



CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

2025

cbsr.ucsb.edu



FROM OUR DIRECTOR



As we move deeper into the fall quarter, the Center for Black Studies Research (CBSR) continues to serve as a hub for interdisciplinary scholarship, community engagement, and cultural exchange. November marks an exciting month of international collaboration and academic dialogue at the Center. We are especially honored to host the Latin Afro Diasporic Symposium, which brings together scholars, artists, and policymakers from across the Americas to explore the intersections of identity, culture, and resistance.

We also extend a warm welcome to our newest postdoctoral scholar, Dr. Brande Otis, who joined CBSR on October 1. Dr. Otis brings a rich background in cultural studies and Black feminist thought, and we look forward to her contributions to our growing research community.

Feature Event: Afro-Diasporic Voices Symposium

Day 1: Afro-Diasporic Voices: Identity, Culture, and Resistance (Voces Afrodiásporas: Identidad, Cultura y Resistencia)

17 Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 12:00 – 3:00 PM (in-person & via Zoom)
Center for Black Studies Research, 4603 South Hall, UCSB

This international symposium gathers prominent cultural leaders and scholars from Peru, Colombia, and Brazil for a vibrant conversation on Afro-diasporic identity, cultural expression, and historical resistance.

Program Highlights:

- Welcome: Dr. Sharon Tettegah, Director, CBSR
- Introduction & Chair: Dr. Jaime Alves, UCSB
- Discussant: Dean Charles Hale, UCSB

Featured Speakers:

- Susana Flor de María Matute Charún, Ministry of Culture (Peru)
- Topic: Recognition, Promotion, and Guarantee of the Rights of the Afro-Peruvian People
- María Vicenta Moreno, Ministry of Culture (Colombia)
- Topic: Cultural Governance for Peace: Black Territories, Reparation, and Resistance
- Carmen Rosa Watson Barrera, Universidade Paulista (Brazil)
- Topic: The Process of Afro-Peruvian Identification and Its Impact on Citizenship Formation
- Peruska Chambi Echegaray, Universidad de Ciencia Aplicada del Perú
- Topic: Peruvian Afro-Andean Culture

The symposium will include simultaneous Spanish-English interpretation and complimentary food and beverages.

Day 2: Capoeira Demonstration with Mestre Mariano Silva

 Friday, November 14, 2025 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 CBSR, 4603 South Hall (In-person only)

Join us for an interactive cultural event exploring Capoeira: Body, Trauma, and Resistance, led by Mestre Mariano Silva. This session will delve into the historical significance of capoeira as both a martial art and a cultural expression of resilience within Afro-Brazilian communities. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Community Spotlight

CBSR remains deeply committed to fostering partnerships across campus and within the broader community. This month, we highlight the ongoing collaboration between CBSR researchers and international partners engaged in exploring Afro-Latin and Afro-diasporic experiences. These exchanges not only advance academic research but also strengthen cultural understanding across borders.

Announcements

- Welcome, Dr. Brande Otis! Our newest postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Otis, will be researching Black digital cultures and affect theory throughout the 2025–2026 academic year.
- Save the Date: CBSR Winter Research Colloquium, January 2026—details to come.
- Reminder: CBSR offices will be closed November 27–28 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Closing Note

As we reflect on this season of gratitude, CBSR thanks our campus partners, community collaborators, and advisory board for their continued support. Together, we reaffirm our mission to advance interdisciplinary research and foster inclusive academic spaces that celebrate the richness of Black experiences globally.

Warm regards,

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

AFRO-DIASPORIC VOICES SYMPOSIUM

[***CLICK HERE FOR
RSVP & REGISTRATION***](#)

Symposium (in person event) **11/13/25**
4603 South Hall 12:00-3:00

Symposium (webinar) **11/13/25 12:00-3:00**

Capoeira Workshop (in person) **11/14/25**
4603 South Hall 12:00-3:00



UC SANTA BARBARA
CENTER FOR BLACK
STUDIES RESEARCH



Mural/Illustration: Entes & Pesimo/Heriberto Paredes/AMLATINA

AFRO-DIASPORIC VOICES IDENTITY CULTURE RESISTANCE

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM NOVEMBER 13TH & 14

@CBSR
SOUTH HALL
ROOM 4603

FEATURED PANELIST
VICENTA MORENO
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(COLOMBIA)

SUSANA MATUTE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE (PERU)

PERUSKA CHAMBI
UNIVERSIDAD DE
CIENCIA APLICADA
(PERU)

CARMEN ROSA WATSON
UNIVERSIDADE
PAULISTA (BRAZIL)

NOV 13/12-3PM
WELCOME REMARKS
SHARON TETTEGAH
Director, CBSR

PANEL DISCUSSION
Chaired by **JAIME ALVES**
Department of Black Studies

Comments by **CHARLIE HALE**
Dean of Social Sciences

NOV 14/ 2-4PM
**CAPOEIRA: BODY, TRAUMA &
RESISTANCE WORKSHOP**
MESTRE MARIANO SILVA
Brazilian Cultural Center
of Santa Barbara

REGISTER HERE! 
OR CLICK HERE! 

UPDATE FROM POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR BRANDE OTIS RESEARCH OFFICE HOURS FOR UNDERGRADS COMING SOON!



In my first month at the Center, I am focused on building research infrastructure and relational infrastructure. I am in the process of establishing weekly office hours at the Center for Black Studies Research with the goal of creating a consistent space for Black undergraduates interested in social science research to drop in for guidance and support. These hours are meant to provide students with room and opportunity to discuss their ideas, connect them to opportunities, and bring them onto any relevant projects. I am also working with Faculty Member, AJ Rice in Political Science on a project that explores school takeover policy.

In my own personal research, I am in the early-stages of a couple of research projects at the intersection of Black geographies, childhood, and educational futures. My first project is a digital ethnography in which I trace how Black adults, within digital spaces, story and recall memories of Black childhood, and what that storying says about how Black childhoods are constructed. My second project is proposed to take place in Inglewood, and will explore how Black community members describe the impact of local education policy (notably, school closures and land repurposing) on Black placemaking in the midst of gentrification and rapid urban development. Lastly, I'm currently drafting a publication from my dissertation, which draws on interviews with Black youth in South Central Los Angeles reflecting on how the city shapes their sense of possibility and futurity. Together, these projects ask how Black communities remember, strategize, and imagine otherwise.

PUBLIC POLICY REFORM AND THE ORIGINS OF EDUCATION FAILURE BY DR. AJ RICE ~ CBSR FACULTY AFFILIATE



Since the 1980s, public education in the United States has undergone a dramatic transformation. In particular, growing concerns about academic achievement, dropout rates, and budgetary constraints led state and federal policymakers to re-envision how public schools were governed. These concerns resulted in a bevy of education reform policies, most prominently school choice and state takeover policies, both of which disproportionately affect Black and low-income urban communities. State takeover laws are passed by state legislatures and enable the governor or a state-authorized entity to assume authority over a local school district and, in some cases, remove the democratically elected school board and district superintendent. While researchers have shown that these policies are largely ineffective at best, and politically and economically destabilizing at worst, we know very little about the origins of these policies, the coalitions who promoted or resisted them, and how certain school districts came to be defined as “failures” in the first place.

To better answer these questions, I am working with CBSR’s 2025-26 Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Brande Otis, conducting qualitative research around the development of state takeover policies in the United States generally, while using the state of Michigan to trace policymaking process more closely. In the fall, Dr. Otis hit the ground running, already uncovering important documents that reveal the role that interest groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) played in the early framing of school district failure during the 1980s. We’ve also found model legislation that ALEC developed that was used as a template for school reform policies in Michigan. I look forward to continuing this project with Dr. Otis and sharing additional findings in the future.

UPDATES FROM MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICER TRACEY GOSS



We wanted to pull back the curtain and give you a glimpse into what the CASU administrative team is currently focused on. Our mission is to keep things running smoothly, and right now, that means diving deep into preparation and planning. The upcoming Afro-Diasporic Voices Symposium is taking center stage in our planning efforts. This event is a massive undertaking, and our team is diligently focused on all the essential logistical, purchasing, and event planning aspects. We are working hard to manage every detail to make this symposium a seamless and inspiring experience for everyone involved!

- Coordinating Travel and Lodging for all our distinguished guests.
- Processing speaker and translator payments.
- Securing all necessary equipment needs to ensure the presentations and discussions go off without a hitch.

Beyond the symposium, we are launching a major internal initiative focused on process improvement. Our team recently attended the three-day Process in Paradise conference, which provided a fantastic jump-start for this two-month focus. With the recent implementation of the Financial Management Modernization plan, we recognize the urgent need to rework our processes and workflows to ensure they are as efficient and effective as possible in the new system. To achieve this, each member of our team will be taking the lead on process improvement within their specific area of specialization. This personalized approach will help us develop smarter, more streamlined ways of working across the board. We are committed to continuous improvement, and we believe these efforts will allow us to better support the incredible work the CBSR does.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS' EVENTS



Sherrilyn Ifill

Reimagining a New American Democracy

A Howard Law School professor and former president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Sherrilyn Ifill is one of the preeminent civil rights lawyers of our time. Named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people of 2021, her transformational leadership and keen analysis have been instrumental in shaping the national conversation about race and civil rights in the U.S. Now, the "precise thinker, riveting speaker and fierce champion of civil rights" (Glamour) shares insights on the 14th Amendment and citizenship, the importance of local civic engagement and the role that colleges and universities play in carrying forward the democracy project.

"My mantra has been 'leave no power on the table.' And that means that we have to believe that every place is an opportunity for the exercise of power to shape the destiny of our communities." – Sherrilyn Ifill

November 6, 2025 7:30 pm | Campbell Hall | UCSB Students Free | Gen. Public \$20. For Ticket Purchase and Additional Details Visit [A&L tickets](#)

NOVEMBER RECOGNITIONS

Click each event below to learn more!

[Native American Heritage Month](#)

[National Scholarship Month](#)

[Veterans Day - November 11th](#)

[National Black Marketers Day - November 16th](#)

[Restorative Justice Week - November 16th-22nd](#)

[National Black Catholic History Month](#)

[Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20th](#)

[Thanksgiving - November 27th](#)

