

AJAAS Conference Program

Los Angeles, California

February 15-18, 2024

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

“Jotería Pleasure: Re-Grounding Our Desires”

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Location: California State University, Los Angeles: 5151 State University Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90032

4:30PM – 6:00PM

Opening Reception

Student Union Los Angeles ABC, Room 308 ABC

6:15PM – 8:00PM

Film Screening of UNIDAD and Conversation with
Filmmaker

Student Union Theater, Room 106

Panelists:

- *Gregory Davila, Film Producer/Director/Editor*
- *Roland Palencia, Film Executive Producer*
- *Mario Navoa, Film Producer*
- *Lydia Otero, Author and Panelist*

Friday, February 16th, 2024

Location: California State University, Los Angeles: 5151 State University Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90032

8:30AM – 4:00PM

Registration and Check-In

**Student Union Theater, Room 106 (AM) & Los Angeles
ABC, Room 308 ABC (PM)**

- 9:00AM – 10:00AM **Breakfast**
Student Union, Boardroom North
*Sponsored by the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities,
Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and
Development, Higher Education Program*
Body Movement with Mariposx Healing
SU-Alhambra, Room 305
- 10:00AM – 10:30AM **Welcome and Opening by National Board Co-Chairs**
*Joanna Nuñez, PhD, California State University,
Sacramento*
*Roberto C. Orozco, PhD, University of Minnesota–Twin
Cities*
Student Union Theater, Room 106
- 10:45AM – 12:15PM **Concurrent Session #1**
- 12:30PM – 2:00PM **Lunch & Palestine Platica (will be provided)**
Golden Eagle Building, Ballroom 2 & 3
- 2:15PM – 3:45PM **Concurrent Session #2**
- 4:00PM – 5:30PM **Concurrent Session #3**
- 6:00PM - 9:00PM **Dinner (will be provided) and Noche de Jotería**
**Los Angeles Room ABC & Student Union Theater,
Room 106**

CONCURRENT SESSION #1

10:45AM – 12:15PM

1.1 Creative Panel: “Mujeres de Maíz en Movimiento: Spiritual ARTivism, Healing Justice, and Feminist Praxis” **Student Union Theater, Room 106**

Presenters:

- *Nadia Zepeda, Mujeres de Maiz & Assistant Professor, California State University, Fullerton (Discussant/Chair)*
- *Felicia Montes mujrmyz@yahoo.com Director, Mujeres de Maiz & Assistant Professor, California State University, Long Beach*
- *Amber Rose González agonzalez@fullcoll.edu Organizer, Mujeres de Maiz & Professor, Fullerton College*
- *Claudia Mercado 4claudiamedorado@gmail.com Filmmaker & Co-Founder, Mujeres de Maiz & Lecturer, California State University, Los Angeles*
- *Maribel Martinez maribel.martinez@sjsu.edu Community Artist & Manager, County of Santa Clara, Division of Equity and Social Justice & Lecturer, San José State University*
- *D'Lo, Artist*
- *Maya Chinchilla, Writer and Poet*
- *Susy Zepeda, Associate Professor, University of California, Davis*

Mujeres de Maiz (Mdm) is an Indigenous Xicana-led spiritual activist organization by and for women and feminists of color. Organizers curated an anthology chronicling Mdm's 25-year herstory, published in spring 2024 by the University of Arizona Press. For this creative panel presentation, we honor the queer/jotería voices in the organization and those who write from this lens. Anthology editors will introduce the book and contributors will share insights about their participation in the organization and the pieces they have in the collection.

1.2 Combined Roundtable and Paper Panel: “Where is the “T” in Queer Aztlán and Jotería Decolonial Communication” **SU-Alhambra, Room 305**

“Trans People Also Have Flesh. Where is the “T” in Queer Aztlán? Deconstructing Cherrie Moraga’s perspective on trans people. Jotería as an alternative beyond binary thinking”

Presenters:

- Évolet Aceves, University of New Mexico
- Dante Olivas, University of New Mexico

Through this roundtable, we attempt to deconstruct Cherrie Moraga’s conception on trans people, as Moraga utilizes indigeneity as a tool to justify her lesbianism, but not transness. She doesn’t recognize that non-binary-and-trans identities already existed before colonization. Theory of the Flesh, a theory utilized by her, seems not to apply for trans individuals. Nevertheless, trans people also have a flesh, we have a story to tell based on our flesh, on our own (hi)story.

“Yaaaaaaaasss Jota! Decolonial Communication and The Pleasure of Jotería Self-Talk”

Presenter: Omi Salas-SantaCruz, Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality, Penn State University

This paper examines the intricate nuances of self-talk, especially as they relate to Jotería communities. It delves into the pleasure and empowerment derived from “talking your shit” while being rooted in one’s identity. Simultaneously, it critically addresses how negative self-talk has its roots in the colonial past, manifesting historical influences and legacies that shape self-perception.

1.3 Paper Panel: “A Poner el Ambiente: Pathways and Sites of Pleasures” SU-San Gabriel, Room 313

“Vulgarizing the Tongue: Tatiana de La Tierra, the Pornographic Archive, and the Detours of Latina Sexual Poetics”

Presenter: Yesica Garcia Hernandez

In this paper, I explore the writing of Tatiana de La Tierra, a lesbian Colombian writer who was unapologetic about her sexuality, sexual expression, and corpulent body. For de la Tierra, pleasure is a feeling, pleasure is fucking, pleasure is lust, and pleasure is liberty, and pleasure is the pursuit of puta power. Inspired by her theorizations of pleasure, I argue that de La Tierra provides us a

Latina sex positive framework that vulgarizes the tongue, not just a tool that breaks away silence – as it is typically used within Chicana feminisms – but as an organ that gives you direct access to sexual imaginations and desires. Through a close reading of her poetry, plays, and essays, I show that de la Tierra's theoretical framework of phenomenology, the tongue, and desire for fat embodiment allows us to make sense of Latinas in the pornographic archive, particularly examining lesbian representation and fat sexuality.

“Pleasure as Liberation: Cuir Haitijana”

Presenter: Katherine Steelman, Adjunct Professor, UCSD, Ethnic Studies

This paper examines the shifting landscape of Tijuana's queer bar scene in Tijuana and how Haitian asylum seekers living in Tijuana have become a part of the city's cuir nightlife. While representations of Haitian migrants often focus on pain and trauma, this paper explores what can be gained by locating pleasure as a site of resistance and world-making for cuir Haitians living in the borderlands. I argue that representations of Tijuana and Haiti in Mexican and US media have perpetuated stereotypes of both places as sites of abject poverty and uncontrollable gang violence. Focusing on pleasure, rather than pain, I explore how the presence of Haitian asylum seekers in Tijuana's queer scene resists these representations and highlights the pleasure and sexual liberation of Haitjuanenses.

“En El Eden del Puerto de Vallarta: Reading Juan Gabriel's 'La Guirnalda' as Narration to Homotourism”

Presenter: Omar Padilla, UCSD, Associate Directors for Academic Initiatives - Raza Resource Centro SDSU, Adjunct Professor - Chicana/Chicano Studies

In this paper, I examine Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, as a site of homo-tourism through the examples of the pop ballad “La Guirnalda,” written by Alberto Aguilera Valadez (given name of artist Juan Gabriel). The ballad was popularized by his muse, Rocio Durcal, in her 1986 album, Siempre. In this paper, I show how Juan Gabriel queered the song through a narration of a love-struck encounter between a visitor to Puerto Vallarta and a local “hombre guapo” de “ojos verdes claros.” Reading Rocio Durcal's interpretation as a stand-in for both Juan Gabriel's queer sexual experience and through her whiteness, contemporary white-gay tourists. Further, the double-coded lyrics reveal current

descriptions of Puerto Vallarta as a destination for gay tourism. I contrast a reading *jotería* (Madrid, 2018) into Juan Gabriel's "La Guirnalda" as an identification with Latinx same-sex desire with the hyper-sexualization and objectification of brown bodies in the contemporary white gay tourist economy of Puerto Vallarta to interrogate the power-dynamics of race, nations, and capital.

1.4 Presentation Panel: "Jotería Pleasures: The Eroticism of Intersectional Identities" SU-Pasadena, Room 307

"Pleasures in Queer Geek Culture"

Presenter: *Gibran Guido, Doctoral Candidate, University of California, San Diego*

During the period of the COVID-panic and the aim for self-isolation there has been a rise in the representation of and/or public display of pleasure of what was commonly or typically seen as "geeky." Geek culture can be seen as a refuge, space, intermediary identity, and practice where one is able to embrace and explore their queerness. Queer geek culture allows for new directions of rethinking how we may engage in dialogues of *Jotería* Scholarship and how we may embrace new identities.

"Eroticism of POZ Identity"

Presenter: *Omar Gonzalez*

Given the conference's erasure of the AIDS epidemic, Chicano/Latino men MSM represent the second largest (after Black) demographic of MSM especially amongst youth. Having taught queer studies for several years, the lack of basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS is astonishing and frightening. For older Gay men, the historical memory of the first 15 years of the AIDS epidemic still resounds as we flocked to the clinics to receive the monkeypox vaccine. Had there been a general knowledge base of the history of HIV/AIDS, perhaps the COVID panic would have been less impactful now coming upon our fourth year. Now in its 5th decade, with promises of a "cure" still being touted, the at-large HIV-negative community continues to replicate the stigma first seen in the early years of the epidemic, enter "bug-chasers," "gift-givers," and "stealth pozzers"

Presenter: *Xuan Carlos Espinoza-Cuellar*

Spirituality and expression allow for unifying identity and new ways of thinking and knowing. Non-Christian forms of identity allow for Queer ways of being when institutional forces impede. The discussion of HIV/AIDS and differences are crucial when discussing Jotería scholarship when reflecting on past struggles and new ones.

1.5 Creative Panel: “Central American Artists and Queer Joy at Self Help Graphics and Art” SU-Montebello, Room 309

Presenters:

- *Alex Donis*
- *Dalila Paola Mendez*
- *Gloria Westcott*
- *Leda Ramos*

This panel explores the legacy of “Queer Central American Artists and Joy” at the historic community arts space, Self Help Graphics and Art, in Los Angeles, through the lens of Queer and non-binary artists Alex Donis, Dalila Paola Mendez, Gloria Westcott, and Leda Ramos. All four artists have a long legacy of printmaking and/or Queer Latinx art, community building, joyous camaraderie, and inclusion of Joteria and Mujerista spaces at Self Help Graphics. The purpose of the panel is to re-ground, re-acknowledge, connect historical legacies and to look to future queer artistic and scholarly disruptions, coalition building, and new co-conspirator alliances.

1.6 Creative Panel: “Healing Jotería: Grounding Spiritual Perspectives, Experiences, and Practices” University Library, Room A119

Presenters:

- *Moderator: Xamuel Banales, Associate professor, CSU Stanislaus*
- *Jennie Luna, Associate professor Chicana/o Studies, CSU Channel Islands*
- *Tomme Payan McMakin, ASSET Scholars Program Coordinator, CSU Channel Islands*
- *Victor Rafael Amezcua Aguilar, After School Program Coordinator, Oxnard School District*
- *Berenice Dimas, Herbalist, Writer, and Birthworker, Hood Herbalism*

Through testimonios and intellectual inquiry, this panel shares spiritual/ceremonial ways for healing, which includes: examining the role of two-spirit/queer Mexica danzantes; incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing through personal challenges and educational settings; positively impacting young folks through mental health education; and supporting people in (re)connecting with plants, the land, and their own ancestral traditions. This panel provides insights to enact healing change that is grounded in spirituality, pleasure, and joy.

Sessions resume after Lunch and Palestine Plática

12:30PM – 2:00PM

Golden Eagle Building, Ballroom 2 & 3

CONCURRENT SESSION #2

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM

2.1 Combined Presentation and Performance Panel: “Harmonizing Pleasures: Jotería Performance and Sounds” SU Theater, Room 106

“Uh Baby No Puedo Esconderlo: LGBTQA+ Stories in Regional Mexican Music”

Presenter: *Lucero Salda, Adjunct Professor, San Antonio College*

The Regional Mexican genre has long been controlled by its origins and also has been plagued by homophobia as machismo poses a barrier in the lives of its listeners. In this session, we will explore how LGBTQA+ artists and allies are dismantling traditional gender stereotypes and binaries in this genre.

“Locating A Mariposa Nation: Fan Culture and Jenni Rivera”

Presenter: *Maria Chi-Chable (she/ella), Department of Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley*

In “Locating A Mariposa Nation: Fan Culture and Jenni Rivera,” Maria Chi-Chable locates Jenni Rivera’s mariposa iconography and situates the Jenni drag queen community within a space of liberation, pleasure, and radical movimiento. Using Daniel E. Pérez’s “mariposa consciousness” theory, Maria

explores their allegiance to the mariposa figure and insists that “becoming” a mariposa is unlike any other identificatory practice. To aid her presentation, Maria will look at visual productions uploaded by Jenni drag queens—Facebook videos/lives of their performances and several related advertisements of their work. By looking at these visual productions together, Maria hopes to imagine how Jenni drag queens create a type of “Jenni Mariposa Nation,” a model for a micro queer counter-public that activates pleasure, movement, and legibility.

“Entre Puñal y Rosas: Trans Touch & the Mexican Nation”*

Presenter: José Eduardo Valdivia Heredia (they/elle/ellx), Department of Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley

In “Entre Puñal y Rosas: Trans* Touch & the Mexican Nation,” José engages with the work of queer/trans* Mexican performance artists Lechedevirgen and La Novia Sirena. By engaging the artists as performer-theoreticians working outside of the formal academy/museum, Valdivia Heredia illuminates their critiques of an increasingly homonationalist state through “PUÑAL” and “radical tenderness.” Drawing from insights in performance studies and queer studies, José explores performance series involving the artists’ trans* bodies. Staging queer intimacy, desire, and touch as performative interventions, Lechedevirgen and La Novia Sirena articulate radical critiques of power. Through the work of these queer Mexican artists desire, eros, intimacy, and pleasure are advanced as sites for both dissidence and healing from violence in our everyday lives.

“How do Chicana Feminist archetypes represent themselves in Pop Culture?”

Presenter: Frankie Flores, Director, University of New Mexico LGBTQ Resource Center

This presentation will show how Chicana Feminist Archetypes; La Virgen, La Malinche, y La Llorona, permeate Chicane pop culture. Utilizing a “zine format”, I will discuss how these archetypes hurt and reify Chicane Pop icons.

2.2 Roundtable Panel: “Otro Mundo es Posible in Florida: Chisme, Strategies, and Stories of Love from the University of Florida” **SU-Alhambra, Room 305**

Presenters:

- *Rafael Ramirez Solorzano, Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Moderator*
- *Jane Perez, Graduate Student, University of Florida*
- *Ceci Luna, Graduate Student, University of Florida*
- *Taina Trejo-Mendez, Graduate Student, University of Florida*
- *Sarah Dominguez, Graduate Student, University of Florida*
- *Mahir Rahman, Undergraduate Student, University of Florida*

This roundtable talk will center testimonios on behalf of students who currently attend the University of Florida. This discussion will highlight student's community building practices at UF during Governor DeSantis administration, who has dismantled critical race theory classes and departments of gender and sexuality.

2.3 Combined Presentation Panel: “Jotería Convivencia & Performativity within Higher Education Spaces” SU-San Gabriel, Room 313

“Cultivating queer mentorship through Convivencia: Finding pleasure in traditionally heterosexual spaces”

Presenters:

- *Alejandro Mendiaz-Rivera, Program Director, El Puente Research Fellowship, The University of New Mexico – El Centro de la Raza*
- *Daniel Torres-Chaparro, Senior Student Success Specialist, The University of New Mexico – El Centro de la Raza*

The presenters will illuminate the importance of queer representation in Latine Cultural Centers through their lived experience as students and staff members at the University of New Mexico's El Centro de la Raza. El Centro's vision is cultivating positive change through education and culture and centers many of its practices in Convivencia (Castillo et al. 2023). This presentation will explore best practices in creating safe spaces and developing queer mentorship in Higher Education.

“Examining the Intersections of Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality among Queer, Latine Males”

Presenter: *Jeffrey Acevedo, M.A., 2nd Year PhD Student in Higher Education Administration and Policy, University of California, Riverside*

This proposal seeks to understand the social unit of queer, Latine males attending post-secondary institutions and the phenomenon of how such a population comes to find their sense of belonging. This doubly minoritized group grapples with the simultaneous forms of privilege and oppression along the axes of gender, race/ethnicity, and sexuality. The research questions this proposal seeks to interrogate are: 1) How do queer, Latine males navigate higher education?, 2) How do queer, Latine males experience a sense of belonging within their respective educational institutions?, and 3) In what ways do queer, Latine males make sense of their sexual identities within affinity spaces?

“Mapping HSIs/higher education institutions through Queer Brown Femme Experiences”

Presenters:

- *Erica Zamora, PhD Student, Center for the Study of Higher Education*
- *Naty Rico, MA Student, Center for the Study of Higher Education*

This workshop centers storytelling/platica and art making by initiating and interrupting intersectional forms of oppression in HSIs. The desire of centering joy and pleasure will involve critical reflexivity by presenter(s) and participants through critical discussion questions and reimagining spaces/places for our future selves through art making.

“Queer Coalition and Camaraderie: A Plática Between Chicanx-Central American Coleamigxs

Presenter: *Julio Henriquez, California State University Los Angeles*

This panel brings together a Chicana Lesbian and a straight, cisgender Salvadoran man to discuss how an unexpected friendship rooted in camaraderie and connection emerged between them in the ethnic studies classroom. We discuss how a jotería praxis, grounded in familia, opened up space for two seemingly different colleagues to establish confianza, and embrace the radical and liberatory possibilities in which allyship and healing transpire.

2.4 Combined Paper and Presentation Panel: “Embodied Jotería: Navigating Pleasure, Identity, and Resistance in Queer Aesthetics” SU-Pasadena, Room 307

“Big Fat Brown Pleasures: The Queer Aesthetics of Fat Vanity”

Presenter: *Eliza Rodriguez, Loyola Marymount University*

This paper maps a queer brown aesthetics of fat vanity that functions as praxis, namely as a form of self-sustaining and embodied pleasure located in the nonviolent and closed circuits of affect and visuality, of “blocking the extractive view,” and of settling into place in the fat, brown, and queer bodymind itself.

“My Body is Calling For Me”

Presenter: *Anabell Rangel, California State University, Los Angeles*

In our capitalist society we overwork our mind, body, and soul. We neglect and forget that prioritizing ourselves is important to our overall well-being. It is our duty to listen and act on our needs and we do this by providing a safe space and adequate time for self-care.

“Dolores Putas”

Presenter: *Marco Antonio Gramacho Cerqueira, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi*

Dr. Marco Cerqueira is telling part of his autohistoria as an art performance act. He is recounting his near-death experience when he was hospitalized with pneumonia and woke up from a coma in a hospital in Spokane (WA). He is sharing his struggle to recover and how he perceived the racialization of his queer/jotería Afro Latine body and losing agency in the process, only to reemerge and come back from a Coatlicue state.

“Sucio Smells: Engaging with the Erotics of Scent as Resistance”

Presenter: *Alfonso Ayala III, San Jose State University*

For many queer Brown folx, sexual desire is shrouded with secrecy from the beginning. Words like “abomination,” “disgusting,” and “dirty” have been used to describe the sexual acts and desires which may bring pleasure to the queer

body. Despite these attempts at keeping queer pleasures silent, there has been resistance among *jotería* scholars. Exploring *jotería* scholarship and desire allows us to reject heteronormativity and move toward liberation.

2.5 Combined Paper and Presentation Panel: “Love Across *Jotería* Narratives: Exploring Identity, Intimacy, and Family” SU-Montebello, Room 309

“Navigating identidad y amor: A Queer Chicano's Journey with a guerro boyfriend”

Presenter: Julián Ángel, Undergraduate University of New Mexico A.J.A.A.S Chapter

This presentation provides a glimpse into the complex narrative of a queer Chicano individual in a relationship with a white-presenting “guerro” boyfriend. This oral presentation will explore the intersection of race, ethnicity, sexuality and identity through a queer relationship. This *platica* will explore the intersection of race, ethnicity, sexuality, and identity within the context of a queer relationship that defies conventional expectations. Further, conversations will delve into the personal experiences and challenges of a queer Chicano relationship as they navigate their unique identities, grappling with questions of cultural heritage, family dynamics, and societal perceptions. The purpose of the presentation is to highlight Chicano queer love story while posing questions for other Queer BIPOC creating art that can be shared to show other queer lovers their stories are valid.

“He Calls Me ‘Boy’: How My First Gay Hookup Solidified My Gender Identity”

Presenter: Dante Olivas, Mellon Coordinator, MA Student, Chicax Studies at the University of New Mexico

While hookups can produce physical pleasure of the flesh, they can also provide euphoric experiences in the self. Transmasculine people on gay hookup apps negotiate gender identity and pleasure in ways that are often overlooked by their cisgender counterparts. This negotiation replicates the ingrained sense of “less than” often described in societal gender norms as defined by cisgender people. In this reflection, I look back on my first gay hookup and its affirming impact.

“The Butch and the Baby Daddy: A Jotería family love story”

Presenter: *Karleen Pendleton Jiménez, Trent University*

The Butch and the Baby Daddy is a 6 minute animated film about a Chicana Butch building up the courage to ask a gay male friend for sperm. The film opens the conversation about jotería family, friendships, love, gender, culture, inheritance, and the beauty and value of jotería lives.

“Straight and Queer: A Journey of Love”

Presenter: *Rusty Barcelo, Ph.D. & Mila Anguluan, Ph.D.*

This presentation will explore finding love - and the borderless facets of pleasure - while crossing the intersectionalities of culture, sexual and gender identities, communications, and spirituality. We will share our journey as a couple by analyzing the complexities and different exciting hues of our “Love Story” as women of color who remain distinct within our cultural identities as a queer Chicana and a straight Filipina. Our intention is to share how one might cross and bridge complex boundaries – culturally, politically, spiritually, and personally while maintaining one’s identity through the power of love.

2.6 Artistic Panel: “Intersecting Trans-Border Latinx Aesthetics, Visual Storytelling, and Plant Daddy Aesthetics” [University Library, Room A119](#)

“Recuerdos Fronterizos: Listening and Visualizing Trans-Border Latinx Aesthetics”

Presenter: *Gabriel Guzman, Northwestern University*

How do queer and trans Latinx communities take up the aesthetic question of home between the U.S-Mexico border? This session will incorporate sound collages, photography, and friendship as method to present an archive of the aesthetic histories of the SD/TJ region; all proponents to visual ethnographic storytelling and an analysis of how people who live at and by the SD/TJ border redeploy the aesthetic to unsettle how we think about borders and home.

“[Mari]anismo: Borderland Queers: The Methodology of Story Telling through Visual Art”

Presenter: *Pico del Hierro-Villa, M.A. in Chicana Studies from UNM*

In this visual essay I provide an insight to my ongoing project “Borderland Queers” through Emma Perez’s and Gloria Anzalduas’ theoretical terms “The Decolonial Imaginary” and “The Coatlicue State/Mestiza Consciousness” to show the reclamation of storytelling through visual arts highlighting Queer and Trans folks from the Borderlands. In this project I utilize digital photography and testimonios in order to focus on positive efforts of Queer and Trans people from El Paso, Las Cruces and Juarez with the aim of providing a method of counter-storytelling. I then pull from a short historical implication of photography that has influenced my methodology, which I call *fotografimoníos*, the act of combining photography and testimonios that holds artistic qualities of ethically documenting communities through empowerment.

“Plant Daddy Aesthetics: Latinx Queer Artists Domme-ing Nature”

Presenter: Alexis Salas, Endowed Assistant Professor of Art, University of Arkansas

What does it mean to top nature? Euro-American landscape painting offers an extensive cis-het patriarchal view. The long connection of brown and queer people with the earth, I argue, enables a vista refiguring those power dynamics. Using a critical gender and race framework, we will collectively comment on Latinx queer art’s connection to BIPOC spirituality, survival amidst settler colonialism, and renewed uses of the Anthropocene.

2.7 Roundtable Panel: “The Pleasures and Intimacies of Jotería Spacemaking Within and Beyond the University” Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, Student Union Room 206

Presenters:

- *Felix Santiago Reyes* (They/Elle), Queer Resource Center of Santa Rosa Junior College
- *X’andri D.G. Bautista* (They/Them/Elles), Chicano Latino Studies Department, Sonoma State University
- *Aria Bonifacio* (She/Her/They/Them), Queer Resource Center of Santa Rosa Junior College
- *Dr. Meagan Solomon* (She/Her), Feminist Studies, Southwestern University
- *Alexandra Salazar* (She/Her), UT Austin, Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

This roundtable focuses on the pleasures of *jotería* spacemaking and the necessity of cultivating spaces to exist within and outside academia. Discussants include undergraduate students from Northern California and graduate students and faculty from central Texas who will share our experiences, struggles, and pleasures of *jotería* spacemaking within our respective geographical and institutional contexts. With ongoing legislation and political dialogues that further alienate queerness, we assert that *jotería* spacemaking is an act of survival.

CONCURRENT SESSION #3

4:00PM – 5:30PM

3.1 Performance Panel: “*Jotería* Indigeneity: Poetry and Performance as Resistance” **SU Theater, Room 106**

“*Becoming* (MAR)”

Presenter: *Maribel Martínez*, Playwright, San Jose State University

When 9-year-old Mariela's performance at a school talent show goes wrong, Mariela wishes not to be different anymore. Transported to the *InBetween*, the land of the ancestors, Mariela meets magical creatures through a ceremonial gender journey. A bilingual story self-acceptance and the powerful indigenous ancestral teachings.

“*Insurgent Kinship: Queer P'urhepecha Poetry and Performance as Resistance*”

Presenter:

- *fabian romero*, Assistant Professor of Comparative Studies and American Indian Studies, Ohio State University
- *Mario Gomez-Zamora*, Ph.D. Candidate in Latin American and Latinx Studies, University of California at Santa Cruz
- *Gabriela Spears-Rico*, Assistant Professor of Chicano and Latino Studies & American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Through poetry, performance and embodied testimonio, this roundtable will intervene in the conversation by centering the voices of queer P'urhepecha activists, artists and academics from the Parakata Sinsun (Butterfly Hummingbird) Working Group. The session will explore how P'urhepecha queerness has been

regulated through colonization and how contemporary queer and feminist P'urhepechas in the diaspora are decolonizing today's conceptualization of P'urhepechecidad. Through various mediums, including poetry, performance, theory and testimonio, the session will feature trans, gay and bisexual P'urhepechas who are collectively critically intervening in the emerging field of transnational P'urhepecha Studies by building among themselves insurgent kinship.

"BuckSkinRaw"

Presenter: *Cuauhtémoc Peranda / Don'té Peaches 007 (they/them), M.F.A., Doctoral Candidate, University of California, Riverside*

This performance is part of an ongoing exploration into what corporealities of Black and Latinx Indigenous people. As a Ballroom Butch Queen, dancing and performance of masculinity shift and changes. Dancing the buck, the earthly symbol of Sacred Rain: Tlaloc, as I was taught growing up, balances and joyfully leaps through binaries. Water is sacred, as both a cleanser and an infuser. Being a "skin," wearing skins, and code-switching drags as a Indigequeer Queen, marks and unmarks my own flesh...leaving my spirit raw and open.

3.2 Art Workshop: "Pintando, Joteando y Mariconadas: Queer Pláticas for Co-Creation" SU-Alhambra, Room 305

Presenters:

- *Ángel D.J. Gonzalez, Assistant Professor, Higher Education Administration and Leadership, California State University, Fresno*
- *Roberto C. Orozco, Postdoctoral Associate, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities*
- *Sergio A. Gonzalez, Assistant Professor, Higher Education, Duquesne University*

In this session we provide an overview of how we as joto scholars have conceptualized queer *pláticas* through five contours: (1) *jotx/a/o* identity and consciousness, (2) space for *querencia* (care), (3) queer *chisme*, (4) *conocimiento* to *joteria* identity consciousness, and (5) *mundo zurdo* as queer futurity. The session will end with an interactive painting session where all participants engage in creating *mundos zurdos* as queer futurity.

3.3 Self-Designed Paper Panel: “Queer Migrations, Queer Desires: Refusing and Re-Orienting National Modes of Belonging” **SU-San Gabriel, Room 313**

“Queerness as Gift: Refusing Colonial Binarisms”

Presenter: *Dr. Sandibel Borges, Loyola Marymount University*

This presentation draws from the oral histories of two LGB queer, trans, and nonbinary Indigenous “Latine” migrants to conceptualize queerness and transness as “gifts.” I use a decolonial framework to understand the narrators’ genders and sexualities as expansive and infinite, and to suggest that by redefining gender and sexuality in their own terms, the narrators are engaging in practices of refusal. They refuse colonial gender and sexuality binaries that facilitate colonial exploitation, extraction, and theft.

“Toward Queer Migrant Futurities”

Presenter: *Dr. José A. de la Garza Valenzuela, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Analyzing Ángel Valenzuela’s *Hacia las luces del norte* (2018) and Max Hershman’s *La noche se nos fue de las manos* (2021), works by gay Mexican migrants to the U.S., this presentation complicates the migrant-to-Chicanx subjectivity pipeline that underwrites late 20th century theorizations of queer Chicane futurity. I argue such futures depend on the presumption that migrants desire permanent residence in the U.S. rather than the queer pleasures we find and seek across borders.

“Undocufuels: Queer Negations of Affective Conformity”

Presenter: *Dr. Ruben Zecena, University of California, Davis*

This paper gestures towards the critical mode of (un)feeling that comedian, Julio Torres, performs regarding his former undocumented status in the “Legalize Julio” campaign and *My Favorite Shapes*. While sporting silver-dye hair and a platinum shirt, he prominently tells his supposed American viewers: “All I’m asking for is some compassion and \$5,000 dollars.” I argue that Torres draws on the energies of (un)feeling to poke fun at dehumanizing national cultures of sentimentality.

3.4 Presentation Panel: "People, listen to your Joteria": Guiding Young Jotas in creating a local AJAAS Chapter" SU-Pasadena, Room 307

Presenters:

- *Frankie Flores*, Director, University of New Mexico LGBTQ Resource Center
- *Reyes Reynada*, University of New Mexico

This presentation will be a discussion geared towards people who want to start an AJAAS chapter on their campuses.

3.5 Combined Paper Panel: "Cultivating Jotería Historias: From Rural 'Milpas' to Transnational Activism in Central America and Beyond" SU-Montebello, Room 309

"Desde La Preferia de La Milpa: Testimonios de Joteria Rural de Los Ranchos y Pueblos"

Presenter: *Luis Oswaldo Esparza*, Graduate Teaching Associate and Adjunct Faculty, University of New Mexico

The purpose of this project is to celebrate and honor resistance strategies Jotería Rural have originally implemented, inherited, and recreated. I accomplished this using a pláticas[1] methodology (Fierros & Delgado-Bernal, 2016). Together, my contributors and I constructed a list of resistance strategies as they tied their experiences in relation to and against repressive colonial rhetoric that continues to be re-articulated in the rural.

"¿Sos Marica? Imaginaté GuateCuir: Guatemalan Immigration in the US & Beyond"

Presenter: *Rony Eduardo Castellanos Raymundo*, Program Director, Latinx Cultural Resource Center, California State University, Dominguez Hills

This interactive workshop creates space for historically erased Central American Cuir y Trans experiencias across the Immigration/Migration Displacement Complex. Participants reimagine their bodies across fronteras, honor their Central American Identities, and re-center pleasure as form of existence as their identities florecen y brillan as they move through space.

"Transnational Queer Activism of Grenada and New York City"

Presenter: *Jane T. Pérez, Master's Degree Candidate, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – University of Florida*

In 2023, the Grenadian community has been grappling with the murder of Jonty Robinson, a gay man and musician. This violence has led Grenadians to send out a call for action to remove an anti-sodomy law and incite more protections for queer individuals in Grenada. Interestingly, these debates are happening online for native Grenadians at home while physical protests are happening in New York City.

“Testimonios LGBTQ+ de Panamá”

Presenter: *Juan A. Ríos Vega, Bradley University*

As part of a large quantitative research project, the presenter will share the experiences of self-identified LGBTQ+ individuals in Panama. His presentation will be divided into different themes to allow the participants to have an opportunity to better understand historical and current facts about this marginalized community in his homeland.

3.6 Presentation and Artistic Panel: “Jotería Dualities Unveiled: Exploring Dual Woman, Trans-Masculinities, and Children’s Stories” University Library, Room A119

“Manifiesto de la Mujer Dual / Manifest of the Dual Woman”

Presenter: *Évolet Aceves, Mexican Writer, Columnist, Cultural Journalist, and Graduate Assistant, University of New Mexico*

The Manifest of the Dual Woman is part of my recently published novel: *Tapizado corazón de orquídeas negras* (Tusquets, 2023). The purpose of sharing this Manifest is to express the thought of an imaginary trans woman artist, during the early Twentieth Century in Mexico City, more specifically, during the Mexican Revolution postwar era.

“The Pleasures of Gender Euphoria: Trans-Masculinities, Cultura, and Power”

Presenter: *Elliot Carmona-Rodriguez, Undergraduate Student, Sonoma State University*

This study explores definitions of masculinity found in an analysis of transmasculine people of Color's interviews and media testimonials. Another component of the research are the ways in which gender euphoria and pleasure shape trans* people's definitions of masculinity. Lastly this study analyzes how trans* people's relationship to power changes and shifts as they transition. With Arts-Based Research as the methodology, the presentation of the data is a visual representation.

"Jotería and Children's Stories: Gender & Queerness in Spanish Translations"

Presenter: Rita Urquijo-Ruiz, Professor of Chicanx/Latinx/Queer Studies, Trinity University

Translating children's books and stories from English to Spanish is an art and a challenge given the gendering of many European/colonizing languages. In this presentation, I intend to analyze, demonstrate, and share some tools for creating translations that not only acknowledge but encourage gender fluidity.

Saturday, February 17th, 2024

Location: Plaza de la Raza Cultural Center, 3540 North Mission Road, Northeast Los Angeles, CA, 90031

8:30AM – 4:00PM

Registration and Check-In

Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio

9:00AM – 10:00AM

Breakfast

Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio

Sponsored by the Syracuse University, Women's and Gender Studies Department

Body Movement with Mariposx Healing

Plaza de La Raza, Dance Room

10:00AM – 10:15AM

Welcome

Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio

10:15AM – 11:45AM	Special Workshop Sessions
12:00PM – 1:30PM	Lunch (will be provided) Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio
1:45PM – 3:15PM	Concurrent Session #4
3:30PM – 5:00PM	Concurrent Session #5
5:15PM – 6:45PM	Concurrent Session #6
7:00PM - 10:00PM	Dinner and Cumbiaton Baile Plaza de La Raza

SPECIAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

10:15AM – 11:45AM

SW.1 Panel Discussion and Reading: “Communing with Latinx Queer Ancestors: Celebrating the Work(s) of tatiana de la tierra and Jeanne Cordova” Plaza de la Raza Theater

Presenters:

- *Maylei Blackwell* (Activist Scholar, Professor of Chicana/o and Central American Studies at UCLProfessor at UCLA, and co-literary executor of tatiana de la tierra)
- *Olga Garcia Echeverria* (Creative Writer and lecturer in the Chicana(o) Latina(o) Studies department at CSULA and co-literary executor of tatiana de la tierra)
- *Lynn Harris Ballen* (Writer, organizer, and host of Feminist Magazine on KPFK. She is also the spouse and literary executor of the late Jeanne Córdoba)

This panel and reading commemorates two dynamic and beloved trailblazing Latina lesbian writers and literary activists: tatiana de la tierra (1961-2012) and Jeanne Cordova (1948-2016). Aside from discussing the lives and works of these

two iconic literary ancestors, presenters will dialogue about the role of queer literary stewardship. Presenters will invoke these queer ancestors by reading select excerpts, inviting chosen family and friends to share aloud some of Tatiana's and Jeanne's work, and conducting a short interactive writing activity using de la tierra and Cordova key phrases or poetic lines.

SW.2 Research Presentation with a *Platica*: “Sexile Survival and Empathetic Existence: Archiving Horacio Roque Ramirez’s Ciguanaba Shapeshifting and Queer Resistance” Plaza de La Raza, Dance Room

Presenter: *Brenda Selena Lara (She/They/Ella)*

This presentation draws from archival investigations, oral histories, and philosophical and literary analysis to understand U.S. Central American Studies Scholar Dr. Horacio Roque Ramirez's death and empathetic voice as a collective haunting or unresolved social violence reminiscent of La Ciguanaba, a Central American Folklore Shapeshifter.

SW.3 Interactive Workshop: “The Joy and Pleasure of Dolor: Reclaiming the Beauty of Grieving” Plaza de La Raza, Music Building Room A

Presenters: *Christian A. Bracho, Assistant Professor, Cal State Long Beach*

Western/ American conceptualizations of grief compel those experiencing loss to reconcile their pain through a series of phases leading to “acceptance.” This workshop defies such positivist, dehumanized ways of grieving and asks participants to consider loss as a joyful, pleasurable experience that can enrich our lives. Rather than look at loss as something clinical and to be overcome, in this workshop we look at grief as a lifelong relationship to uplift. In this workshop, we will ask: *How can Latinidad and joteria provide other ways of experiencing grief? In what ways can we embrace grief as a joyful relationship with loss? How can casting dolor as pleasure connect us to our deeper selves and to spiritual worlds we have lost access to?*

SW.4 Writing workshop: “Sana Sana: On Writing, Healing, and Justice” Plaza de La Raza, Music Building Room B

Presenters:

- *David Glisch-Sánchez, Instructor, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville*
- *Nic Rodríguez-Villafañe, Doctoral Student, University of California – San Diego*

Building on the work of the anthology, *Sana Sana: Latinx Pain and Radical Visions for Healing and Justice*, this workshop seeks to guide participants in a series of written and ritual exercises that facilitates individual healing and collective worldmaking where joy, justice, and pleasure are accessible to all. Through writing exercises and ritual practices participants will be able to self-reflect on their own pain, hurts, dreams, and desires, and come together as a group to hold the collective alchemy that catalyzes our healing.

Sessions will resume after Lunch

12:00PM – 1:30PM

Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio

CONCURRENT SESSION #4

1:45PM – 3:15PM

4.1 Performance Panel: “¿Y entonces qué? Reenvisioning cultura, comunidad, y amor through drag” Plaza de La Raza, Theater**Presenters:** Sabes Que Collective

- *Luke Modelo*
- *Papi Churro*
- *Jota Mercury*
- *Sir Vesa*
- *Sally Limón*

Join drag king collective Sabes Que for a myriad of performances celebrating, deconstructing, and reclaiming latinidad, queerness, cultura, indigeneity and more. Afterwards, our performers will share how they intertwine their identities, art, and jotería to heal themselves, each other, and comunidad. Come for the show, stay for the feels.

4.2 Performance Panel: “Xochii de la Noche” Plaza de La Raza, Dance Room

Presenter: *Xochii de la Noche*

‘Pleasure through Play’ is an introductory interactive workshop to playful movement and the world of flow arts! We will briefly cover what is flow arts and the general history, then move into an interactive portion of trying flow arts with silk fans.

4.3 Multilingual Reading Workshop: “Reading Sexuality in Contemporary Zapotec Writing from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec” Plaza de La Raza, Music Building Room A

Presenter: *Marco Antonio Huerta Alardín, Ph.D., Mellon Humanities Faculty Fellow, University of California, Irvine*

I outline the expansion of the Zapotec literary tradition through the analysis of contemporary Zapotec works that challenge colonial notions of sexuality by sharing the perspectives of present-day Zapotec non-heteronormative individuals (Muxe’ and Nguiu’). These texts highlight how these authors navigate the boundaries of sexuality between the Zapotec worldview and modern visions of Mexicanness and compulsory heteronormativity.

4.4 Art and Poetry Presentation Workshop: “Jotería Poetry: Crafting Pleasure, Resistance, and Soulful Expressions” Plaza de La Raza, Music Building Room B

“Indigiqueer Chicana/x Poetry-Pleasure in Writing and Sharing Embodied Resistance”

Presenter: *Christine Irene Acosta, She/They-Lecturer in Chicanx Latinx Studies, California State University, Los Angeles*

This session will explore pleasure through writing about disrupting gender binaries and the ways in which sharing embodied resistance through being one’s full self creates joy within and inspires ecstasy and connection to others in the Queer community. Chris will share poetry from their Indigiqueer/Chicana/x perspective and then she will facilitate a poetry workshop to encourage others to write

about and share on Gender-Queer embodied resistance to all forms of oppression.

“Poetry for the Soul”

Presenter: Harpreet Shergill, California State University, Los Angeles, Undergraduate Student

How I use my art and everyday routine to encourage decolonizing the mind. It's important to encourage decolonizing the mind individually because it can spark massive shifts in society. How we view work and life can completely change to a healthier perspective if we start within ourselves and our communities. I used my personal upbringing and my art as an example of decolonizing the mind and how this is still a journey I am venturing. My poetry book is a personal reflection as well as a product of this journey and how this book plays into my everyday routine.

'@maricailegal, a jotx writing workshop'

Presenter: José Ramón García Madrid, @maricailegal

This session will feature 3 short original pieces read aloud by @maricailegal. The group will then select one of the pieces to explore together with the writer. Collectively, we will discuss the selected piece and rewrite it. I write about sex as a way of bartering shame for truth.

4.5 Art Workshop: “Crafting Liberation: Jotería Interventions through Creative Healing Practices” Plaza de La Raza, Art Room

“Jotería Interventions: Queer Piñata-Making as a Healing Practice”

Presenters:

- Ezekiel Acosta, PhD Student, University of New Mexico
- Jeannette Martinez, PhD Student, University of New Mexico
- Gabriel Rodríguez Lemus, Jr., PhD Student, University of Texas at Austin
- Andrea Luna Sanchez, PhD Student, University of New Mexico

Inspired by the Pinata District in Los Angeles, we seek to expand the conversation on the role of art in Latina/o/x communities to include the piñata, our session highlights the cultural and individual healing processes in piñata-making. Panelists and attendees collaborate to create a piñata while

having conversations surrounding the piñata's connection to body, self, and community.

“Queer Visions: Art-Making Session”

Presenter: *José-Héctor Cadena, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English, Los Angeles Mission College*

This workshop invites participants to release their inner artist by creating a queer serendipitous collage. In this art-making session, you can assemble mosaic visions of queer identity, memory, reclamation, and futures that realign our queer hope and joy. Anchored in José Esteban Muñoz's theorizing for a queer futurity and rasquachismo, this session asks you to undo, rearrange, layer, and enjoy the act of creating images that represent our queer resourcefulness unburdened by hegemonic expectations of art-making. By producing art in community, you will originate a visual art piece that captures a moment of collective queer joy.

4.6 Cafecito & Baking Workshop: “Pan Dulce con Café: Lessons on Healing with Dulzura from a Hummingbird named Mambo” Plaza de LA Raza, Outdoor Patio Space Between Art and Music Rooms

Presenter: *Chantal Figueroa, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Colorado College*

In this Pan Dulce con Café workshop we will be making conchas and café de olla while discussing our relationship to mental health as Latinx queer peoples. This space is inspired by my academic research on best practices of psychiatric treatments in Guatemala, the USA and Argentina as well as lessons I have learned during my recovery from a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and ongoing rehabilitation process.

4.7 Art Exhibit: “Exploring the Emotion Behind Art and Challenging Boundaries” Outdoor Dance Theater

“[Mari]anismo: Breaking the Borders of La Virgen de Guadalupe”

Presenter: *Pico del Hierro-Villa, M.A. in Chicanx Studies from UNM*

This talk will follow the artistic research of Pico del Hierro-Villa's documentation of SW LGBTQ Chicanx communities reclaimed connection to La Virgen de Guadalupe through breaking social borders of indoctrinated religion, following

with a group discussion of how the jotx community has reclaimed their spirituality outside of the Catholic Church. The purpose of this presentation and discussion is to gain clarity and pleasure from finding new spiritual practices and connections that do not come from trauma or shame.

“Why Is Your Art Sad?”

Presenter: *Guadalupe S Cisneros Arroyo, UCI Global and International Studies*

The aim of this art pop-up is to show the journey of sadness and acknowledge all of our feelings to reach a state of happiness. Through the use of mixed medium forms of art such as zines, pressed flower prints, and punch needle.

CONCURRENT SESSION #5

3:30PM – 5:00PM

5.1 Lecture, Live Demo, Small Group/Breakout Presentation: “Brujx who Kink! Adding BDSM Limpias to your Curanderx Toolkit” Plaza de La Raza, Theater

Presenter: *Xochitl Flores, FlowerBending Xeif*

A BDSM Limpias is the creation of a ceremonial playground where one creates a space of consent as an act of self-love and radical resistance that simultaneously purges and embraces our "demons". Curanderismo is a lifelong practice where a limpia is the foundation to a good practice. Moving stored trauma out of the body is the goal, pero sometimes the plantitas aren't enough, you may just need a bit more pain with that plant flogging.

5.2 Presentation & Creative Art Workshop: “Possible Futures of Wayward Lives” Plaza de La Raza, Dance Room

Presenter: *Whitney Denisse Rodríguez Minda, Master’s Degree Candidate, Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, University of Florida*

This is a project that uses creative writing to express what the self embodies through music, memory and the collective black self. As part of my master's degree project I developed a danceable autobiographical log-like anthology,

in which I have a conversation with myself and the remaining identity traits of my blackness, which are a source of pure joy, happiness and pleasure.

5.3 Presentation and Self-Reflection Workshop: “Jotería Self Preservation and Self-Care” Plaza de La Raza, Music Building Room A

“Te Me Cuidas: Exploring and Expanding Self- Preservation”

Presenters: *Mimi & Gael /Kalhina Creations*

As marginalized identities existing in a capitalistic world, our traumas and survival are often weaponized to push us to burn out. This workshop seeks to disrupt that by teaching community members how to pause, how to reflect and how to expand on their self-preservation. It also equips folks with the language, and tools to keep themselves and their community accountable for their own care. It provides a space where we can learn to care for ourselves in accessible and meaningful ways.

“Reconnecting to Your Higher Self to Practice Self Love & Self Care”

Presenter: *Susana Ix Chel Cáceres, Queen Strategist and Resource Mobilizer, CipotaVoz Strategies*

In this presentation, we will discuss our connection to our Higher Self: how do we lose it and how do we reconnect. From there, we'll discuss how we use that connection to practice Self Love and Self Care and from there move onto Self Forgiveness and Self Compassion. I will share practical tools, healing modalities/practitioners and other resources.

5.4 Workshop Panel: “Elemental Voices: Sharing Stories of Resilience, Pleasure, and Healing” Plaza de La Raza, Music Building Room B

Presenters:

- *Gabrielle Gonzales, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Dept., University of Texas San Antonio*
- *Olga Estrada, M.A., Ph.D. Fellow in Culture, Literacy, and Language, Graduate Assistant/ Lecturer Race, Ethnicity, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Dept., University of Texas San Antonio*
- *Scarlett Cerna, M.A. MS IT Cyber Security, University of Texas San Antonio*

- Allison Zarate Rodriguez, B.A. Cyber Security | Mexican American Studies, University of Texas San Antonio
- Jerry Romero, M.S., Ph.D. Fellow in Culture, Literacy, and Language, Graduate Research Assistant in Project SELFIES, University of Texas San Antonio
- jerry.romero@utsa.edu
- Jennifer Yanez-Alaniz, M.A., Ph.D. Fellow in Culture, Literacy, and Language, Graduate Research Assistant in Project SELFIES, University of Texas San Antonio

We will explore our deep connection with nature and how it shapes our experiences of pleasure, survival, and healing, from re-discovering pleasures to reclaiming intellectual, spiritual, and bodily autonomy. We challenge the disconnection from nature by tapping into the erotic from within. Leaning into our creative erotic energy, we empower ourselves to release shame in rebellion against an anti-erotic capitalistic, hetero-patriarchal ableist society. Join us as we share our pleasure philosophy, embodied storytelling, and creative expression.

5.5 Zine Making Art Workshop: “Queer Latinx World-Making and Zine Crafting for Joteria Amor, Placer, and Rebeldia” Plaza de La Raza, Art Room

“Pendejx Pleasure Praxis:-X and -E and Queer Latinx World-Making”

Presenter: Ceci Luna, Graduate Student, University of Florida

This art workshop will guide participants to design their own Pendejx Pleasure Zine using a performative writing exercise drawing from the imagination and sensorial. This activity calls on us to imagine worlds outside the confines of colonialism and cisheteropatriarchy and to articulate how these futures can be enacted through language and art.

“Nuestra Queerencia: A Zine Taller (workshop) celebrating Jotería Amor, Placer, and Rebeldia”

Presenters:

- Jodi Aguilar, Curriculum & Instruction PhD Candidate, University of Illinois, Chicago

- *Omar Limias Villa, M.A., Chicax Studies Candidate, California State University, Northridge*

Our zine taller bridges the arts as pleasure and the divine is Queer. This creative zine taller is grounded in Joteria, Chicax feminist and archival resistance approaches to zine making. We envision this zine to be a post-conference AJASS recuerdo piece gifted to the organization/association, documenting how we are 'moving' artistically in our journey of re-grounding desire by honoring jotería orgullo, knowledges, arte, presencia y placer.

“Harnessing Queer Love and Solidarity through Zine Making”

Presenter:

- *Nico De Leon, LGBTI Guatemala Diaspora Collective, UCLA PhD Students, Gender Studies*
- *Val Murillo, LGBTI Guatemala Diaspora Collective, UCLA PhD Students, Chicana/o and Central American Studies*

Historically, Queer zines have been used as a tool to exchange stories, ideas, culture, history, music, and art. Through the process of chosen family and community building, zine-making and zine redistribution has been used to provide resources and harness solidarity. In this session, we explore the ways in which zines can be used as a tool to honor radical love in our communities and contribute to the preservation of queer memory through art.

5.6 Roundtable Panel: “Anzaldúan Decolonial Metaphysics: Writing, Spirit, and Shapeshifting” Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Dance Theater

Presenters:

- *John Jairo Valencia, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Chicana/o Studies, UC, Santa Bárbara*
- *Kristian E. Vasquez, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Chicana/o Studies, UC, Santa Bárbara*
- *Chela Sandoval, Professor, Department of Chicana/o Studies, UC, Santa Bárbara*
- *Micaela Díaz-Sánchez, Assistant Professor, Department of Chicana/o Studies, UC, Santa Bárbara*

The purpose of this roundtable is to connect what we think and feel as an Anzaldúan decolonial metaphysics. For the roundtable, this decolonial metaphysics is channeled through the material practices of art-making, dance, writing, and coalitional possibilities. This roundtable brings together artists/scholars who synthesize art practice with Anzaldúan readings and meditations of the serpentine, embodied syncopation, the soul, and the path of knowledge/consciousness Anzaldúa tied intimately to her metaphysical and material thought. At the heart of our collective dialoguing, as a form of storytelling and witnessing, is how we grapple with Anzaldúa's creativity in interrupting the normative world or coloniality.

CONCURRENT SESSION #6

5:15PM – 6:45PM

6.1 Artistic Performance: “I Like to Hurt: Reflections on Melanated Pain, Abjection, and Pleasure” Plaza de La Raza, Theater

Presenter: *Cristal Alba, Graduate Student, University of California, San Diego*

Led by a practicing rope sadist, this workshop will analyze the ways in which BDSM practices allow us to interrogate social and political power inequities. In this workshop participants will reflect on their personal sexual practices, while collectively investigating the capacity for care found in consented abjection and sadism.

6.2 Interactive Embodied Reading: “Recombinación of La Maraña” Plaza de La Raza, Dance Room

Presenters: *Brújula, Niurca Marquez and Amber Ortega*

We must attune our attention to the breaking down; attune our thought-bodies to the sensation of breaking apart. We need a practice of falling, to develop the soft flesh needed to embrace the earth and dirt, to press up against another, to give in to the disintegration of our identity, our dreams, our choices,

our relationships. We can embrace a different kind of community, a more fluid identifying of self, and more dynamic relationing.

6.3 Storytelling and Listening Session: “Joteria In and Out of the Kitchen” Plaza de La Raza, Music Building Room A

Presenter: *Joshua I. Lopez, PhD Candidate, University of North Texas, Department of History*

In this session, the presenter will facilitate a storytelling and listening session over the meaning of food in the lives of queer and trans folks. Participants will listen to, read aloud, and discuss oral history interviews as well as write and share their own food memories in this interactive session.

6.4 Combined Paper: “Panel Epistemological and Methodological Assertions to Advance Knowledge About Systems of Power” Plaza de La Raza, Music Building Room B

“Song of the Colibrí: An Exploratory Discussion on Chisme”

Presenter: *Simon Ruybalid, University of New Mexico, AJAAS Student Organization*

Chisme is a discursive act of power. This act, and its associated social traditions, constitute a borderland. The study of chisme then constitutes a framework through which we can study topics like identity creation and colonialism. In participating in chisme, one participates in a decentralizing (and decolonial) act.

“The Revolution within the Revolution”: Women of the Young Lords and Theories in the Flesh”

Presenter: *Tania Trejo-Mendez, Graduate student, University of Florida, Center for Latin American Studies*

My research analyzes the writings of women within the Young Lords Party during the 1960s and 1970s. It will examine their methods of consciousness raising and coalition building in advancing their vision for queer and feminist liberation through the lens of Cherrie Moraga’s concept of “theories in the flesh.”

"Rethinking our Position: Embodiment in Ethnographies"

Presenter: *Mahir Rahman, University of Florida, Department of Anthropology*

What are you wearing? How are you walking? Where are you sitting? Embodied Ethnography is a critical strategy in placing ourselves in various contexts through a comprehensive lens. A 3-month ethnography conducted in Huanchaco, Peru unveils the hidden layers of sexual conflict, negotiations of sexuality, and health and educational access.

6.5 Artistic Workshop: "Punk Ethos and Pleasure: Do-It-Yourself Rasquache Art Techniques from a Burqueño Punk" Plaza de La Raza, Art Room

Presenter: *Reyes Reynaga, University of New Mexico*

For many, creating and viewing art are worlds apart, often segregated by the lack of access to the so-called "right" materials for production. Punk subculture has embraced and enabled a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) ethos that seeks to level the playing field and make art, in all forms, accessible. With the DIY ethos resembling Chicane rasquachismo, this art session serves to share rasquache art techniques, specifically those that mimic block/linocut print methods.

Sunday, February 18th, 2024

10:00AM - 3:00PM

Finding Sequins in the Rubble: Archived of Jotería
Memories in Los Angeles Exhibition at the Museum of
Social Justice curated by our own Jotería, *Eddy F.
Alvarez Jr., PhD*
(attend at your own schedule and capacity)