



CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear CBSR Community,



Happy New Year and welcome to January 2026. As we begin a new year, I would like to extend my sincere wishes for health, reflection, and renewed purpose. January offers us an important opportunity to pause, honor legacy, and recommit ourselves to the work of scholarship, justice, and community engagement that defines the Center for Black Studies Research.

In honor and recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his enduring impact on the current state of affairs within the United States of America, CBSR is presenting a historic video interview featuring Dr. King. This interview offers profound insight into his moral vision, political analysis, and unwavering commitment to justice—insights that remain deeply relevant today.

 Martin Luther King Jr. Video Interview (YouTube):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wsgpICVwFg

We invite our community to view and reflect on this interview as part of our ongoing engagement with Dr. King's intellectual and activist legacy, particularly as we navigate contemporary social, political, and ethical challenges.

I am also pleased to share that we are excited to welcome Bladimir Carabali Hinestroza to the Center for Black Studies Research. We are delighted to have him join the CBSR community and look forward to the perspectives, scholarship, and contributions he will bring to our collective work.

In addition, I would like to note that Raphaella Nau is temporarily supporting the Center while Tracey Goss is on FMLA. We appreciate Raphaella's assistance during this transition period and thank Tracey for her many contributions to CBSR.

January Days of Recognition

As we move through January, we also acknowledge and honor the significant recognitions and holidays observed this month, including:

- New Year's Day (January 1) – A time for reflection and renewal
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Honoring the life, legacy, and vision of Dr. King
- National Religious Freedom Day (January 16) – Affirming the importance of freedom of belief and conscience
- International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27) – Honoring the victims and reaffirming our commitment to justice, memory, and human dignity

Closing

Thank you for your continued engagement with CBSR and for the important work you do in research, teaching, and service. We look forward to another year of meaningful scholarship, dialogue, and collaboration.

With best wishes for a productive and inspiring year ahead,
Dr. Sharon Tettegah
Director
Center for Black Studies Research

CBSR WELCOMES BLADIMIR CARABALI HINESTROZA POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR



Please join us in warmly welcoming Dr. Bladimir Carabali Hinestroza, who began his appointment as a Postdoctoral Scholar at UCSB's Center for Black Studies Research (CBSR) on January 8th.

Bladimir Carabali Hinestroza's work focuses on the study of inequalities affecting Afro-Colombian communities. His research examines the demographic impacts of the armed conflict, with particular attention to mortality patterns among Black populations on Colombia's Pacific Coast, a region shaped by long-standing social exclusion and state neglect.

His academic trajectory centers on analyzing ethnic-racial structures of inequality in relation to mortality, fertility, migration, access to health care, educational attainment, and labor market outcomes.

UPDATE FROM POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR BRANDE OTIS



Brande Otis is advancing multiple lines of research.

She and AJ Rice, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Center for Black Studies Research Affiliate, have written a project for a Spencer Small Grant entitled, "The Politics of Takeovers: School Closures, State Takeover, and Black Resistance in Inglewood, CA."

This project examines the links between gentrification, Black dispossession, and education policy in Inglewood, CA, paying close attention to how school closures and state takeover policies are correlated, and how Black Inglewood makes sense of and responds to the local educational landscape.

She is continuing independent research and writing in Black childhood(s) and Black geographies of freedom and educational justice.

UPDATES FROM MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Our Management Services Officer, Tracey Goss, is currently on emergency leave. During this time, Raphaëlla Nau from the Office of Research will be stepping in to provide administrative coverage and support, focusing on continuity and staying current on unit operations. The CASU Team will continue to provide their stellar support during this time

FROM OUR STUDENT ASSISTANT



Our student assistant, Ian Rodriguez, has been working behind the scenes to help the team keep our website up to date. Filling in for Tracey by writing this month's newsletter, he greets the CBSR community with well wishes for our readers' start to the new year.

Ian studies biology at UCSB's College of Creative Studies, is a recipient of the National Institutes of Health *Maximizing Access to Research Careers* scholarship, and plans to graduate this June. His work helps us share events and news with our community as he learns from the talent at the Center for Black Studies Research

JANUARY RECOGNITIONS

Click each event below to learn more!

[New Year's Day, 01/01/2026](#)

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day,
01/19/2026](#)

[National Religious Freedom Day,
01/16/2026](#)

[International Holocaust
Remembrance Day, 01/27/2026](#)

MLK
MARTIN LUTHER KING
DAY

REMEMBERING
THE LEGACY OF
DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR.