



CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Director, Dr. Sharon Tettegah



Dear Members and Supporters,

In the month of February, we are filled with gratitude and excitement as we commemorate Black History Month. This month serves as a poignant reminder of the invaluable contributions and rich heritage of the Black community that have shaped our society's fabric.

In 2024, amidst the challenges we face, it's more crucial than ever to recognize and cherish the bonds of community and family. These ties provide us with strength, resilience, and a sense of cultural belonging, essential pillars in navigating the complexities of our times.

This month, we celebrate Black History with a special conference. We are thrilled to announce the upcoming "Ethnographic Portrait of the Criminal Legal System", sponsored by the Center for Black Studies Research. This groundbreaking event, organized by our esteemed Associate Director, Dr. Waverly Duck, promises to shed light on critical issues within our legal system.

Thank you to Associate Director, Dr. Waverly Duck for representing the CBSR at UC Office of the President BSFO's Black History Month event this past week.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Allison Clark, Dr. Charles Terry, and Lyla Washaha for their invaluable contributions to the organization of this conference. Their dedication and expertise have been instrumental in shaping this event into a platform for meaningful dialogue and understanding.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the tireless efforts of the CASU team: Tracey Goss, Marselina Ortiz, and Karla Partida Torres. Their hard work and commitment behind the scenes have ensured the smooth execution of our initiatives at the CBSR.

SEEDS Student Spotlight

A special mention goes out to all our SEEDS students who continue to demonstrate exceptional dedication and passion in their academic pursuits. Your determination and enthusiasm inspire us all, and we are proud to support you on your journey towards excellence.

As we honor Black History Month and come together to celebrate our shared heritage, let us reaffirm our commitment to fostering inclusivity, equity, and justice in all aspects of our lives.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. Together, we can create a brighter, more inclusive future for generations to come. (Tettegah & Open AI, personal communication, February 15, 2024)

Warm Regards,

Sharon Tettegah
Director
Center for Black Studies Research

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Center is looking forward to being in community with you all for its "Ethnographic Portrait of the Criminal Legal System" conference, an integral part of our Black History Month programming. This event aims to shed light on the lived experiences of individuals affected by the criminal legal system, emphasizing ethnographic research from both the U.S. and around the globe. The opening reception will be February 29th in UCSB's South Hall 4603 at 5pm. The conference will be held March 1st at UCSB's Loma Pelona Center from 9am-5pm. Registration opens February 23rd, a form will be emailed out.

This conference highlights the systemic impacts on communities and fosters discussions on the lived experience of people impacted by the criminal legal system, including solutions to systemic reform and transformative change. It aspires to bring together UCSB students, scholars, practitioners, activists, and the general public for a rich dialogue on critical issues at the intersections of housing, education, healthcare, food insecurity, employment, and the criminal legal system across the life course.

Featured Speakers and Their Institutions

- Waverly Duck, organizer, Associate Director of CBSR, and North Hall Endowed Chair of Sociology, will offer insights into the systemic challenges facing marginalized communities.
- Andrea Boyles, President of the Association of Black Sociologists and Professor of Africana Studies at Tulane University, and sociologist, criminologist, and social worker Reuben Miller, University of Chicago, will provide keynote addresses on social movements and justice reform.
- Felice Blake, University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), will present a thought-provoking keynote on abolition, reimagining conventional justice and community safety paradigms.

Panel Discussion Highlights

- Family, Intimacy, and the Law: Featuring Patrice Collins, Northeastern University; Jessica Lopez Espino, University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB); and Maria Ramirez Torres, Universidad Nacional de Colombia. This panel will delve into the criminal legal system's impact on personal and familial relationships.
- Youth and State: This panel, including Anthony Peguero, President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and Distinguished Professor at Arizona State University; and two UCSB alums--Patrick Lopez Aguado, Santa Clara University; and Melissa Guzman Garcia, San Francisco State University, will explore the complex relationship between youth and state institutions.

Cheshire Education Program: Reflections from the Inaugural Class, Founder, and Professors

This session focuses on the Wesleyan University Cheshire Prison Degree Program, highlighting its transformative impact on education within correctional settings. It will feature reflections from the inaugural class, one of the program's founders, and professors, showcasing the significant role of education in justice reform.

Speakers: Waverly Duck (UCSB), Molly Birnbaum (Founder and Wesleyan-alum), Charles Lemert (Professor, Wesleyan), Clyde Meikle (Student, Wesleyan), and Terrance Stevenson (Student, Wesleyan). These speakers will share their unique perspectives and experiences, providing a comprehensive view of the program's impact.

Additional Insights

Victor Rios, University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB); Michael Walker, University of Minnesota; and John Eason, Brown University, and UCSB alum Andrea Amy Martinez at San Jose State University will enrich the conference with their research on carceral institutions including jails, prisons, and policing.

The "Ethnographic Portrait of the Criminal Legal System" conference transcends traditional academic boundaries, fostering a platform for deep understanding and dialogue on the complex narratives intertwined with the criminal legal system. It welcomes a diverse audience to participate in meaningful discussions, collectively striving towards a future where justice and equity are realized for all.

UPCOMING EVENTS



We are proud to co-sponsor Dr. April Baker-Bell in her talk for the EXITO Speaker Series. Dr. Baker-Bell's talk will be given in UCSB's Mosher Alumni House February 29th, 2024 from 3:30-5:00pm. [See more about this event here.](#)

The Center is thrilled to welcome futurist, filmmaker, and founder of Reimagine Story Lab, Anatola Araba. Anatola will be giving her talk "Imagination: A Bridge To Brighter Futures in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" March 5th, 2024 at 4pm in UCSB South Hall 4603. [Read more about this event on our website.](#)



CBSR CORNER

TRACEY GOSS, CASU MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICER

"Our work as administrative support is the 'back office' work that often goes unnoticed if we do it well. Logistical efforts for example are rarely noticed when things run smoothly. Flowers this month for CASU activity go to Marcy Ortiz who arranged flights (both domestic and international) and lodging (at various locations) for seventeen travelers invited to speak at a number of Center events so far this year. Marcy's diligence, precision and congeniality are greatly appreciated. Eleven of the speakers and panelists featured in Dr. Duck's upcoming 'Ethnographic Portrait of the Criminal Legal System' conference will be here at UCSB from various points throughout the US and Columbia thanks in part to Marcy's work."



DR. ALLISON CLARK, ICHANGE TEAM PROJECT MANAGER

“The Center is committed to the IChange Network’s (ICN) mission of finding solutions to the rising challenges against higher education’s diversity, equity, justice, belonging and inclusion in STEM. UCSB has committed to remaining a member of the ICircle Cohort. The ICircle Cohorts are made up of ongoing and previously funded Aspire IChange grantees who remain committed to continuing to work towards sustainable change in STEM DEI.”



DR. EBENEZER LARNYO, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR

“Engaging with SEEDS students remains a highlight for me as we delve into our ongoing hands-on project, focusing on comprehending the health information needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder using social media data. Our current emphasis is on gaining a deeper understanding of tokenization—exploring its implementation and relevance in the context of sentiment analysis.



In addition to our project work, I’ve been actively preparing the students for an upcoming Research Conference scheduled for the Spring quarter. This preparation involves equipping students with essential skills for presentations, research design, and other crucial elements necessary for a successful participation in the conference. Our focus has particularly centered on the intricacies of expanding a research outline into a comprehensive paper, covering key components such as the abstract, introduction, methodology, results, and discussion sections of a research paper.”

DR. CHARLES TERRY, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR

“I have been working with Dr. Duck to organize the Ethnographic Portrait of the Criminal Legal System Conference that will be happening this month, as well as an upcoming event for Women’s History Month honoring select Distinguished Black Female academics. Additionally, I have continued serving as a representative on the Black Resource Council. I’ve also helped plan and host a community healing circle with UCSB Black staff and faculty on January 22nd. I’m also assisting with joint forthcoming publications with other scholars at the Center. Finally, with assistance from Lyla Washaha, I’m working to arrange future interviews for the Center podcast.”



LYLA WASHAHA, PROJECT POLICY ANALYST

“I’ve been collaborating with Dr. Tettegah, Dr. Larnyo, Dr. Clark and payroll personnel, Karla to continue to administratively support the SEEDS program. I also continue to provide administrative support to the Center generally. Additionally, I’m working alongside Dr. Terry on the Center podcast.”

