



Association for Jotería Arts, Activism & Scholarship

2024 National Conference



Jotería Pleasure: Re-Grounding Our Desires
February 15 - 18, 2024 | Cal State LA
ajaas.com/conference-2024





#AJAAS2024

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Land Acknowledgement

With great respect, Cal State LA acknowledges the Tongva people as the traditional caretakers of Tovaangar - The Tongva World - including the Los Angeles Basin, South Channel Islands, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, and portions of Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. Cal State LA is located within these lands, as an institution located on unceded Tongva land, we pay our respects to the ancestors, elders, and our relatives/relations, past, present, and emerging. Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the University's relationship to native peoples. By offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Cal State LA more accountable to the needs of American Indian peoples. Prepared by Dr. Kimberly Robertson (Mvskoke) and Tongva Elder Julia Bogany, 2020.



Theme

This year's Association for Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship (AJAAS) conference *Jotería Pleasure: Re-Grounding Our Desires* is organized around the interplay of pleasure, power, and decoloniality. We place jotería at the center of current social and political uprising to confront the violent consequences of COVID-19 and other forms of oppression and loss. Within this context, we re-ground our jotería desires as necessary for our existence. Since *existir es resistir*, we re-center jotería desires as resistance to white supremacy, sexism, heterosexism, capitalist extraction, and the lasting legacies of coloniality. We recognize that by embracing the pleasures of life, we are reclaiming jotería as experience, practice, knowledge, performance, and artmaking. We acknowledge radical and liberatory pleasures, and possibilities, that lie with re-connecting spiritual worlds, past and present, with jotería futures. We prioritize the project of re-grounding ourselves, and our desires, in and to our *cuerpos* and lands. By re-grounding ourselves within jotería pleasure we are taking up space and we are taking our time.

For us, jotería affirms consciousness and celebrates multiple ways of being, knowing, and becoming. We seek to live in a world where oppression is eradicated everywhere. We believe critical knowledge of self is a path to individual and collective well-being. It is a practice of pleasure. A healthy jotería embodies familia and contributes to a social ethos of humanization and transformation in the face of dehumanizing pressures. Our familias strive to establish trust by communicating truthfully and kindly, committing to having each other's backs, and making beauty and fostering pleasure from our challenges. AJAAS dreams of communities where members of the jotería flourish. Fluidity is what binds us. Jotería experiences, practices, and knowledges also build on rigorous studies, an expansive and living field rooted in women of color feminism, muxerista pedagogy, and queer and trans of color critiques, precisely because these fields center Afro-Latina/o/x, Latina/o/x, Chicana/o/x, and Indigenous peoples including those of the African and Caribbean diasporas.

This conference aims to create a space for critical dialogue, community building, and artistic exploration, engaging with diverse perspectives, experiences, and presentations. We encourage submissions investigating the intersections of pleasure, desire, and resistance while challenging normative, death-seeking systems, narratives, and binaries. We invite healers, activists, scholars, writers, community members, musicians, and artists to think, teach, act up, play, create, and communicate within jotería pleasures.

Co-Chairs letter



Querida Jotería,

We welcome you to our fifth national encuentro with the warmest embrace. Whether this is your first AJAAS conference or un re-encuentro with beloved AJAAS jotería, we envision a weekend filled with opportunities to convivir, engage in critical dialogue, grow, and indulge in moments of pleasure and joy.

We convene in Los Angeles, the traditional land of the Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band 12 of Mission Indians, four years after our encuentro in Portland, Oregon. Amidst the ongoing COVID pandemic, racial injustice, violence towards our Queer and Trans communities, and the devastating genocide of our Palestinian siblings, our time together is vital so that we may go the distance and continue our work toward decolonization and collective liberation.

Our abolitionist comrades, Kelly Hayes and Mariame Kaba emphasize the coexistence of hope and grief, urging us to also cultivate moments to "dance things back into place" (Let This Radicalize You, 2023). In envisioning this encuentro, we see it as a space for reorientation, where we can dance, sweat, write poetry, move, meditate, imagine, sing, and conspire. As was stated in our description of this year's theme, "We recognize that by embracing the pleasures of life, we are reclaiming jotería as experience, practice, knowledge, performance, and artmaking. We acknowledge radical and liberatory pleasures, and possibilities, that lie with re-connecting spiritual worlds, past and present, with jotería futures. We prioritize the project of re-grounding ourselves, and our desires, in and to our cuerpos and lands. By re-grounding ourselves within jotería pleasure we are taking up space and we are taking our time."

We express our gratitude for your contribution in shaping the AJAAS encuentro into the vibrant space it has become. Your presence is pivotal in upholding the ongoing existence of AJAAS. We extend an invitation for you to contemplate serving on the board and/or proposing and leading projects as integral components of our collective organizing body. Special appreciation goes to those who have already dedicated their efforts to this cause, with a heartfelt acknowledgment to our outgoing board and ex officio chairs, Úmi Vera and Daniel Enrique Perez, who navigated transitions in their positions amidst the challenges of the pandemic. ¡Gracias a todes!

En solidaridad y con todo nuestro amor,

Joanna Núñez y Roberto Orozco
AJAAS Co-Chairs (2022-2024)

Schedule at a Glance

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH, 2024

4:30PM – 6:00PM Opening Reception
Student Union Los Angeles ABC, Room 308

6:15PM – 8:00PM Film Screening of UNIDAD at Cal State LA
Student Union Theater, Room 106

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 2024 ALL DAY AT CAL STATE LA

8:30PM – 4:30PM 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
Body Movement with Mariposx Healing
SU-Alhambra, Room 305

10:00AM – 10:30AM Welcome and Opening
Student Union Theater, Room 106

10:45AM – 12:15PM Concurrent Session #1

11:00AM – 4:00PM The AJAAS 8th House: Healing Justice Practice
Space & Integration Lounge
Library Community Room, LIB B-131

12:30PM – 2:00PM Lunch (will be provided) and Platica
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

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 2024

ALL DAY AT PLAZA DE LA RAZA

8:00AM – 4:00PM	Registration and Check-In Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio
9:00AM – 10:00AM	Breakfast & Body Movement with Mariposx Healing Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio
10:00AM – 10:15AM	Welcome and Opening Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio
10:15AM – 11:45AM	Special Workshop Sessions
11:00AM – 4:00PM	The AJAAS 8th House: Healing Justice Practice Space & Integration Lounge Library Community Room, LIB B-131
12:00PM – 1:30PM	Lunch (<i>will be provided</i>) Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio
1:45PM – 3:15PM	Concurrent Session #4
3:30PM – 5:00PM	Concurrent Session #5
5:15PM – 6:30PM	Concurrent Session #6
7:00PM – 10:00PM	Dinner and Cumbiaton Baile Plaza de la Raza

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) Location: 115 Paseo de la Plz, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Sponsors and Contributing Organizations



California State University, Los Angeles, Department of Chicana(o) and Latina(o) Studies



California State University, Los Angeles, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



Gender Sexuality Student Resource Center



CROSS CULTURAL CENTERS



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING

California State University, Los Angeles, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development Higher Education Program



COLLEGE OF ETHNIC STUDIES

California State University, Los Angeles, College of Ethnic Studies



Cal State LA California Faculty Association CFA



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

California State University, Los Angeles, University Library



Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

California State University, Fresno, Department of Educational Leadership



Syracuse University, Department of Women's and Gender Studies

Institutional and Community Organization Members:

- Syracuse University, LGBTQ Studies Program
- California State University, Stanislaus, Ethnic Studies Department
- California State University, Long Beach, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- University of California, San Diego, Department of Ethnic Studies
- Erie Neighborhood House
- University of New Mexico LGBTQ Resource Center
- California State University, Fullerton Department of Chicano and Chicana Studies
- University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies
- University of California, Santa Barbara Writing Program
- University of California, Davis, Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies

Site Committee Chair Letter



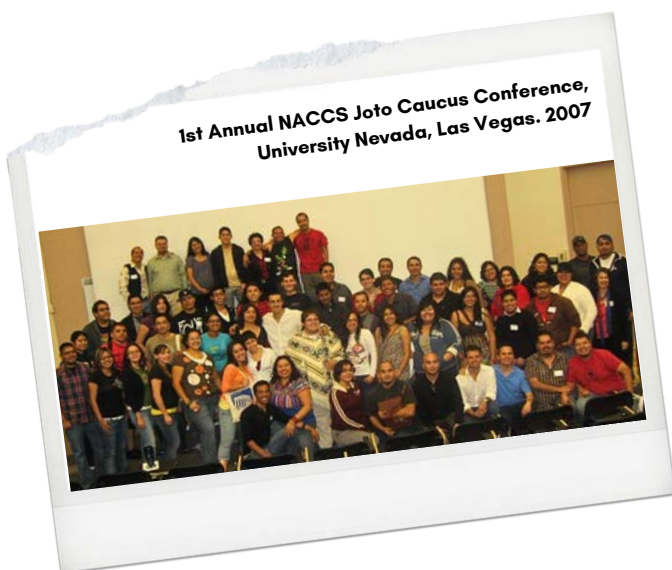
Querida Jotería,

On behalf of the Department of Chicana/o & Latina/o Studies and the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State LA, welcome to this year's 2024 Association for Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship (AJAAS) conference! I am thrilled to be part of this important gathering centered around the theme "Jotería Pleasure: Re-Grounding Our Desires." We offer this space and community as a restoration of your bodies and spirits.

In 2007, we held our first-ever Jotería Encuentro at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Seventeen years later, we have spent many years building, nurturing, and healing ourselves and community to be able to continue this important work. After the first meeting, we knew we had embarked on a new era of Jotería comunidad as activists, artists, and scholars. Many of us have been walking with this colectiva since, and we welcome all of you to join us and continue to come back. Create with us! Organize with us! Dance with us! Change the world with us! Let us use Jotería art, activism, theory, pedagogy, and pleasure to make this change.

There have been challenging times when we thought we would not continue because of harm we experienced or caused to others in and outside of the organization, but we did not allow harm to remain unchallenged and ignored. We have named our challenges with great courage, tears, and boundaries. I encourage us to walk into this space with love and generosity—assume the best of each other. Call each other and us in with great tenderness. Rest and take breaks when you need them. Join me in the AJAAS 8th house for healing energía. Let us make 2024 the year when we go to the next level of collective Jotería pleasure! Let our pleasure include rest, release, laughter, tears, and healing. Please enjoy our grand belleza!

AJAAS Past Conferences





**5th National Encuentro, Cal State LA and Plaza de la Raza.
Los Angeles, CA. 2024!!!!**

Con cariño,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Anita T. Revilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anita Tijerina Revilla

Chair, Department of Chicana/o & Latina/o Studies

Cal State LA, College of Ethnic Studies

Co-founder of the Association for Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship

AJAAS NATIONAL BOARD

Co-Chair



Joanna Núñez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Sacramento State. She is a queer Chicana feminist activist scholar. In 2019, she earned her Ph.D. in Feminist Studies at the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation was titled "Mi Mamá me Enseño! Teaching and Learning Mexicana and Chicana Feminisms in the Home." Her work explores the connection between home and intimate community building practices, particularly those within queer and feminist communities of color, in facilitating movements for social transformation. Her most recent publications can be found in *The Handbook of Latinos in Education and Transmovimientos: Latinx Queer Migrations, Bodies, and Spaces*.

Co-Chair



Roberto C. Orozco (he/him/él), PhD, is a Presidential Postdoctoral Associate and Assistant Professor (Fall 2024) in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. He is a queer Muxerista and originally from Sioux City, Iowa! In 2022, he earned his PhD in Higher Education from Rutgers University-New Brunswick. His dissertation was titled, "Aquí Entre Nos: Identity and Socio-Political Consciousness Development of Queer Latinx/a/o College Student Activists through the Muxerista Activist Consciousness Development Framework". His research explores questions around race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality with relation to college student activism and student development, queer resistance, and queer worldmaking in and outside of higher education contexts. Roberto has received multiple awards for his research and service including the 2020 Bevier Dissertation Fellowship and the 2021 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.

Co-Chair Elect



Omi Salas-SantaCruz is the current President's Postdoctoral Fellow at Penn State University in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. They earned their PhD in Education with a designated emphasis in Critical Theory and Gender, Women, & Sexuality from The University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree in Sociology from Columbia University. Their intellectual and community work tends to decolonial and Latinx trans feminisms with a focus on trans* and queer of color space-making & resistant practices. They grew up as a trans-fronterizx along the Tijuana-San Diego border which informs their research, teaching, and living practices. Their current project examines questions at the intersections of race, Latinidad, the epistemology of trans inclusion, and practices of being.

Co-Chair Elect



Dr. DiPietro works at the intersection of decolonial feminism, women of color thinking, Latinx/Afro-Latinx studies, and trans* studies. With a transdisciplinary approach, they engage anthropology, human geography, and philosophy. They are one of the co-editors of *Speaking Face to Face: The Visionary Philosophy of María Lugones* (SUNY 2019) and their single-author manuscript, *Sideways Selves, The Politics of Transing Matter Across the Américas*, is forthcoming with the University of Texas Press. They collaborate with various organizations committed to social justice, including the Democratizing Knowledge Collective at Syracuse University, the Association for Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship (AJAAS), and the travesti collectives Damas de Hierro and Futuro TransGenérico. DiPietro is the director of undergraduate studies in the department of women's and gender studies and the director of the LGBTQ studies program at Syracuse University.

Art Liaison



Maya Chinchilla is a media maker, writer and author of "The Cha Cha Files: A Chapina Poética" and editor of the forthcoming "CentroMaricondas: A Queer and Trans Central American Anthology". She also hosts the monthly interview talk show "Live and Queer" produced by the Queer Cultural Center. She has taught creative writing, English, Chicana/Latina/o/x Studies and Queer studies as a lecturer at UC Davis, Laney College College and co-coordinates a Puente Program and works independently as a facilitator, creativity coach and guest speaker. She is available to travel and present readings and workshops in your small town or big city. www.mayachinchilla.com



Art Liaison



Marco (he, él, ele) holds a Phd in Cultural Studies and Social Thought in Education (CSSTE) from Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman, (Wash.). He is an associate professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. A journalist from Brazil, he identifies as a queer Afro-Latinx. His scholarship aligns with *jotería*, feminist and arts-based methods with a special focus on Gloria Anzaldúa's concept of *autohistoria-teoría*.

Activism Liaison



Ángel de Jesus González, Ed.D. (he/they/elle) is an Assistant Professor of Higher Education Administration and Leadership (HEAL) at Fresno State University. As a first-generation queer, Latinx, joto, they engage their scholarship through post-structuralist and transformative paradigms rooted in Xicana/Latina feminists epistemologies. Dr. González's research agenda focuses on three strands; 1) examining the conditions, experiences, and outcomes for queer and/or trans communities; 2) Latinx Leadership and organizational change; and 3) racial equity policy implementation all within the community college context. As an interdisciplinary scholar, Dr. González employs critical theories and methods such as *jotería* studies, intersectionality, queer pláticas, testimonio, queer chisme, queer phenomenology, critical policy analysis, and QuantCrit to name a few. Dr. González is a Faculty Affiliate for the Queer and Trans Latinx/a/o in HigherEd Collective and the Community College HigherEd Access Leadership Equity Scholarship (CCHALES) research collective at San Diego State University (SDSU). They is part of the Queer Trans People in Education (QTPIE) Research Team as an Emerging Scholar at the University of Vermont (UVM).

Scholarship Liaison



Sergio A. Gonzalez, Ph.D. (él/he/him) is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership in the School of Education at Duquesne University. He teaches undergraduate and graduate-level coursework in higher education, emphasizing social justice discourse. His interdisciplinary research is informed by Women of Color Feminisms, Chicana/Latina Feminisms, and *Jotería* Studies within higher education scholarship. As a first-generation academic, being the first in his family to graduate from high school, undergraduate, and graduate school has shaped how he shows up in community, as *jotería*, and navigates academia. He is an hijo to his Madre y Padre, a brother, a Tio, Madrina, Nino, and Nieto to his chosen family and family.

Conference Liaison



Irina Núñez is an abolitionist muxerista jotx living in Sacramento, CA. She organizes fiercely for freedom using her expertise in Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) and Community-based participatory research. Currently, she is the Participatory Research Director for Alliance for Girls in Oakland, California. She grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada and graduated with a bachelors in Women's Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She completed her Masters in Social Work in Minneapolis, MN in 2016. While living in Minneapolis, she worked and organized alongside youth of color and was introduced to YPAR as a means to radically abolish and build new ways of being. It was in Minneapolis, Minnesota where she and her chosen family organized the 2017 AJAAS Conference.

Membership Coordinator



Dr. Anita Tijerina Revilla is a muxerista and joteria activist-scholar, Professor, and Chair of CSULA's Department of Chicana(o) and Latina(o) Studies. Her research focuses on student movements and social justice education, specifically in the areas of Chicana/Latina, immigrant, feminist and queer rights activism. Her expertise is in the areas of Jotería (Queer and Latinx) Studies, Chicana Education, Chicana/Latina Feminism, and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies. She is a Harlandale High School graduate from the Southside of San Antonio and the first in her family to go to college. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Princeton University and master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, she earned her doctorate from UCLA Graduate School of Education in Social Sciences and Comparative Education with an emphasis in Race and Ethnic Studies.

Social Media and Outreach Liaison



Olga Estrada (they/them/ She/Her), a Jotería professor and Ph.D. candidate in Culture, Literacy, & Language at the University of Texas- San Antonio. They are the embodiment of the wetty essence, transcending the conventional—they don't just ride the wave, and like Nos/otr(a/x)s are the wave. Their academic presence is a deluge of joteria pleasure and decolonial inquiry that is ready to disrupt the dry-ass landscapes of traditional, voyeuristic, and detached scholarship as they navigate the currents of eco-erotic queer conocimiento. Through their individual and collaborative work, they advocate for an engaged erotic pedagogy that makes you get wet about learning, infusing the educational journey with waves of jotería pleasure and eco-erotic queer conocimiento. For more rancho queer drip, political touching, and academic puteria, follow them at @soynepantlerx and @wetty_collective.

Treasurer



Dr. Jorge Estrada is a lecturer faculty member in Chicana and Chicano Studies and Spanish at Cal State Fullerton. He obtained his Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese from the University of New Mexico, where he also attended as an undergraduate. His areas of study are Latin American and Latinx literature, film, cultural studies, gender and sexuality, and jotería studies. Dr. Estrada has taught at various campuses in the CSU system, the State University of New York (SUNY), and more recently, Portland State and Oregon State University. Currently, he is working on a book-length manuscript on sexuality and monstrosity in Mexican and Chicana literature.





Webstorian



Desiré Gabriela (She/They) is a queer artist celebrating the marvels of life through their work, drawing from their rich Mexican heritage that blends Indigenous and Spanish roots shaped by history. Their journey towards healing sparked a deeper understanding of self and community, fueled by studies in UNLV Gender Sexuality & Ethnic Studies. Now pursuing a Master's in Elementary Education, they're dedicated to championing human rights and fostering free living. Believing in the fluidity of life and the importance of nurturing curiosity, they aim to share their insights as both an artist and healing facilitator, guiding others towards self-love and wholeness. Advocating for freedom from constraints, they empower others to trust in their own inner wisdom and abundance, embracing the magic of existence.

Archivist



Lizeth (Liz) Zepeda (she/ella) is originally from Santa Ana, Orange County, California. She is the university archivist at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. She holds a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Arizona School of Information. Her research and archival interests include working with BIPOC communities, outreach programming, community and queer(ing) archives. When she is not working, she likes to go on hikes/walks with her partner and dog, Monita, listen to audiobooks, and cross-stitch.

Co-Chair Ex-Officio



Úmi Vera (she/élla) is a child of Tepehuan O'dami indigenous immigrant parents. She was born and raised half of her life in Tongva lands (southeast Los Angeles) and currently resides in Kalapuya, Cowlitz, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde lands in the Pacific Northwest. Úmi has over 15 years of intersectional migrant & trans/queer community organizing experience, predominantly in policy advocacy and executive leadership roles. She also has extensive philanthropic experience through Borealis Philanthropy's Fund for Trans Generations (FTG), Trans Justice Funding Project (TJFP), TRANSform Culture at Pride Foundation, Social Justice Fund NW, and is a consultant coach with the Transgender Strategy Center.

Co-Chair Ex-Officio



Daniel Enrique Pérez (He/Him/His) is a founding member of AJAAS. He is a fierce mariposa warrior and a Jotería studies scholar and activist. His books include: Rethinking Chicana/o and Latina/o Popular Culture, an edited collection of plays entitled Latina/o Heritage on Stage: Dramatizing Heroes and Legends, and a collection of poems entitled Things You See in the Dark. He was born in Texas to a migrant farmworking family and raised in the onion fields outside of Phoenix, Arizona. He obtained his PhD from Arizona State University and currently serves as Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the College of Liberal Arts and Associate Professor of Chicanx and Latinx Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno.

SITE COMMITTEES

Anita Tijerina Revilla

California State University, Los Angeles

Leda Ramos

California State University, Los Angeles

Jaimé Korima Rodriguez

California State University, Los Angeles

Liz Zepeda

Loyola Marymount University

Eddy F. Alvarez, Jr.

California State University, Fullerton

Jorge Estrada

California State University, Fullerton

Liliana Gonzalez

California State University, Northridge

Nadia Zepeda

California State University, Fullerton

Stacy Macias

California State University, Long Beach

Sofía Ramírez

Local Los Angeles Committee Member

Danny Santana

California State University, Dominguez Hills

Jamilet Ochoa

California State University, Los Angeles

Manny Ibarra

California State University, Los Angeles

Roberto Orozco

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Irina Nuñez

Alliance for Girls, Oakland, CA.

Joanna Nuñez

California State University,
Sacramento

Desiré Galvez

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Olga Estrada

University of Texas at San Antonio

Ángel de Jesus González

California State University, Fresno

PJ DiPietro

Syracuse University

Omi Salas Santa-Cruz

Pennsylvania State University

Maya Chinchilla

Independent Consultant

Sergio A Gonzalez

Duquesne University

Briceida Hernandez-Toledo

University of California, Los Angeles

Marco Cerqueira

Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Alyssa Barrios

California State University, Fullerton

COVID-19 Protocols

MASKS

- While in the conference session rooms and common areas, masks are required unless you are eating, drinking, or presenting. We are asking for you to be cognizant of social distancing as we know that masking and social distancing (along with testing) are the critical components to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Given that we will only have a limited supply of masks at the Registration Area, we encourage you to bring your own high quality masks.

RECEPTIONS AND FOOD

- During our scheduled meal times, food stations will be open for conference attendees to serve themselves.
- We will have hand sanitizer available but we encourage you to bring your own.

COVID-19 TESTING

- Given that COVID-19 home tests are readily available, we expect that you will check to make sure that you do not have COVID-19 or any COVID-19 symptoms at least 24-hours before you are scheduled to travel.
- If you test positive or have symptoms, we expect (and strongly encourage, for the safety of our members) that you will stay home and join us virtually (depending upon your session).
- We will not have COVID-19 tests available but if you do develop symptoms during the conference, we request that you notify us so that we can implement (to the best of our ability) confidential contact tracing procedures and that you stay in your hotel room until you are feeling better.

Accessibility

We invite everyone to contribute to making this encuentro an accessible event. Together we create collective access. We also invite feedback to make this encuentro more accessible in future years at ajaas.national@gmail.com. As presenters, we ask that you anticipate that everyone has different access needs and make time to do an access check-in to see how you can best support everyone in your session. Please make use of microphones in rooms and/or invite people to sit closer if no microphones are available. All of the buildings we will be using for this conference are wheelchair accessible and include elevators and ramps. If a concern arises about mobility needs, please let an organizer know so that we can collectively problem-solve. Please explore the program for more information on the location of our healing justice space where you can retreat to. There will be one provided at both CSU LA and Plaza de la Raza. An all-gender restroom and lactation room can be found on the second floor of the Student Union. Signage will be provided to guide you to the all-gender restroom at Plaza de la Raza.

Healing Space



The 8th House, AJAAS: Healing Justice Space & Integration Lounge

The 8th House at AJAAS is organized around the following Healing Justice Principles:

1. Collective Trauma is transformed collectively
2. There is no single model of care
3. Healing strategies are rooted in place and ancestral technologies

From: Healing Justice Lineages: Dreaming at the Crossroads of Liberation, Collective Care, and Safety by Cara Page and Erica Woodland

The 8th House references traditional astrology. Astrology is a system of deriving meaning from the stars and planets and where they are in relationship to each other at any given time in their orbit. There are 12 houses of astrology that signify different areas of our lives. The 8th House centers themes of death, mental health, inheritances, taboos, and transformation. As members of queer and trans community, all of us have experiences with these themes. We have seen the name scrolls, we know our loved ones are over represented in fatality statistics, and white supremacy, racial capitalism, carceral models of care and heteropatriarchy asks us to move on and look ahead, build the new and shiny, grow endlessly towards profit, and shield us from the true costs of extraction & extinction. Our invitation is to be with us in a cultural alternative. Join us to deepen into these themes, to create space to be in the question of what might emerge when we take the time and space for healing, integration, and restoration.

Step into an oasis of your imagination, a haven within the conference dedicated to healing justice practice, integration, and rest. We invite you to delve into the intricate aspects of human experience represented in The 8th House of astrology: death, mental health, inheritances, taboos, and transformation. The 8th House serves as a refuge for collective exploration, where there is no wrong way to engage in healing. Come claim time and space for self at The 8th House; engage individually and/or collectively. Let's reject a one-size-fits-all model of community care, and ground our healing strategies in the wisdom of place and ancestral technologies.

Play with sensory experiences that may include: a tea service offering, time with live plants and dry herbs, a community altar, soft landings with pillows and blankets, and engagement with music, sound, scent, and silence. We uplift the role of practice as a vital ingredient for transformation and invite engagement to experiment with intuition toning, relationship training, adaptation, collective grieving, and release. We will have a participatory altar in our space and invite you to bring items to contribute. In alignment with disability justice principles, *The 8th House will practice universal masking.*

Cal State LA Map



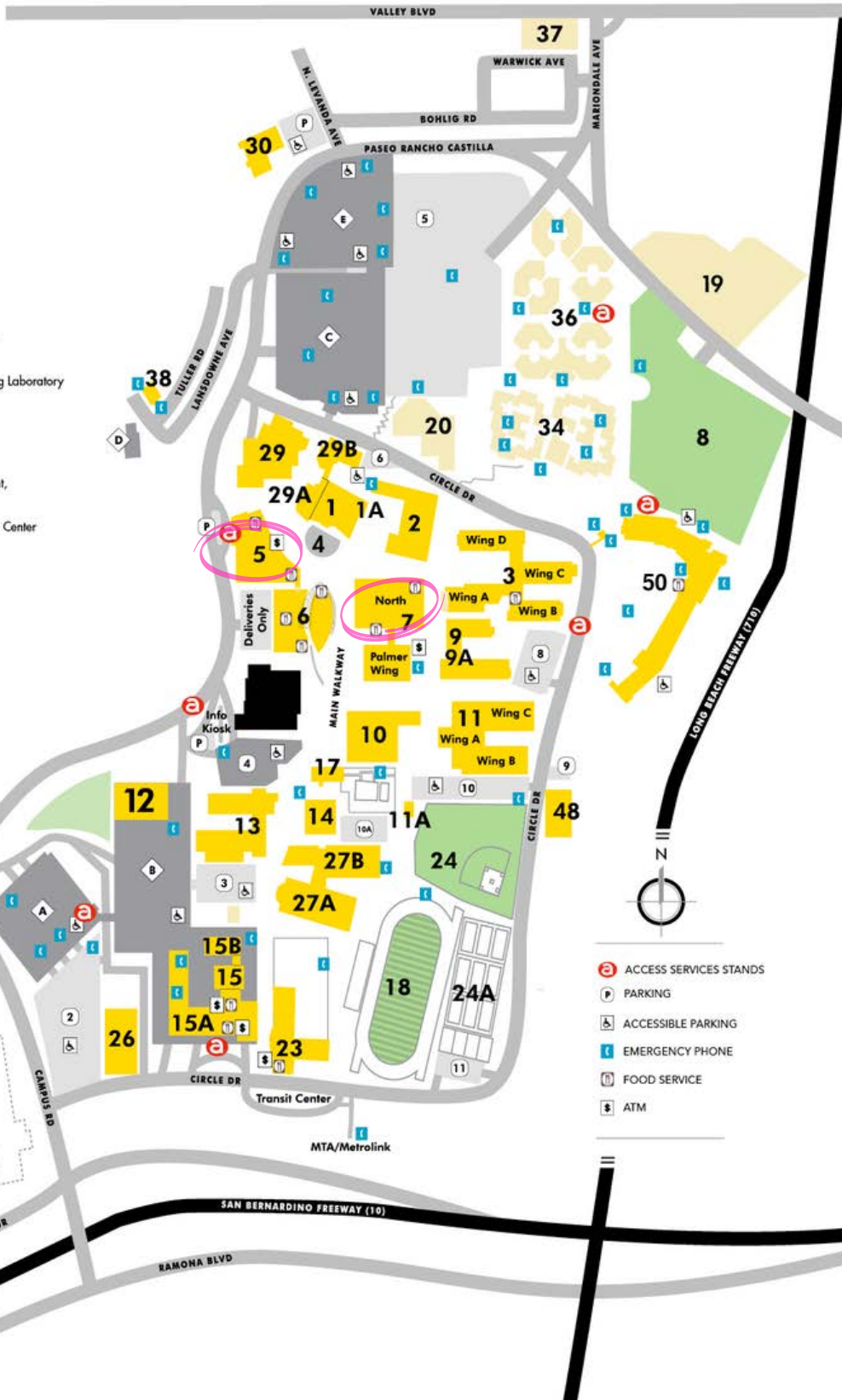
KEY

- 1 Theatre (State Playhouse)
- 1A Music Hall
- 2 Music (Arena Theatre)
- 3 King Hall
- 4 University-Student Union Plaza
- 5 University-Student Union
- 6 Golden Eagle
- 7 University Library
- 8 Recreational Fields
- 9 Fine Arts
- 9A Ronald H. Silverman Fine Arts Gallery
- 10 Physical Education (Gymnasium)
- 11 Engineering & Technology
- 11A Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Laboratory
- ▶ 12 Student Services Building
- 13 Biological Sciences
- 14 Student Health Center
- 15 Simpson Tower
- 15A Salazar Hall
- 15B Simpson Annex
- 17 Career Center / Center for Engagement, Service, and the Public Good
- 18 Stadium (Jesse Owens Track)
- 19 Los Angeles Football Club Performance Center
- 20 LACHSA
- 23 Corporation Yard
- 24 Reeder Field
- 24A Tennis / Basketball Courts
- 26 Stern MASS High School
- 27A La Kretz Hall
- 27B James M. Rosser Hall
- 29 Luckman Theatre
- 29A Luckman Fine Arts Gallery
- 29B Intimate Theatre
- 30 Anna Bing Arnold Children's Center
- 34 Housing Phase I
- 36 Housing Phase II
- 37 Golden Eagle Apartments
- 38 TV, Film & Media Center
- 43 Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center
- 46 Public Safety / Parking Services
- 47 WELCOME CENTER
- 48 Hydrogen Station
- 49 Rongxiang Xu Bioscience Innovation Center
- 50 South Village (Residence Hall)

PARKING

- ◊ Structure
- Lot
- ▶ Transportation Service Center (Located on 2nd floor of Student Services Building)

- Ⓐ ACCESS SERVICES STANDS
- P PARKING
- ♿ ACCESSIBLE PARKING
- ☎ EMERGENCY PHONE
- 🍽 FOOD SERVICE
- 🏧 ATM



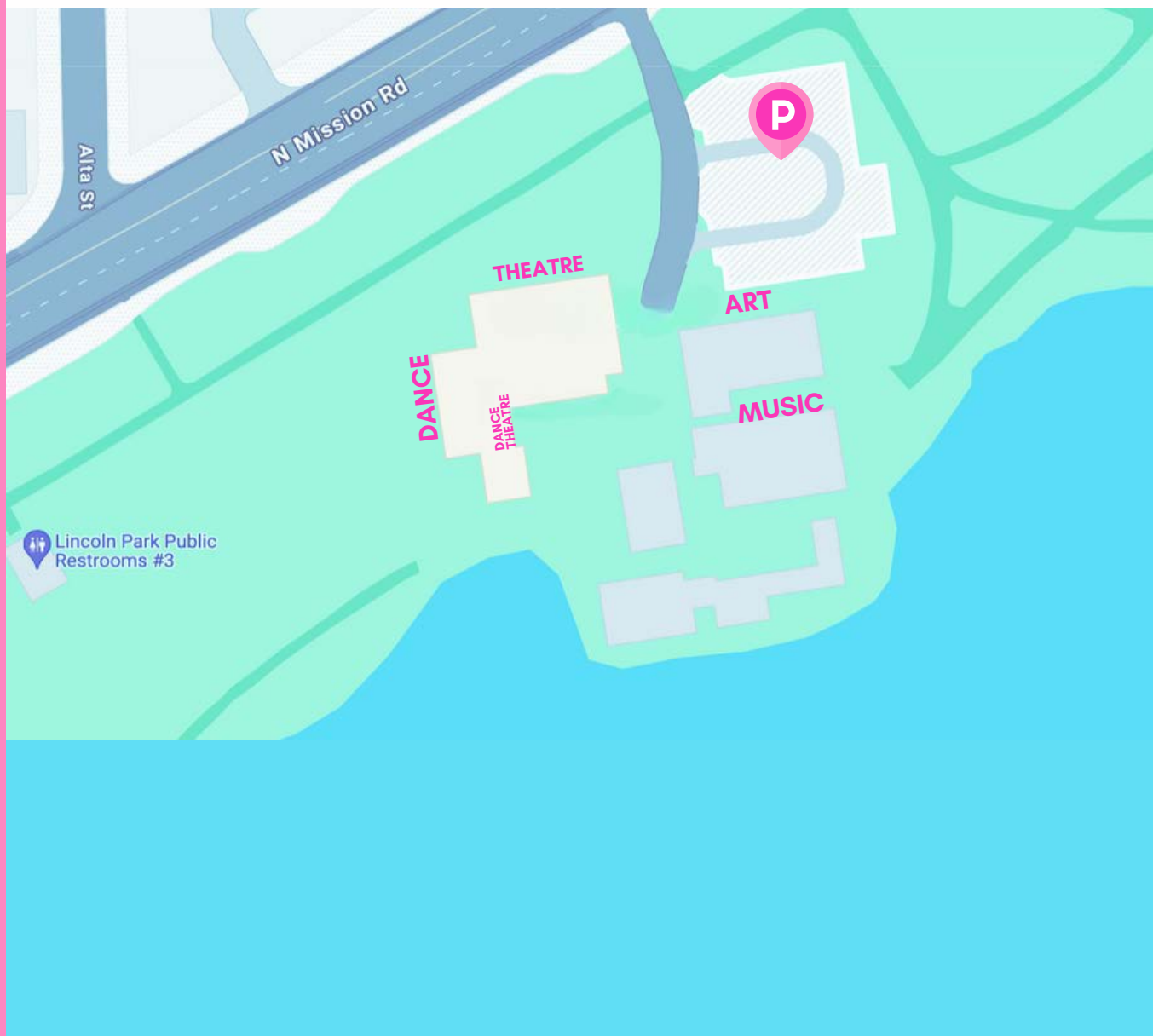
PA 4-4-2022

Plaza de la Raza Cultural Center Map



PLAZA DE LA RAZA

3540 N Mission Rd · (323) 223-2475



Palestine Solidarity Statement

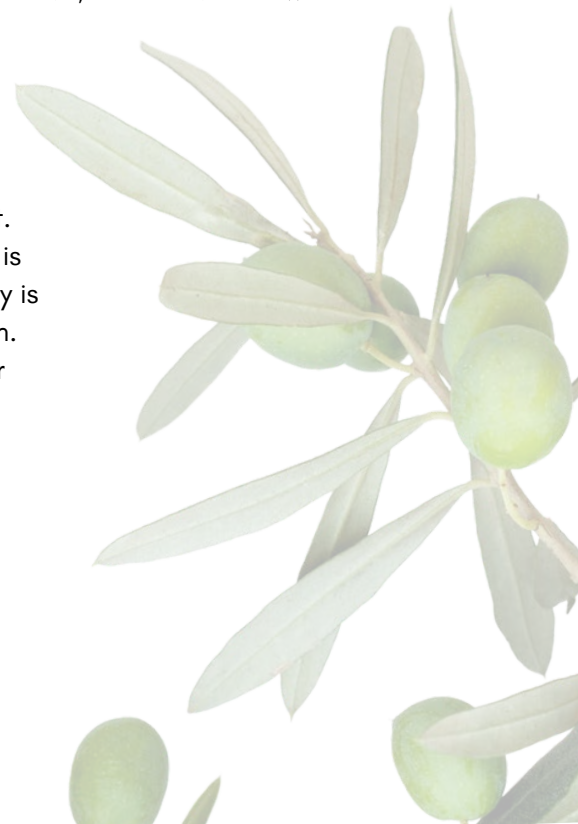
We, the Association of Jotería Arts, Activism, and Scholarship, extend our unwavering solidarity to the people of Palestine. We are outraged by the violences and injustices that Palestinians are facing in Gaza and The West Bank. As a community of queer and trans Latinx, Chicanx, and people of color, our voices join in harmony with our queer Palestinian siblings who state the following facts: "What is happening in Palestine is genocide. Israel is a settler-colony. Palestinians are a militarily occupied and colonized society." We stand firmly against these injustices and recognize and affirm that the situation in Palestine reflects a struggle for dignity and freedom. We raise our voices in unity for peace, justice, and the recognition of sovereignty.

Our Jotería consciousness demands fearless action against the forces of colonialism, genocide, and apartheid wherever they exist. We unequivocally denounce ethnic cleansing, military occupation, and the imperialist agendas of the US and Israel. We stand against racism, Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, and all forms of oppression as virulent barriers to our vision of queer liberation. As Jotería, we fiercely reject any attempts to use our queer, trans, and non-binary identities as tools to demonize and dehumanize, and to justify the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people. Our hearts are heavy with grief for the genocide of Palestinians, including our queer and trans siblings in Gaza, and we honor their memory in our relentless pursuit of justice. We recognize that our kin, our community, exists everywhere. In every corner of the globe, we find our people, and our solidarity extends to them all.

As Jotería, we are grounded in a decolonial queer and feminist sensibility and politics. This is more than a perspective; it's a revolutionary force, a way of seeing, thinking, and feeling that is unapologetically committed to social and political transformation. We not only bear witness to the atrocities committed against Palestinians; we stand as unwavering allies in their fight for survival, resistance, and liberation from the shackles of occupation. We see you. We love you. We are unshakably here for you. The violence inflicted upon Palestinians is a mirror of the violence that sought to erase us, our families and communities across Abya Yala, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Afro-Latinx and Latinx barrios in the United States. We recognize this not just as a parallel struggle but as a shared battle against the same forces of oppression and destruction. Our solidarity is as fierce as our resolve, and our voices will not be silenced until justice prevails for all.

As Jotería, we demand an immediate ceasefire, and the unequivocal end to occupation in Palestine. We call on our community to participate in the movement for Palestinian life and liberation, and to lead when we are called upon by our Palestinian siblings to the front. As anti-colonial and decolonial artists, activists, and scholars, our work is fundamentally rooted in resistance, freedom, and healing. Our solidarity is critical and non-negotiable. Our love must be expressed through action. To remain silent is to take part in our own oppression. We recognize our fates are bound together, and that oppression anywhere is a threat to liberation everywhere. We raise our voices, loud and clear: For a free Palestine! For a free Congo! For a free Sudan! For a free Haiti! Our call is a cry for justice. Expect nothing less than relentless resistance, until we are all truly free!

The Association for Jotería, Arts, Activism, and Scholarship



DIY SCHEDULES

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

10:45AM - 12:15PM

Concurrent Session #1

Session Type

Location

2:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Concurrent Session #2

Session Type

Location

4:00PM - 5:30PM

Concurrent Session #3

Session Type

Location

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

10:15AM - 11:45AM

Special Workshop

Session Type

Location

1:45PM - 3:15PM

Concurrent Session #4

Session Type

Location

3:30PM - 5:00PM

Concurrent Session #5

Session Type

Location

5:15PM - 6:45PM

Concurrent Session #1

Session Type

Location

Thursday, February 15, 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

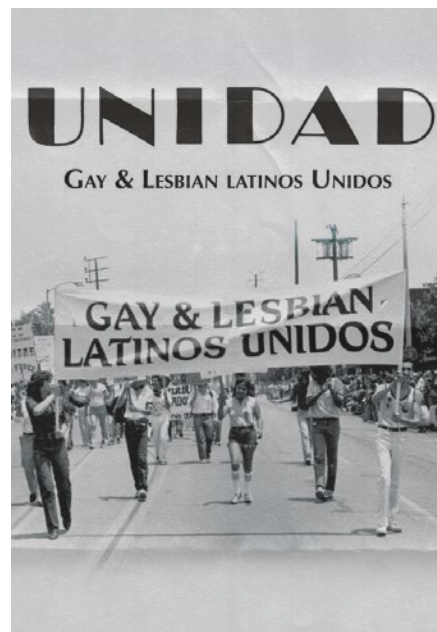
Film Screening of UNIDAD and Conversation with
Filmmaker

Student Union Theater, Room 106

Moderator: Eddy Alvarez, Jr., PhD, California State
University, Fullerton, Associate Professor

Panelists:

- Gregory Davila, Film Producer/Director/Editor
- Roland Palencia, Film Executive Producer
- Mario Navoa, Film Producer
- Lydia Otero, Author and Panelist **Book for sale during Opening Reception event**



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

Location: 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

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 mujrmyzeyahoo.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 4claudiamercado@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.

"Yaaaaaaasss 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 Haitjuana"

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*

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 Jotería 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 Teach-In
12:30PM – 2:00PM
Golden Eagle Building, Ballroom 2 & 3

2:15PM – 3:45PM

Concurrent Session #2



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 Chicana-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 joteríaa 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 visibility, 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 Chicax 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 *fotografimonios*, 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.



4:00PM - 5:30PM

**Concurrent
Session #3**

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’urhepechidad. 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 Chicanx 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 Jotería”: 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 Jotería 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.



Friday Sessions End

6:00PM - 9:00PM

Dinner (*will be provided*)

Noche de Jotería



**Los Angeles Room ABC & Student
Union Theater,
Room 106**

Noche de Jotería

Xochii de la Noche



Xochii de la Noche is the multi-dimensional bruja of play and pleasure from Long Beach, CA ready to entice, enchant, and excite! Exploding onto stages in 2021, Xochii has been leaving audiences mesmerized with her radiant smile, seductive flow, and hypnotizing fan work. Xochii has been featured in the Queer Mvmnt Festival, the Ohio Burlesque Festival, the Mile HIGH Burlesque Festival, and Exquisite Burlesque Festival. An evening with this midnight beauty will leave you spellbound and screaming for more.

You can find her all 2024 at CUMBIAFEST in Long Beach or with Muse Burlesque in Santa Ana until March 2024.

féi hernandez

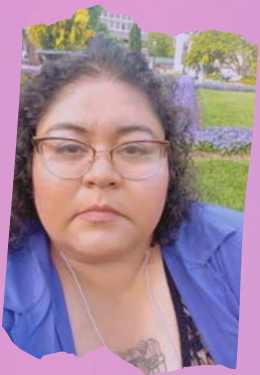


féi hernandez (b.1993, Chihuahua, Mexico) is a trans, formerly undocumented immigrant. féi is a poet/prosist, cultural worker, director/filmmaker, designer/illustrator, and a life doula—creative and spiritual coach—devoted to the empowerment and preservation of trans and queer Black and Indigenous futures. She is a 2023 Lambda Literary fellow and 2022 Tin House Scholar. féi is the author of *Hood Criatura* (Sundress Publications 2020) and the forthcoming (UN)DOCU MENTE (Noemi Press, 2025). féi has been published in Poetry Foundation, Academy of American Poets' "Poem-a-Day," Autostraddle, PANK Magazine, Somewhere We are Human, TransLash Media & Narrative, and more. For more of her projects and services visit: feihernandez.com



Ignacio Daddy

Ignacio Daddy is an LA based drag performer who is ready to bring his unique brand of charm and charisma to the stage. With his Rico Suave energy and playful sense of humor, he knows how to captivate an audience and leave them begging for more. Ignacio Daddy loves interacting with the audience, making everyone feel seen and appreciated - And if you're having a good time, he might even ask you to dance with him! Whether he's cracking jokes or showing off his dance moves, Ignacio Daddy always delivers a one-of-a-kind performance that will leave you smiling from ear to ear. You can call him Daddy, but his name is Nacho Daddy.



ire'ne lara silva

ire'ne lara silva, the 2023 Texas State Poet Laureate, is the author of five poetry collections, *furia*, *Blood Sugar Canto*, *CUICACALLI/House of Song*, *FirstPoems*, and *the eaters of flowers*, two chapbooks, *Enduring Azucares* and *Hibiscus Tacos*, and a short story collection, *flesh to bone*, which won the Premio Aztlán. ire'ne is the recipient of a 2021 Tasajillo Writers Grant, a 2017 NALAC Fund for the Arts Grant, the final Alfredo Cisneros del Moral Award, and was the Fiction Finalist for AROHO's 2013 Gift of Freedom Award. Her first comic book, *VENDAVAL*, will be released by the Chispa Imprint of Scout Comics in April 2024.

<http://www.irenelarasilva.wordpress.com> **Book for sale during Noche de Jotería**



Izel Coatlicue Lemus

Izel Coatlicue Lemus is a California State University, Fullerton graduate with a B.A. in Psychology. She discovered writing as another form of activism while taking a Chicano/a/x Studies course in her undergraduate. As a demisexual indigenous brown woman, she found that her experience could form and pave the way for further inclusivity with her niche for integrating the danza community into her writing.



z.No Scott

z.No Scott is the benign ghost [behind the guidepost] disguised in guy's clothes; a rhizome - comprised of rhinestones -crying in tritones.

Saturday, February 17th, 2024

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*

10:00AM – 10:30AM

Body Movement with Mariposx Healing

Plaza de La Raza, Dance Room

Welcome

Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio

10:45AM – 12:15PM

**Special
Workshops**



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 Córdova)*

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.

Book for sale during breakfast and lunch on Saturday at Plaza de la Raza

Sessions will resume after Lunch

12:00PM – 1:30PM

Plaza de La Raza, Outdoor Patio

1:45PM – 3:15PM

**Concurrent
Session #4**



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 Chicana 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 Buildings

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 Chicana Studies from UNM

This talk will follow the artistic research of Pico del Hierro-Villa's documentation of SW LGBTQ Chicana communities reclaimed connection to La Virgen de Guadalupe through breaking social borders of indoctrinated religion, following with a group discussion of how the jotox 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.



3:30PM – 5:00PM
**Concurrent
Session #5**

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

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
- Magaly Ordoñez, M.A., Feminist Studies PhD Candidate, University of Minnesota, Twins Cities

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"

Presenters:

- 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, Open 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.

5:15PM - 6:45PM

Concurrent
Session #6



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.



Saturday Sessions End
7:00PM - 10:00PM
Dinner (*will be provided*)
Cumbiaton Baile
Plaza de La Raza



CUMBIATON

at Plaza de
La Raza

3540 N. Mission Rd.
Los Angeles, CA

Feb. 17
7PM

\$10 Pre-Sale
\$15 at Door
All Ages!



Jotería Exhibits in Los Angeles



MARC SELWYN FINE ART



Still-Life with Triumeq and Wrapped Candies that Remind Me of the Artist Félix González-Torres, 2023

Joey Terrill

Still Here

January 13 – March 3, 2024
Opening reception January 13th, 5 - 7pm

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*

115 Paseo de La Plaza Los Angeles, CA 90012

Museum of Social Justice Hours: 10:00AM – 3:00PM

Conversation with Exhibit Curator: 1:00PM–2:00PM



Access the Museum Website

Finding Sequins in the Rubble curated by *Eddy F. Alvarez Jr., PhD*, is a metaphor for how members of the jotería community in Los Angeles find joy, love, and healing in the midst of discrimination, rejection, and violence that they may experience.

The sequins can be the joyous moments of celebration among familia, healing after years of childhood trauma, a first queer kiss, the euphoria of performing in drag, or a life-altering top surgery. The sequins can also be actual sequins, like the many strung along the walls of this museum: shiny, glittering, and illuminating. Sequins—whether as adornment on the outfits of clubgoers of the historic Arena nightclub, or in the dress and fabric shops along the callejones only minutes away from here—are aesthetic choices, but are also portals into possibility and self-empowerment.

The rubble can be a historical metaphor for the violence and trauma caused by colonization, the theft of Tongva land, the imposition of binary gender systems, and anti-blackness, or it can be an intimate metaphor for heartache and feelings of isolation caused by generational and intrapersonal wounds. It can be the metaphorical debris from the loss of so many to the AIDS epidemic and most recently COVID. The rubble may also be literal—physical debris left after catastrophic events like earthquakes and fires common in southern California, or in the aftermath of uprisings caused by racial injustice.

The images, maps, quotes, and artifacts found within this exhibition are like sequins shining brightly to reveal the wisdom, beauty, joy, and sacredness, past and present, found within the jotería community in Los Angeles. As you visit this exhibition, think of every name, image, artifact, location, memory, and sound you experience as a sequin that forms part of a larger tapestry that celebrates jotería life in the city.

Join AJAAS Board

Co-Chair Elect

- Support and work in collaboration with the Co-Chairs in the implementation of the policies and procedures of the organization
- Be responsible for editing and promoting AJAAS' digital publications
- Commit to serving for three years (one year as Co-Chairs Elect, one year as Co-Chairs, Ex-Officios).

Art Liaison

- Communicate frequently with AJAAS members who identify as artists, and convey the needs of this community to the Board
- In collaboration with the Activism Liaison and Scholarship Liaison, maintain and curate the "Spotlight" section of the website, assuring that the work of our members is adequately represented;
- Consult with the editors of the Joteria Newsletter (Co-Chair elect) and write short articles about Joteria Artists and their work.

Activism Liaison

- Communicate frequently with AJAAS members who identify as activist, and convey the needs of this community to the Board
- In collaboration with the Art Liaison and Scholarship Liaison, maintain and curate the "Spotlight" section of the website, assuring that the work of our members is adequately represented;
- Consult with the editors of the Joteria Newsletter (Co-Chair elect) and write short articles about Joteria Activism.

Scholarship Liaison

- Communicate frequently with AJAAS members who identify as scholars, and convey the needs of this constituency to the Board;
- In collaboration with the Art Liaison and Activism Liaison, maintain and curate the "Spotlight" section of the website, assuring that the work of our members is adequately represented;
- Consult with the editors of the Joteria Newsletter (Co-Chair elect) and write short articles about Joteria Scholarship.



Conference Liaison

- Function as a bridge between the board and the conference committee, maintaining clear and open lines of communication.
- Be in charge of ensuring the site committee has necessary resources including the conference handbook and guidelines. Will update the handbook as needed.

Web Queerstorian

- Update the digital archive of all historical materials pertaining to the organization including the website
- Document all events including conferences, meetings, symposiums and special events, through the use of cameras, and other audio, visual recording devices.
- Put together a committee of volunteers who will help with these goals.

Social Media and Outreach Liaison

- Be responsible for doing outreach for the organization including to media outlets, in consort with co-chairs.
- Work with the conference site committee to disseminate information related to the conference.
- Post marketing material on social media sites to promote AJAAS and affiliates

Treasurer

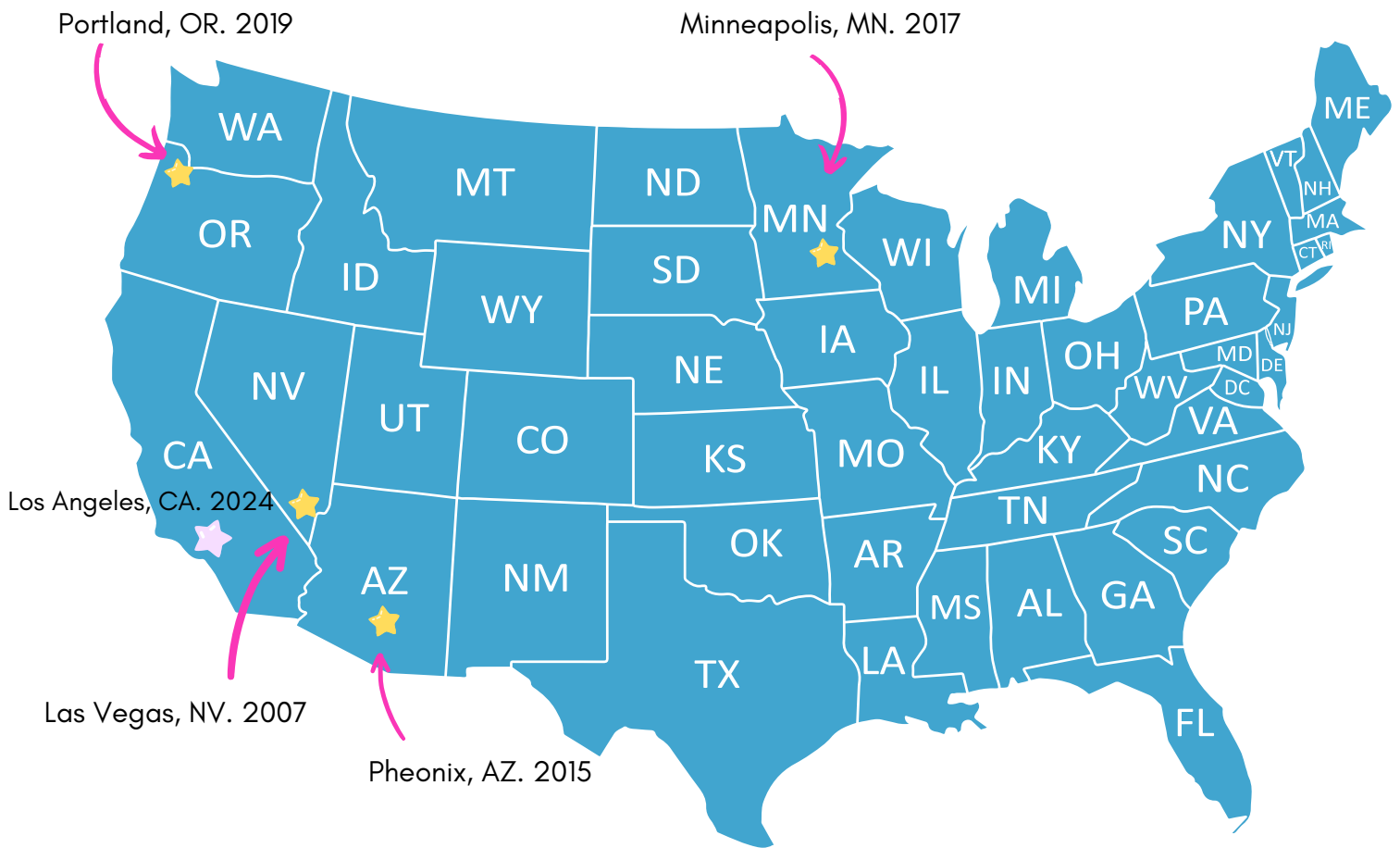
- In collaboration with the Co-Chairs, regularly review, report, and reconcile financial documents and statements for the organization
- Sign all checks issued by the organization
- Seek funding opportunities and coordinate development efforts

Membership Coordinator

- In collaboration with the Board and Queerstorian/Web Director, be responsible for making recommendations on the uses and functionality of the listservs, email lists, and other social media
- Be responsible for maintaining moderation of public and members listservs
- Work in consultation with the Web Director to create and maintain the content of the AJAAS website's membership section



Host the Next AJAAS BiAnnual Conference 2026



Commissioned Artist Bio



Ceci Luna

Ceci Luna (they/she) is a queer Latinx artist-scholar based in Gainesville, Florida who specializes in digital collage and mixed-media. Their work explores themes of queer of color belonging, resistance, decoloniality, queer world-building, pleasure and joy. Drawing from queer theorists, revolutionary thinkers and feminist epistemologies, their pieces incorporate the life and fantasies of queer Latinxs navigating power through their negotiations of joy.



[Check out their instagram](#)

Vendors

Organized by



Mission

Our mission is to develop and create spaces that allow Queer Small businesses to build their brands through a lens of authenticity and healing. We will amplify Queer businesses through: Events, Education & Advocacy.

Vision

We envision a world where Queer Community is celebrated & uplifted year round. A world where Queer community has access and afforded opportunities to build their businesses and create economic opportunities.



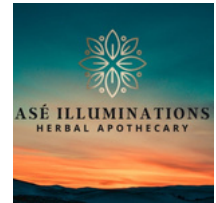
IG: @ethicalpunk_
ethicalpunk.com



IG: @oxomobody



IG: @xuntymade



IG: @ase_illuminations



IG: @CasaDeLarquez
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IG: @adelitas_revenge



IG: @gyaorganics