR8FREETV](#), to document the voices of marginal related content and issues in the world and offer [cultural critiques](#) through cause-based campaigns of social inquiry. His past cultural media reviews and photo essays have appeared in diverse media outlets, including *El Tecolote*, *Compton Herald*, *Pro MMA Now*, *Takedown Radio*, *Porterville Recorder*, *Bakersfield Californian*, *San Marino Tribune*, *Cultural Weekly*, *Defy Magazine*, *Brooklyn and Boyle*, *Hoy Magazine*, *Orange County Register*, *LA Herald Examiner* and *Santa Monica Outlook*. The **Phantom Street Artist** combines tongue-in-cheek performance humor with site-specific theatre and installation art, along with spoken word material referencing various tropes of the great tradition of critical satire. The Phantom is one who questions our culture in question, casting himself in self-realized scripts through many different personas (e.g., the *Gorilla Street Artist*). The Phantom Street Artist is this generation's mocked American Anti Hero who acts through vignettes skits, prank calls, and signs from local pizza joint with the effect of looking at my way cultural street art historization. The *Gorilla Street Artist* meets mash up sounds of the Phantom's Dubbed Parody of *Midnight Star* seeking enlightened late night conversation with your local vato museum guard.

**Art Saves Lives** exists to provoke, imply and state ideas of socio-political and cultural change. Their goal is to create an aesthetic strategy whose purpose is to reach a mass audience in the interest of challenging our conditioned society. Members of the collective practice their art form in the arena of public Media. Their intent as media-based artist/activists is to propose commentary, strategies and models in an effort to critique and change our society through various expressive mediums. **Art Saves Lives** operates with strategic intent, using concepts that are demanding, sophisticated and well conceived for any project they undertake. In selecting projects to introduce into their image system, media events and site-specific locations are carefully chosen as a palette for social commentary and expression. The core ambition of **Art Saves Lives** is to create works in public and events in the media that are substantial, meaningful and defined in broadly cultural terms. "Our goal is not just to provide a service, but also to critique, find and redefine the cultural and political horizon of our time. We consider ourselves Media Image Brokers."



**Milcha Sanchez-Scott** is the daughter of a Colombian father and an Indonesian mother, and was born on the island of Bali. She was educated in England until her early teens, when her family emigrated to California. A graduate of the University of San Diego (with a degree in Literature, Philosophy, and Theatre), Milcha lives in Los Angeles. Her first play, *LATINA*, premiered by L.A. Theatre Works in 1980, won seven Drama-Logue awards. *DOG LADY* and *THE CUBAN*

*SWIMMER*, a pair of one-acts written in 1982, were produced in 1984 by INTAR in New York, and selected for TCG's "Plays in Process" series. *DOG LADY* was subsequently published in *Best Plays of 1986*. Other works include *CITY OF ANGELS*, a trio of one-acts; *EVENING STAR*, produced by New York's Theatre for a New Audience; and the highly acclaimed *ROOSTERS*, produced in New York by INTAR and the New York Shakespeare Festival. Milcha has received a "Vesta Award" (given each year to a West Coast woman artist), the "Le Compte du Nuoy Foundation Award," which goes to "a young writer with a unique voice," and a "First Level Award" for American playwrights (for 1987) from the Rockefeller Foundation. An informative interview with Milcha appeared in *Latin American Theatre Review* (Spring 1990) under the title "[Language as a Cure: An Interview With Milcha Sanchez-Scott](#)" (pp. 63-74).



**Ariana Brown** is a Black Mexican American poet from San Antonio, Texas, with a B.A. in African Diaspora Studies and Mexican American Studies from the University of Texas. She is the recipient of two Academy of American Poets Prizes and a 2014 collegiate national poetry slam champion. An alumna of Brave New Voices, [Ariana's work](#) has been

featured on PBS and in *Huffington Post*, *Blavity*, *For Harriet*, and *Remezcla*. Ariana has performed across the U.S. at venues such as the San Antonio Guadalupe Theater, Tucson Poetry Festival, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, and the San Francisco Opera Theatre. Her work is published in *Nepantla*, *Muzzle*, *African Voices*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, and *jManteca!: An Anthology of Afro-Latin@ Poets* (Arte Público Press). She is currently working toward her MFA in Poetry at the University of Pittsburgh.

## *Additional Speaker Bio's*

**Estefania Hormosillo** is Community Education Coordinator for the Bay Area community advocacy organization **Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC)** . She was born in Tepatitlan, Jalisco and came to the United States at the age of six with her mom and two sisters. The four of them moved in with her grandma and the rest of the extended family. On the foundation of this strong family bond, she began to actively participate in the immigrant rights movement, starting in 2012. She has been a student, educator, community organizer, activist and lobbyist. Estefania has delivered presentations focusing on immigration policy, college access, and opportunities for Undocumented Young People to thousands of people across California. Estefania attributes a lot of her personal desires for making a difference to her family's humble background, and strong bond.

**Marisol Aguilar** serves as staff attorney with the Modesto office of the **California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA)**, working with low-income individuals on social justice efforts and implementation of community equity initiatives. Yessenia works with low-income individuals on social justice efforts addressed to housing, employment, and education issues. Marisol is the lead staff attorney on their Community Equity Initiative team. She works on environmental justice and infrastructure issues alongside community members residing in unincorporated areas. Her successful leadership of the CRLA's effort to address Parklawn neighborhood municipal services issues was chronicled in a 2015 Modesto Bee article ("Parklawn homes can finally make connection to Modesto wastewater service"—Oct. 13, 2015). CRLA supports innovative and ongoing initiatives focused on marginalized communities to address community-identified needs and works with an array of community organizations, researchers and local leaders to identify complex areas of need specific to local communities. Throughout California hundreds of thousands of people live in Disadvantaged, Unincorporated Communities (DUCs). DUCs range from urban pockets that are excluded from cities, to more remote, densely settled rural communities. Residents in these communities often live without the most basic features of a safe and healthy environment —potable drinking water, sewer systems, safe housing, public transportation, access to healthy food, sidewalks, streetlights and parks— due to decades of neglect and exclusion from formal decision making by city, county and state governments. The Community Equity Initiative (CEI) is a multi-strategy effort designed to address and eliminate social, political and environmental factors that negatively impact DUCs. The CEI project was established to focus CRLA resources towards changing patterns of

historic inequality in rural regions of California. In partnership with **Policy Link** and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, CRLA staff work alongside community leaders to raise awareness of DUCs, increase investment in community infrastructure, advocate for equitable development, promote environmental justice, guarantee fair representation and build leadership capacity, so that residents can engage meaningfully in decision-making that impacts their neighborhoods and their families.

**Yosimar Reyes** is a nationally acclaimed poet, educator, performance artist and public speaker. Born in Guerreo, Mexico and raised in Eastside San Jose, his poetry and spoken word performances explore the themes of migration and sexuality. His first collection of poetry – “**For Colored Boys Who Speak Softly...**” – was self-published after a collaboration with the legendary Carlos Santana. He was featured in the documentary **2nd Verse: The Rebirth of Poetry**. Yosimar has toured and presented at numerous university campuses throughout the United States. He is co-founder of the performance ensemble **La Maricolectiva**, a community based performance group of queer undocumented poets. Yosimar’s work has been published in various online journals as well as **Mariposas: An anthology of Queer Modern Latino Poetry** (Floricanto Press), **Queer in Aztlán: Chicano Male Recollections of Consciousness and Coming Out** (Cognella Press) and the forthcoming **Joto: An Anthology of Queer Xicano & Chicano Poetry** (Kórima Press). Yosimar holds a B.A in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University and is an Arts Fellow at Define American, an organization founded by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas (DefineAmerican.Com). Yosimar recently presented a staged reading of his autobiographical one-man show “Prieto” at Galeria de la Raza, a non-profit art gallery and artist collective serving the heavily Latino population of San Francisco's Mission District. **Prieto** follows Yosimar’s journey growing up queer, poor and undocumented in the hoods of Eastside San Jose.

**Gautam Jagannath** is the founding director of the **Social Justice Collaborative (SJC)**, with offices in Oakland, Modesto and Stockton. His skills as a trial lawyer and appellate advocate support SJC’s main services. He attended Northeastern University School of Law, the nation’s leading public interest law school, with the goal of becoming a public defender. However, after noticing the impact of criminal law on low-income immigrants, Gautam was drawn to the intersection between criminal and immigration law. Struck by the lack of access to counsel for immigrants he believed that forming SJC was a natural next step toward alleviating the lack of legal services for low-income noncitizen. Through effective advocacy, SJC provides significant support as an immigration public

defender, striving to increase representation for both detained and non-detained individuals. Gautam teaches administrative law and sits on the Board of Directors for the Bay Area chapter of the National Lawyer's Guild and the South Asian Bar Association. He is active in several progressive legal movements. He will speak on the challenges of advancing the rights of immigrants and their families, with attention to how these challenges may be transforming in the aftermath of the recent election.

**Aletha Harven** is Assistant Professor of Psychology and Child Development at California State University Stanislaus. Dr. Harven's research investigates the impact of school-related risk factors on the mental health and academic functioning of Black and Latino students, providing a basis for discerning psychological and social environmental factors that might help students remain resilient in the face of adversity. Her research also examines educational implications related to Black and Latino student mental health, motivation and academic achievement, with the goal of distilling insights that might lead to more effective ways to promote a college-going culture among Black, Latino and other underrepresented student groups in the Central Valley. Aletha is founding director of **Risk, Trauma, and Research Collaborative**, a co-sponsor of Dr. Alejandra Rincón's participation in this conference.

**Claudia Gonzalez** is an activist, organizer, and educator in California's Central Valley and a 2017 **Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow**. She most recently held a variety of positions with the youth-led media hub **We'Ced Youth Media**, where she reported on local and statewide issues and worked with young people to develop their journalism and advocacy skills. She was a **Live Free Fellow** with PICO California and supported organizing efforts for key criminal justice legislative reforms. She is also the founder of **Faith in the Valley**—Merced's **Live Free Merced** campaign—which focuses on police misconduct, the school-to-prison pipeline, and other manifestations of mass incarceration. As a Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow, Claudia is currently working on creating a program to help formerly incarcerated women in California's Central Valley find success and healing beyond the prison's walls. As a student at the University of California, Berkeley, where she was a Regent's and Chancellor's Scholar, Claudia worked with the school's **Teach in Prison** program, training other students to tutor people incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. In addition to studying at UC Berkeley, she also holds several associate degrees from Merced College, where she was named 2011 Student of the Year. Her co-presenter, **Victoria Castillo**, works with **Faith in Merced**, the local federation of PICO California, and will be discussing organizing efforts her organization is leading in Merced.

**Blake Wilson** is Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at California State University Stanislaus. Dr. Wilson represented criminal defendants throughout California prior to engaging in his current research on mass incarceration, punishment theory, and the ethics of criminal justice. He was among the first attorneys in California to defend persons charged under the three strikes law, and he won acquittals in the early struggles over the compassionate use of marijuana under Proposition 215. Blake is the third generation in his family to be born and raised within eight miles of the San Diego/Tijuana border, and uses this experience as an opportunity to explore international frameworks for the development of constructive alternatives to traditional understandings of punishment that focus on incarceration, retribution, and the imposition of collateral consequences.

### **Ni Aquí, Ni Allá (Neither Here, Nor There)**

A film by [Gabriela Bortolamedi](#), Co-Produced by [Mark Abramson](#)  
US, 2014, 24 minutes, Color, DVD, Spanish, Subtitled

**NI AQUÍ, NI ALLA (“Neither Here, Nor There”)** illuminates the challenges facing an undocumented college student and her family. Blanca, a second-year student at the University of California, Berkeley, crossed the border from Mexico into the United States with her parents when she was a child. As a student under the California DREAM Act who possess DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), Blanca qualifies for financial aid and has temporary protection from deportation, though her undocumented parents, who live and work in California's agricultural Central Valley, do not. **NI AQUÍ, NI ALLA** paints an intimate portrait of an undocumented family as they support each other during a turning point in their lives and stay together through the distance. At a time in this country's history where the debate around immigration is highly contested and demands to wall off the border are in the daily news, **NEITHER HERE, NOR THERE** paints a very human face on an issue that many appropriate simply as partisan, political fodder.



# LEADERS OF A BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE



Phantom - Carl Ogden - 1968 - Oil - 60x60cm - Los Angeles - 2005

See Website

EMERGENCY EXPRESSIVE  
EVACUATION PLAN

ISSUE  
1



Phantom spray paint in case of revolution

Peinture de jet fantôme en cas de révolution

Phantomsprayfarbe falls von der Revolution

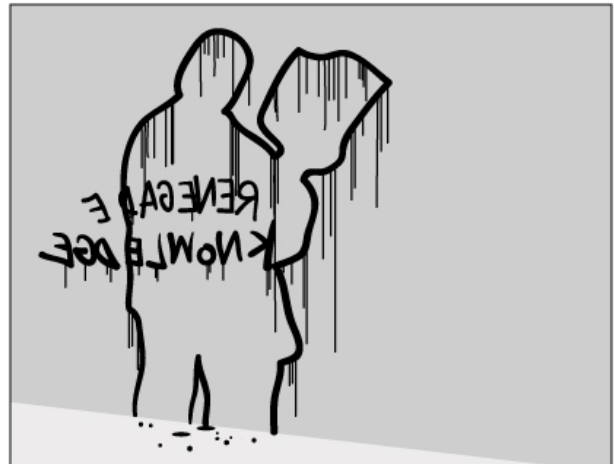
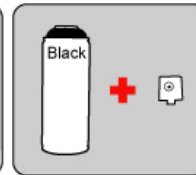
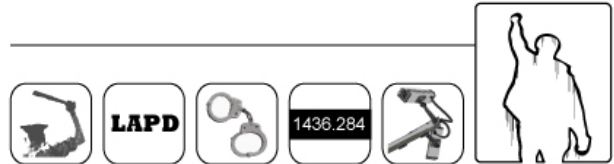
Pintura de pulverizador phantom caso que da volta

Spook nevelverf in het geval van revolutie

Pintura de aerosol fantasma en caso de que de la revolución

回転の場合には幻影のスプレーペンキ

art saves lives



Produced by Art Saves Lives  
Los Angeles 2005

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE FROM THE STREETS

