

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR

As we close out 2025, the Center for Black Studies Research extends its gratitude to our community of faculty, students, staff, and partners whose continued support and engagement have made this a remarkable year of scholarship, collaboration, and diasporic exchange.



A Special Visit from Chancellor Assanis

This month, we were honored to welcome Chancellor Dennis Assanis to the Center. His visit reflects the growing visibility and impact of Black Studies research at UC Santa Barbara. We are grateful for the time he dedicated to learning more about our mission, programs, and the innovative work being carried out by our affiliates. His presence affirms the importance of our efforts to cultivate spaces that center Black thought, creativity, and global inquiry.

The Success of the Afro Diasporic Voices Symposium

This November, the Center proudly hosted the Afro Diasporic Voices Symposium, a well-attended gathering that brought together scholars, artists, and community members to explore the multiplicity of Afro descendant identities across the diaspora. The strong participation reflected the deep interest and engagement of our campus and broader communities.

Under the thoughtful leadership of our symposium Chair, Dr. Jaime Alves, the symposium showcased rigorous scholarship and meaningful conversation. We also extend our appreciation to Dean Charles Hale, who served as the discussant and offered insightful reflections that helped frame the day's themes within broader interdisciplinary and institutional contexts.

We extend our sincere thanks to our Spanish to English interpreters, CIS, Debra Taylor and Clara Rayos whose work ensured that the symposium remained accessible and inclusive for all participants. Their professionalism and linguistic expertise played a vital role in fostering dialogue across languages and enhancing the overall experience for attendees.

We are also deeply grateful to Tracey Goss, Marselina Ortiz, and Karla Partida, whose tireless efforts were essential to the symposium's smooth process and success. Their dedication to logistics, administration, and support helped make this event impactful and seamless for our participants and guests.

Appreciation for Our Advisory Board

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to our CBSR Advisory Board members for their hard work, guidance, and dedication throughout the year. Their contributions, including program development, research mentorship, and strengthening campus partnerships, continue to shape the Center's vision and ensure that our efforts remain impactful, relevant, and community-centered. We deeply appreciate their commitment to advancing the mission of Black Studies at UC Santa Barbara.

Honoring December Holidays

As we enter the holiday season, we acknowledge and celebrate the diverse traditions observed across our communities in December. We extend warm wishes to all who are celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Rajab, and the many cultural and religious observances honored during this time. May this season bring peace, reflection, renewal, and connection to all who celebrate these meaningful traditions.

A Brief Year in Review

This year has been marked by significant achievements at the Center for Black Studies Research. We hosted dynamic symposia and workshops, welcomed new collaborators, strengthened interdisciplinary partnerships, and expanded our support for research focused on Black life locally, nationally, and across the diaspora. Our community of scholars, students, and staff continues to demonstrate excellence, creativity, and commitment to advancing conversations in Black Studies. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Looking Forward

As we transition into the new year, the Center for Black Studies Research remains committed to supporting transformative scholarship and fostering cross campus collaborations. We have an exciting lineup of events, workshops, and speaker series planned for 2026, which we look forward to sharing with you soon.

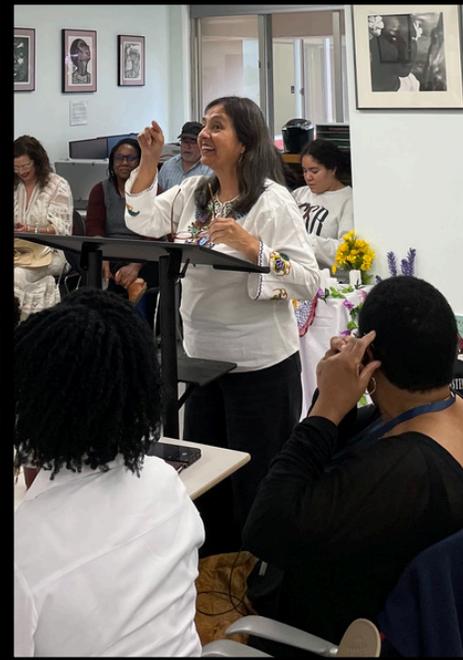
Thank you for being part of our community and for supporting the work that continues to shape the field of Black Studies research at UC Santa Barbara and beyond. We wish you a restorative winter break and a powerful start to the new year.

Warm regards,

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



AFRO DIASPORIC VOICES SYMPOSIUM



UPDATE FROM POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR BRANDE OTIS

Research Office Hours



Brought by the
Center for Black
Studies Research



Dr. Brande M. Otis

Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Black Studies Research

Dr. Otis is a qualitative methodologist, ethnographer, and scholar of Black studies in education. She has over a decade's worth of social science research experience with Black communities and is fiercely committed to breaking down barriers to social research in the academy

Drop in office hours available to undergraduate students looking to learn more about social science or qualitative research. No previous experience required, feel free to come to learn more about research opportunities available and how to get started!

Fall Quarter Dates: Mondays and
Wednesdays
Time: 1pm - 3pm
Location: South Hall, 4502

Stop By!

- Ask questions about research in a safe, trusted environment
- Get connected to potential research opportunities
- Talk through personal work or writing
- Get feedback or advice on ideas

Contact

brande@ucsb.edu 
<https://cbsr.ucsb.edu/> 

Dr. Brande M. Otis is currently working on two projects: examining discourses of Black childhood in digital spaces; and examining Black geographies of freedom and educational justice across three American cities. She is also hosting research office hours for the Fall Quarter, to support undergraduates interested in getting started with research.

UPDATES FROM MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICER TRACEY GOSS



Mission accomplished! Our CASU administrative team successfully met our objectives for the Afro Diasporic Voices Symposium, and we were deeply honored to assist in hosting our gracious, informative, and powerful guest travelers and speakers from Peru, Brazil, and Colombia. We were privileged to facilitate their travel, lodging, presentations, and secure expert interpretative services for the English speakers in our audience. Thank you, Marcy Ortiz and Karla Partida Torres, for your quality work and attention to details that are rarely noticed unless they are attended to with excellence.

In December, our team is focusing on continuous improvement, with each member leading a process enhancement project in their area of specialization. We are committed to these efforts, as they will allow us to better and more effectively support the critical work being done by the CBSR.

A huge shout-out to our CASU Student Assistants, Erin Tsow and Alexandria Doubravsky, who are graduating much earlier than anticipated! We will miss you both and extend our warmest wishes as you embark on the next exciting chapter of your journey.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS' EVENTS

Unyielding Voices: Global Resistance and the Black Radical Tradition



UC Santa Barbara Library invites you to the [Unyielding Voices: Global Resistance and the Black Radical Tradition Exhibit](#). This exhibition documents the life's work of the late Cedric J. Robinson and his widow Elizabeth Peters Robinson, whose seminal scholarship and activism had wide-ranging influence at UCSB, in academia, and across many public arenas.

Featuring materials from the [Cedric J. Robinson and Elizabeth P. Robinson Archive](#) and other special collections, the exhibition reflects on the archive as a living space for dialogue, resistance, and the re-imagining of institutional responsibility, while exploring the power of archives to preserve, reinterpret, and amplify movements of resistance across the globe. By foregrounding voices historically silenced or marginalized, Unyielding Voices challenges patterns of inequity and envisions new possibilities for archival practice, community engagement, and collective memory.

The Exhibit is ongoing now through June 12, 2026, 9:00-4:00

DECEMBER RECOGNITIONS

Click each event below to learn more!

[Universal Health Coverage Day -](#)

[12/12/25](#)

[Hanukkah -](#)

[12/14/25-12/22/25](#)

[International Migrants Day -](#)

[12/18/25](#)

[International Human
Solidarity Day - 12/20/25](#)

[Christmas - 12/25/25](#)

[First Day of Winter Solstice -
12/21/25](#)

[Rajab - Sundown
12/22/2025 - 1/19/3036](#)

[Kwanzaa - 12/26/25-1/1/26](#)

