



CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2024

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dear community,

Welcome back to the Center for Black Studies Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara! We trust you had a restful and productive summer and are ready to embark on an exciting new academic year.

Fall Symposium

We are excited to announce one of our marquee events this fall: the symposium titled “The Education of African Americans: The Road to Parity in the United States”. This symposium will delve into six essential educational theories: abolitionist pedagogy, afrocentricity, afro-pessimism, Black Studies, healing-centered pedagogy, and hip-hop pedagogy. See page 2 for more details.

Documentary Film Series

We are thrilled to announce our documentary film series on African American life in the United States this 2024-2025 academic year. We invite you to our first showing happening on November 6, 2024 at 12pm in 4603 South Hall, and we hope the series sparks engaging discussions and community connections. See page 2 for more details.

Advisory Committee

We extend our deep gratitude to our advisory committee for their ongoing support and contributions. This year, we are excited to welcome new members:

- Dr. Katrina Liu, UNLV, College of Education
- Dr. Antar Tichavakunda, UCSB, GGSE
- Dr. Kara Mae Brown, UCSB, CCS
- Wendy Eley Jackson, UCSB, Department of Film and Media Studies
- Dr. Stacey Doan, Claremont Colleges, Department of Psychology

Additionally, we express our appreciation to our returning members:

- Dr. Helen Neville, UCSB alum, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Dr. Eileen Boris, UCSB, Feminist Studies
- Tony Baylis, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Dr. Beth Pruitt, UCSB, Department of Engineering
- Dr. Tim Sherwood, UCSB, Department of Computer Science, Engineering

Welcome Back to Our Scholars

We are delighted to welcome back our esteemed postdoctoral scholars, Dr. Ebenezer Larnyo and Dr. Charles Terry. Their research continues to enrich the intellectual fabric of the Center, and we are delighted to have them with us again this year.

Welcome Back to Our Staff

We want to extend a warm welcome back to our dedicated staff:

- Tracey Goss, Management Service Officer
- Marselina Ortiz, Financial Admin
- Karla Partida Torres, HR Admin, CASU
- Lyla Washaha, CBSR Admin

Acknowledging Special Days and Awareness

This fall, we observe several significant moments. We honor National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15–October 15), celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx communities in the U.S. We also acknowledge Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, a time to raise awareness and support for those affected by breast cancer.

Looking Ahead

As we embark on this academic year, we are excited about the opportunities to engage in impactful scholarship, community building, and social justice work. We look forward to seeing you at our symposium, documentary series, and other events as we continue to advance the mission of the Center for Black Studies Research. (Tettegah & Open AI, personal communication, September 11, 2024)

In solidarity and scholarship,

Sharon Tettegah, PhD
Director, Center for Black Studies Research
University of California, Santa Barbara

THE EDUCATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS SYMPOSIUM

The “Education of African Americans: The Road to Parity in the United States” symposium will be held on October 15, 2024 at 12pm in 4603 South Hall. It will delve into six key theories: abolitionist, afrocentricity, afro-pessimism, Black Studies, healing-centered and hip-hop pedagogy. These frameworks will guide our exploration of practical strategies to address the educational needs of African American learners in the U.S. We invite you to join this critical conversation as we work to reimagine education for a more equitable future. Each panelist will present, followed by a Q & A for the attendees. Read more about each panelist and what they’ll be presenting on by clicking the button to our website below. Food and drinks will be served.

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[in person RSVP](#)

[zoom registration](#)

AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES: FILM SERIES



This documentary series will offer a deep dive into key moments and figures in African American history, providing important context for the ongoing struggles and triumphs in the African American experience. Light refreshments will be provided. Our first showing will be November 6, 2024 at 12pm in 4603 South Hall. More details will be shared in the near future.

This documentary series is co-sponsored by Auburn Avenue Films’ CEO and UCSB’s Film and Media Studies lecturer Wendy Eley Jackson.

UCSB ARTS AND LECTURES: JUSTICE FOR ALL SERIES

This Fall 2024 you can look forward to the following from the Justice for All Series:



Josie Cox on Women Money Power: The Rise & Fall of Economic Equality

Examining the challenges women face today and the culture and systems that hold them back, journalist Josie Cox chronicles the historical fight to close the gender pay gap and asserts that the battle for equality is far from over.

Campbell Hall | October 17, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

An Evening with Percival Everett

With sharp observations and biting wit, Percival Everett – author of more than 30 books including James, Erasure and The Trees – explores race, politics, gender and family from a uniquely contemporary American perspective.



Campbell Hall | October 25, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.



Uché Blackstock on Legacy: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine

Through the lens of a generational memoir, ER physician and leading health equity advocate Uché Blackstock reflects on the deep inequities in the U.S. healthcare system and offers prescriptions for how to change them.

Campbell Hall | November 20, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

CBSR TEAM SUMMER RECAP

DR. CHARLES TERRY, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR



This summer Dr. Charles Terry was honored to have a script he wrote be selected for the upcoming Los Angeles International Screenplay Diversity Awards in Los Angeles. There will be more details forthcoming on this in the months ahead. Dr. Terry continued to work with undergraduate students in his research group on writing upcoming journal articles focused on Black Studies. He is also actively incorporating peer review comments from academic readers he received from Palgrave MacMillan as he progresses along the publication process. Looking ahead, this fall Dr. Terry plans to present his work on enslaved African American Literacy at the upcoming History of Education Society (HES) in Chicago from November 7-10, 2024. Lastly, Dr. Terry, Dr. Larnyo, and Lyla Washaha participated in a Tabling Event representing the CBSR, sponsored by OBSD, on Sept. 24 from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Student Resource Building (SBR) South Lawn here at UCSB. They had a wonderful time sharing all of the current opportunities available at the CBSR with the incoming freshmen and continuing undergraduate students, and all of us at the CBSR hope to see some familiar faces at our symposium on October 15th!

TRACEY GOSS, MANAGEMENT SERVICE OFFICER

“The CASU administrative team is once again excited about the privilege of providing financial, payroll, personnel, and event coordination support to the Center for Black Studies Research.

In preparation for the upcoming “The Education of African Americans: The Road to Parity in the United States” symposium and focus group, our financial and travel coordinator, Marcy Ortiz, handled travel and lodging logistics for 16 incoming visitors. While our events coordinator, Karla Partida, arranged for catering and is assisting with other details to ensure a welcoming and organized atmosphere.



As with the Center for Black Studies Research staff, the CASU administrative team remained very active over the summer. Our financial and events coordinators began the summer working to close out financial transactions and reconcile CBSR events held in late Spring. As MSO, my focus for the summer and moving into fall has been fiscal close, carry-forward activities, and preparation for budget projections for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. We look forward to assisting with another outstanding year of CBSR programming.”

DR. EBENEZER LARNYO, POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR



In addition to working on his research grant proposals and revising some of his completed projects for submission to peer-reviewed journals this summer, Dr. Larnyo has been revisiting his previously published research. His goal is to make these works accessible and relatable to the general public, beyond just the academic community. To achieve this, Dr. Larnyo has commissioned and transformed his research on the impact of social factors—such as social network formation, social support, and social capital—on an individual’s quality of life into a comic.

You can view Dr. Larnyo’s comic by clicking the button here.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: RECLAIM



This summer, Dr. Tettegah, our esteemed director, played a pivotal role in securing a grant dedicated to advancing Artificial Intelligence in education. This initiative, named Project RECLAIM (Reinforce Early Childhood Learning with Artificial Intelligence Module), represents a collaborative effort involving California State University, Dominguez Hills, Eastern Illinois University, and the University of California. As a co-Principal Investigator on this grant, Dr. Tettegah contributes to a groundbreaking program under the UC|CSU Collaborative for Neuroscience, Learning, and Diversity. Notably, Project RECLAIM was one of only five proposals chosen for funding in this inaugural program.