



# CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH



HAPPY

# MOTHER'S DAY

MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026  
[cbsr.ucsb.edu](http://cbsr.ucsb.edu)

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear CBSR Community,

I hope this message finds you well as we move through the heart of the spring quarter. It is hard to believe that we are already at the midpoint, with the promise of summer just ahead. This time of the year often brings both reflection and renewed energy, and at the Center for Black Studies Research, we continue to build on that momentum.



I am pleased to share that on May 3, 2026, I had the opportunity to present at the Western Psychological Association Conference. My talk, *Why Machines Cannot Cry and Why It Matters*, explored the distinctions between human emotional experience and artificial intelligence, and the broader implications for how we design, engage with, and understand emerging technologies. The conversations that followed were both thoughtful and energizing, reinforcing the importance of interdisciplinary dialogue in this space.

Looking ahead, I will be presenting at the IEEE AIoT Conference from May 20–22, where I will introduce a new AI framework that brings together insights from psychology, engineering, and ethical design. This work reflects our continued commitment at CBSR to shaping conversations about technology in ways that center humanity, equity, and learning.

We are also proud to highlight an upcoming talk by our postdoctoral scholar, Dr. Brande Otis, who will present “A School Within a School: Spatial Claims to Black Futurity in Education” on May 12 at 12:00 p.m. in South Hall 4603. Dr. Otis’s work examines how Black communities engage educational spaces in pursuit of justice, autonomy, and future-making, and we look forward to what promises to be a rich and engaging discussion.

I am also delighted to share important scholarly updates from our community. Our edited book, *African American Pedagogies of Persistence: Educational Traditions from Desegregation to the Present*, based on the CBSR symposium on African American Pedagogies, is under contract Routledge for publication later this year (2026). In addition, my forthcoming book, *Human Affect, Ethics, and the BEETS Framework*, is now under contract with Elsevier and expected to release in 2027. These milestones reflect the depth and impact of the research and intellectual collaborations taking place within our center.

As we continue through the quarter, I encourage all of us to remain engaged, supportive of one another, and attentive to the meaningful work happening across our community. The transition into summer will offer new opportunities for research, collaboration, and restoration.

Thank you for your continued dedication and partnership.

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

## UPCOMING CBSR EVENTS



**May 12, 12pm: “A School Within a School”**  
**Spatial Claims to Black Futurity in Education, by Dr. Brande Otis**  
CBSR, South Hall 4603

Please join us the second Tuesday of May for Brande’s talk on strategies used by Black communities for achieving educational justice and autonomy, based on research on Evanston IL. For more information, please visit this link: [Click Here to learn more](#)

**June 2, 12pm: From Social Justice to Sentient Systems:**  
**Technology, Emotion, and the Arc of Human-Centered Research**  
by Dr. Sharon Tettegah, CBSR Director



In this talk, Dr. Sharon Tettegah traces the intellectual and professional arc of her transdisciplinary scholarship, spanning social justice and multicultural education to educational psychology, technology, emotion, STEM learning environments, institutional memory, and responsible artificial intelligence. Framed as a scholarly historiography, the talk examines how questions of equity, empathy, identity, belonging, persistence, and human response have shaped her research across decades. Tettegah situates animated narrative vignettes, virtual environments, the Emotions and Technology book series, SEEDS, LIVE/LIVES, and her collaborations on historical redress and faculty persistence as part of a larger human-centered research trajectory. The talk culminates in the BEETS framework, Bias, Equity, Ethics, Trust, and Security, which positions emotions as the substrate through which technical systems are experienced, evaluated, and governed. Rather than representing a sudden turn to artificial intelligence, BEETS makes visible the enduring human layer at the center of Tettegah’s work. As a collaborator and colleague Dr. Terrance Wooten, guest speaker, will discuss the scholarly collaborations between he and Dr. Tettegah.

## FROM OUR STUDENT ASSISTANT



Ian's work continues to assist CBSR in publicizing its events, highlights from CBSR scholars, and supporting the reach through the monthly newsletters. He is excited to help Brande put together the flier for her event next Tuesday, and it post around campus.

## MAY OBSERVANCES

Click each event below to learn more!

[Loyalty Day May 1](#)

[Star Wars Day May 4](#)

Also May 1: May Day, International Worker's Day, Law Day

[Cartoonist Day May 5](#)

[Military Spouse Appreciation Day May 8](#)

[Mother's Day May 10](#)

[Armed Forces Day May 16](#)

[Emergency Medical Services Week May 17-23](#)

[World Bee Day May 20](#)

[Memorial Day May 25](#)

