



CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Know the past, shape the future

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

cbsr.ucsb.edu

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear CBSR Community,



This Black History Month, the Center for Black Studies Research invites you to reflect on the enduring power of Black life, scholarship, and possibility, particularly as higher education navigates significant financial and structural challenges.

Black history has been forged in times of both constraint and abundance. Across centuries, Black people have envisioned freedom where it was forbidden, built institutions from nothing, and profoundly shaped humanity's moral, intellectual, and cultural landscape. This legacy reminds us that even in uncertainty, reflection is an act of resistance and renewal.

We honor historic figures such as Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. Du Bois, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Toni Morrison, and Nelson Mandela, whose courage, intellect, and vision transformed the world. We also recognize contemporary leaders like Michelle Obama, Bryan Stevenson, Dr. Cornel West, Amanda Gorman, and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, whose work continues to advance justice, equity, and human dignity.

A few administrative updates:

Our Financial Analyst, Tracey Goss, is currently on FMLA leave. During this time, Raphaella Nau, Office of Research, will provide temporary support in this role. We're grateful for her service and appreciate your understanding.

We are pleased to share that our Postdoctoral Scholars, Brande Otis and Bladimir Carabali, will present their research during the Spring 2026 quarter. We look forward to these presentations and to continued scholarly engagement with our community.

Due to current budget constraints, CBSR will not host programming during Black History Month this year. While we regret this limitation, our commitment to Black Studies scholarship and community engagement remains steadfast. We see this moment as an opportunity to reflect, recalibrate, and prepare for future initiatives.

Even without formal programming, Black History Month calls us to read deeply, teach thoughtfully, mentor intentionally, and honor Black contributions past and present. We encourage you to engage with the rich literature and history that celebrate Black experiences.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to the Office of Research at UCSB for their continued support.

Thank you for your resilience and belief in this work. Black history teaches us how to endure, imagine, and build a new, and we look ahead with hope and determination.

With gratitude and resolve,
Sharon Tettegah, Director
Center for Black Studies Research

POSTDOC FELLOW, BLADIMIR HINESTROZA



I recently arrived in the city of Santa Barbara on January 5. Like many migrants, my first weeks have been focused on finding housing, getting to know the city, and becoming familiar with the university environment. I have completed all the administrative processes required by the university for new employees and international scholars. While these procedures can be demanding, they have also been an important part of my integration into this new academic setting.

At the same time, I am currently preparing a research paper titled “Aging in ‘Black Cities’: Accumulated Disadvantages and Structural Racism among the Afro-descendant Population of Colombia’s Pacific Region.” This paper has been accepted for presentation at the XII Congress of the Latin American Population Association (ALAP), which will take place in San José, Costa Rica, from August 24 to 28, 2026. The congress will address key themes such as demography, the digital revolution, the democratization of information, and dialogue in the Americas. It offers an important space for academic and policy-oriented exchange, particularly on population issues affecting Afro-descendant communities, Indigenous peoples, and other historically marginalized groups.

I am pleased that my work has been accepted, allowing me to be part of these academic conversations and to continue developing this research while beginning this new stage in Santa Barbara.

POSTDOC FELLOW, BRANDE OTIS

Brande is currently writing two manuscripts:

One explores Black resistance, local education policy, and educational reparations through a case study of Evanston, Illinois. The other analyzes how geographies of Los Angeles shape Black youth’s visions of their future possibilities.



In addition, Brande is collaborating with Center affiliate and supervisor, AJ Rice on his forthcoming book on school takeovers. She is currently examining congressional hearings to identify the actors, ideologies, and racialized logics that shape the creation of state takeover policy.

Alongside their research agenda, Brande is committed to mentorship and is working closely with an undergraduate student to support the development of an independent research project.

FROM OUR STUDENT ASSISTANT



Ian has been continuing to update the website with new posts on the website to recognize CBSR's postdoctoral scholars, which can now be found under their chosen research project initiatives: Race and the Politics of Space.

Through this month, I'll be working to refurbish CBSR's affiliate pages and reflect any updates to their work or changes to their biography.

In my free time, I've also been trying a lot of new recipes and taking the time to enjoy cooking, the good weather of Santa Barbara, and my final quarters at UCSB.

FEBRUARY RECOGNITIONS

Click each event below to learn more!

[World Cancer Day 02/04](#)

[International Day of Women & Girls
in Science 02/11](#)

[President's Day 02/16](#)

[Lunar New Year 02/17](#)

[World Day of Social Justice
02/20](#)

[International Mother
Language Day 02/21](#)

Know Thyself

