



CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

STATEMENT FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear community,

During this month of Black History, in our year of 2023, I would like to quote one of our founders, Dr. Nathan Hare, who was the coordinator of the first Black Studies Program in higher education.



We must no longer allow ourselves to be bogged down in a past that has gone forever, but we must learn from the past and take the best of the past and leave the rest behind. When we started to focus on black studies in the 1960's we meant to bring Africa to the black community. There has been a failure of too much focus on the information but not enough on implementation. We have-not focused on the African approach to education, which is always practical and involves the collective. We have focused on Afro-centric content with a Euro-centric application because we have only looked at our culture on the surface. There must be a greater emphasis on social cohesion and intergenerational connectedness that we have lost.

Quote from, The Black Agenda, Drs. Nathan and Julia Hare (pp, 27-28) 2002

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEAKERS



Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity at Virginia Tech, will give a talk for our LIVEandLIVES initiative examining "Black Womanist Theory, Method, and Praxis for Revolutionary-Revelation Writing".

This talk will be held virtually via ZOOM on February 6, 2023 from 4:00-5:30PM PST. You may [register here](#).

UCSB Black Studies Professor, Dr. Terrance Wooten will also give a talk for our LIVEandLIVES initiative, "Beyond Perpetrators: Black Men Against Sexual Violence and the Genealogy of Prison Abolition".



This talk will be given on February 16, 2023 from 12:00-1:30PM, in South Hall, Rm 4603. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Please [RSVP at this link](#) or register for the [livestream here](#).



UCSB Psychological and Brain Studies Professor, Dr. Dan Conroy-Beam connects with the CBSR to give his talk "Race in Mind: A Sufficiency Test of the Alliance Hypothesis of Race". Dr. Conroy-Beam's talk will be given on February 27, 2023 from 4:00-5:30PM, in South Hall, Rm 4603.

Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Please [RSVP at this link](#) or register for the [livestream here!](#)

CBSR

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

University of Colorado Denver School of Education and Human Development Associate Professor, Dr. Margarita Bianco joins the CBSR to give her talk "Growing and Sustaining a Diversified Teacher Workforce". Dr. Bianco's talk will be given on March 10, 2023 from 12:00-1:30PM, in South Hall 4603.



Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Please [RSVP at this link](#) or register for the [livestream here!](#)

CBSR ADVISORY BOARD

In the wake of the killings of Tyre Nichols and those of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain, and many others, I am reminded of the significance of Black History Month. The founder of Black History Month, Carter G. Woodson, once said, "The oppressor has always indoctrinated the weak with his interpretation of the crimes of the strong," this is the legacy of anti-Black structural racism. This Black History Month---and every month, It is my goal to dismantle and interrogate anti-Blackness interpersonally, organizationally, and within our broader social structures through my scholarship. My goal is to live up to the legacy and contributions of dynamic Black scholars past and present at UCSB who have influenced my ability to Interrogate historical and contemporary structures of power, privilege, and inequality rooted in anti-Black racism that has led to systematic legacies of oppression. As I watched Tyre Nichols's memorial on the first day of Black History Month, the heightened awareness of this month reminded me why the knowledge production of the Centers on Black Studies Research is crucial to our liberation.

-Dr. Waverly Duck, UCSB, North Hall Endowed Chair, Professor, Department of Sociology



LIVE AND LIVES UPCOMING SPEAKERS

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Professor emeritus, Dr. Bryant York, and C.E.O. and Creative Educator at York Creative Education Group, Dr. Portia York bring us their STEM focused talk ”#CryptoCrochet: A Tactile Introduction to Mathematics and Computing”. This father-daughter duo will give their talk on March 3, 2023 from 12:00-1:30 PM, in South Hall 4603.



Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at [this link](#) or register for the [livestream here!](#)

This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Information Technology and Society (CITS).



Yale University Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Assistant Professor, Dr. Brandon Ogbunu connects with LIVEandLIVES to give his talk ”Mending a Broken Biology: Human Diversity, Disinformation, and a New Way Forward”. Dr. Ogbunu’s talk will be given on March 23, 2023 from 12:00-1:30PM, in South Hall 4603.

Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Please [RSVP at this link](#) or register for the [livestream here!](#)

SEEDS

A WORD FROM A MENTOR



”The SEEDS program is a fantastic opportunity for young scholars to gain both broad exposure and specific experience in the data sciences. The weekly sessions with faculty advisors provide structured guidance, and the financial support is an essential element that gives students the time and space to focus on the program.”

-Dr. Michelle Brown, UCSB, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

A WORD FROM OUR PARTNERS



We would like to extend a big thank you to Interim Director at UCSB-Residential & Community Living-Housing, Dining & Auxiliary Enterprises, Marian Banks and her team for helping the SEEDS program develop, implement and sustain its living and learning community! Please enjoy an update on our LLC from them below.

”Hello SEEDS Scholars!

We hope you are having a fantastic start to Winter Quarter and we wanted to provide you some information and updates pertaining to housing for this upcoming year. If you haven’t seen from the previous newsletter, the SEEDS Living Learning Community has been listed on our housing website, which you can find here! We are thrilled to be incorporating SEEDS into our housing process and if you are interested in living with us the 2023-2024 housing process is about to start! Our housing application opens up on January 30th for continuing students and you can find the application and other helpful information here! Due to you all being continuing students, this allows you more options to select depending on your year! If you are going to be a 3rd or 4th year for example you can now look at undergraduate apartments as well as residence halls to live in. If you are a 1st or 2nd year, you still can only select residence halls and not apartments. All this information and more is located on this website so please be sure to check it out and if you have any questions we are always happy to chat through this email: housinginfo@housing.ucsb.edu. We hope you do choose to live with us as we offer a robust Residential Curriculum experience and are currently working on one specifically for SEEDS Scholars! You will have an opportunity to explore 4 main areas we offer inside of our housing such as: Self-Exploration, Global Engagement, Academic Success and Community Connections. Through these lenses we design events, activities, and educational goals for our students and we hope our SEEDS Scholars get a chance to experience that first hand!



We will be connecting more and more throughout this year and we hope to meet in person soon to answer any other questions you may have. Until then we hope you are enjoying your Winter Quarter and we hope you are all doing well to study, explore and to take some time for you.”

Marian Bankins, Interim Director Residential & Community Living-Housing, Dining & Auxiliary Enterprises

Brandon Langford, Resident Director

Ayanna Ross, Residence Hall Director

CBSR CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

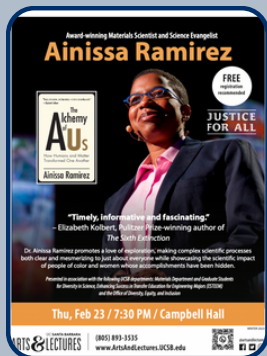
ARTS & LECTURES



President of the American Psychological Association, Dr. Thema Bryant, will show you how to reconnect with your authentic self and reclaim your time, your voice and your life as she discusses her book, ”Homecoming: Overcome Fear and Trauma to Reclaim Your Whole, Authentic Self”. This event will be happening March 3, 2023 at 7:30 PM at UCSB Campbell Hall. See [this link](#) for more information and to register.

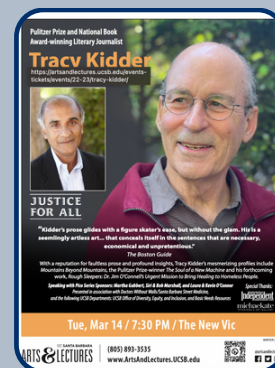
Sharon Tettegah, Moderator

Step Afrika! continues and extends the long tradition of stepping, integrating contemporary dance and art forms with songs, storytelling, humor and audience participation to create a compelling artistic experience that will leave your heart pounding. Step Afrika! will join us February 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM at UCSB Campbell Hall. See [this link](#) for more information and to purchase your ticket.



Award-winning Materials Scientist and Science Evangelist Dr. Ainissa Ramirez joins us to discuss her book, "The Alchemy of Us: Uncovering Hidden Figures in Science Whose Inventions Changed Our Way of Life". Her book showcases little-known inventors – particularly people of color and women – who had a significant impact but whose accomplishments have been hidden by mythmaking, bias and convention. Dr. Ramirez will join us February 23, 2023 at 7:30 PM at UCSB Campbell Hall. See [this link](#) for more information and to register.

Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award Winning Literary Journalist Tracy Kidder and novelist Pico Iyer will be in conversation March 14th at 7:30 PM at The New Vic. See [this link](#) for more information and to grab your ticket.



CBSR OPINION LETTER

The Center for Black Studies is launching our version of an Opinion Editorial letter. It is not quite an Op-Ed but we are launching our inaugural opinion piece this month from our Associate Director, Dr. Stephanie Batiste. CBSR's Opinion Letter will be delivered bi-monthly, if there is content. We invite all contributors. If you have an opinion related to Black Studies please send it to cbsr-administration@ucsb.edu. We will review it and notify you if the piece is accepted.

Thank you for your consideration in reviewing our inaugural opinion newsletter.



OPINION LETTER



THE OFFICERS ARE BLACK: ON COMPLICATIONS OF RACE AND POWER

BY PROFESSOR STEPHANIE BATISTE, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH,
ASSOC. DIR. CBSR

Black History Month is often a time to commemorate accomplishment and sacrifice of Black people towards achievement, towards equal rights, and towards freedom. It is a time to recognize the extraordinary contributions Black people have made to democracy, to the tenets of the constitution and to the nation. It is inherently a time of asserting Black belonging in the United States and in our holding this nation to its highest ideals. Holding the U.S. to those terms has required calling out the wrongs of the nation placing Black people and blackness in a position of resistance to dominant structures built and backed by racism. Structures of bias that have hampered the freedom of all people. Often this struggle has been defined in terms of race and the insurmountable odds racism has placed in the way of access, equality, and living up to our potential towards our best lives. Sometimes this holding to account has been broader than our own comfort, our own self-interest, and participation in American dreams. This struggle has at times stood stalwart on behalf of targets of US imperial force, of refugees, has stood in solidarity with oppressed peoples, disadvantaged peoples by and around the world.

When we think this way, we assume that Blackness is on the right side of struggle, on the righteous side against abuses of power. Thus we have a hard time understanding that our struggle is also against the overwhelming structures of power itself that operate in insidious ways to obtain our consent to its violent wielding. Today, we are in mourning and we grieve a new police aggression against Black life and Black freedom. We grieve the murder of Tyre Nichols, a 29-year old Black man who we have watched be apprehended, abused, chased, beaten, and neglected to the point of death at another traffic stop. We have learned that the police report misrepresented Nichols' resistance to arrest. On video we have seen Nichols felled and then rise up to run away. He is running for his life. We have heard him calling for his mother who was close, so close, only 100 yards away, but out of earshot, and, moreover, fundamentally without the power to intervene in the beating her adult son was suffering at the hands of Black police officers. The perpetrators of this so-called "Blue" aggression participated in structures of state power that victimize Black citizens. The racial identity of the several officers charged with murder in the pornographic violence against Nichols indicates that the historical raced-based operation of power that defines Blackness as an enemy obtains even when extensions of that power are Black men and men-of-color. The officers are Black. Their voices when they threaten Nichols, when they ply him with instruction upon instruction that he cannot follow for being hurt and afraid, vibrate with the timbre of familiar sound, the sound of our brothers, fathers, sons. The voices hurt. The five offending officers are Black. The police chief who held them accountable is a Black woman. On whose watch is responsibility assessed?

This question of how Black men who are police officers can kill a Black man driving-while-black is in fact a question of history, is it a question of race and history, a question of history and power, of history and the state, of our practices of knowing Blackness, Black experiences, and Black perspectives. And a history of how we talk about these. To respond intelligently we must know more and know more intelligently.

The Black officers have been charged with murder. It may be that white officers would not have been charged with murder as these officers have been. It may be that these charges against the Black officers are as much a manifestation of a corrupt and anti-Black system as their state-issued privilege to kill him. It remains true that the justice system deals grossly with Black men.

It is also true that murder at the hands of state empowered upon Black and Brown people, even traffic violators, must be met with a kind of justice that holds power accountable for its practices of death inflicted upon the vulnerable; inflicted in many directions upon blackness as its target and it's enemy. Likewise we must change a system of power that inspires those who usurp the power of life an death inflicted upon the poor, upon women, upon Asians, upon Jews, upon LGBTQ communities, upon those who don't meet a mainstream threshold for protection. State violence against Black people suborns other violence of bias and hatred. Our epidemic of mass shootings is of a piece with wanton police aggression. I do not find it coincidental that identity-based crimes surge alongside police killings.

This moment, this Black History Month challenges us to think critically about the relationship between power and race, between power and its wielding. Who do we hold accountable for the corrupt wielding of power? What are the limits and responsibilities of our complicities, of our race-based, gender-based, and nation-based alliances? At what point, do we hold power accountable for its abuses, its self-satisfaction, intention, and shall we speculate, its glee, at its wielding? Power is vector of history practiced in the minds and bodies of people. How do we hold our systems and ourselves accountable? Is this the time? Is this the month, the year, the time when we complicate exceptionalist notions of Black resistance to face the violence of power inflicted willfully against its Black victims.

I am dreaming in this annual moment of tradition celebration and commemoration, that an understanding of the great force of Black freedom movements be turned towards the violence of power itself. I am hoping that the power of Black ingenuity towards freedom be turned to this broader problem of the racist nature of the wielding of state power in all hands. I am praying that our politics of solidarity towards freedom diagnose the underlying, ubiquitous structures of power for its victimization of peoples who may be guilty of traffic infractions driving while Black, or guilty of selling individual cigarettes out of the pack, or not. Let this Black history month be one when we complicate and enrich our sense of history so that what we can accomplish together moves towards a shift in our assumptions, expectations, and practices around power, violence, and the vulnerabilities of Black life. Let us mourn. Let our hearts be broken. Let us wail and cry. And let us then dream, imagine, and seek a deeper justice, a more thorough justice, that dreams, imagines, and implements a society where state murders in the street at the hands of police stop happening.