Message from the Director

Families and Communities First

CCREC is committed to research for equity. We support projects by University of California scholars who partner with organizations and policy makers seeking research-based equitable solutions to the economic, educational, employment, environmental, health, and housing challenges confronting the least advantaged communities. CCREC research puts low-income, racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse families and communities first, not only because inequities in resources and opportunities disproportionately impact them, but also because the knowledge, skills, and capacities of those communities need to be mobilized to effect the changes needed. At the same time, these communities need to generate new, more critical knowledge, and this entails research and learning processes that can be assisted through CCREC’s support.

CCREC seed and development grants continue to make a difference, and the reports and other research products they generated have impacted local, regional, and state policies and practices. We have told some of these stories in our earlier newsletters, and in this newsletter we highlight the projects awarded grants in CCREC’s most recent competition, which promise similar substantive impacts. Our Signature Projects – one urban, Growing Equity from the Ground Up; the other situated in the mixed rural-urban context of Central California, Young Adult Civic Engagement (YACE) – have been maturing their partnerships, forming working groups, honing research questions, and seeking funders. These projects are constructing long-term, research-based strategic interventions that will foster a new generation of transformative leadership for often-neglected communities. Putting families and communities first in CCREC-funded and incubated projects means listening to their hopes and dreams, learning from their home-grown interventions into the inequitable conditions of their lives, and providing support for their own critical examination of how to better address those limiting conditions and come closer to realizing those dreams.

I called on my own family and community first. I am calling on all of you to become a donating member of the CCREC family and community. Every donation makes a difference.

~Ron Glass, CCREC Director

The CCREC staff, Governance Council, and Advisory Board also strive to work together in a spirit that recognizes our rootedness in families and communities and our common humanity; we know that the quality of our relationships with one another and our partners bears significantly on CCREC’s success.

In this same spirit, I called on my own family and community first when I solicited individual donations to CCREC. This request comes as CCREC prepares its proposal for the University of California competition for its multi-campus research program initiatives for 2015-2019. Although we were previously selected for our founding $1.52M grant, and we have garnered nearly $1M in nationally competitive grants to build out the projects identified in our earlier winning proposal, we believe it is important to demonstrate that CCREC’s mission is broadly supported. My family and community responded to my call with 25 donations ranging from $25 to $3000, totaling more than $7500. My CCREC colleagues and I are awed by this generous response, and we are deeply appreciative for this affirmation of the value of our work.

I ask each of you reading this to become a donating member of the CCREC family and community by clicking here now. Every donation makes a difference, and demonstrates how our network of engaged scholars, students, community leaders, and policy makers judge CCREC’s mission and work.

We will soon submit our proposal for our core University of California funding. Help us show that we, along with our family and community, are doing all we can to make research matter in creating a more equitable society. Your support now will enable us to more forcefully ask the University to enlarge its own commitment to CCREC.

Thank you for your own contribution to a more equitable society, and thank you again for being a Member of the CCREC Family and Community!
Understanding and Addressing Racial Occupational Segregation in the Restaurant and Food Retail Industries

Principle Investigator: Chris Benner, Professor of Human Ecology, UC Davis

Workers of color in the restaurant and retail food industries face significant barriers in obtaining the livable wage jobs in the industry, and are instead concentrated in lower-paying positions and industry segments. Research conducted to date has indicated that racial segregation exists, but has not fully explained how it occurs or exactly what interventions would be most effective to eliminate it. Research is needed to fully understand what happens when employers seek to desegregate but do not succeed, and what combination of penalties, incentives, consumer engagement models, and worker training programs could result in workers of color being able to advance to livable wage positions. This study will use a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to better understand the factors contributing to racial segregation in the retail food and restaurant sectors in California and to analyze the barriers that prevent workers of color from advancing to livable wage jobs and prevent employers from hiring workers of color in livable wage jobs in these sectors. Working closely with the Restaurant Opportunities Center, the UFCW Western States Council, and the Food Chain Workers Alliance, this study will also investigate policy and organizing solutions that can result from this deeper understanding of the mechanisms of segregation in these industries.

Examining and Promoting the Conditions and Lives of Native Hawaiian in California

Principle Investigator: Mitchell Chang, Professor of Education, UCLA

The purpose of this study is to understand the creation and context of Native Hawaiian socioeconomic, health, and educational conditions in California and to use this knowledge to improve the lives of Native Hawaiians. Many Native Hawaiians choose to leave their homeland to improve their economic circumstances, but this type of migration is often overlooked because Native Hawaiians do not technically cross international borders. However, spatial, historical, and cultural distance between Hawai‘i and the continental U.S., create a set of circumstances suggesting that their experiences are similar to those migrating from developing countries to the U.S. Some indicators suggest that after relocating to California, Native Hawaiians still do not do any better than their counterparts in Hawai‘i. In this study we aim to explore to what extent these patterns are due to oppressive historical circumstances transported from their homeland. We plan to work with Empower Pacific Islanders Communities, a 501c3 organization in Los Angeles, to investigate the root causes and interconnectedness of economic, health, and educational disenfranchisement within the Native Hawaiian population in California. In collaboration with them, we will present findings and community solutions to federal, state, and local policymakers, including members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, and Los Angeles Community College District.

New Politics and New Polities: Equity-Oriented, Race-Conscious Social Movement Mobilization in California Communities

Principle Investigator: Diane Fujino, Professor of Black Studies, UC Santa Barbara

This project seeks to engage activists and scholars in critical dialogues about theories and strategies of organizing, leadership and organizational models, and structural and personal obstacles in social movement development. It brings together five equity-oriented, race-conscious California groups and scholars from UCSB and UCSD. Drawing from engaged scholarship studies, feminist standpoint theory, and the Black radical tradition, the project methodology is centered on the co-production of knowledge among activists and scholars about social movement change. The project seeks to draw on and create new archives and imaginaries to examine the challenges of developing goals, strategies, and campaigns in the face of neoliberalism; the ways victories can lead to defeats in other areas of organizing, and the ways defeats can turn into victories; how the study of history and knowledge about past social movements affect current organizing; and the creative defiance and challenges to the overwhelming structural inequalities in the lives of activists that impedes social justice work. The project will engage in community-scholar interactions that involve horizontal, egalitarian collaborations in planning and executing dialogues. This project will result in the submission of one or more extramural funding proposals and publications about knowledge and methodologies emerging from the planning process funded by the CCREC grant.

Millennial Impact: New Generation Immigrant Leaders in Rural California’s Changing Citizenship Regime

Principle Investigator: Paul Johnston. Associate Researcher, UC Santa Cruz

A diverse team of new generation and millennial immigrant community activists rooted in the rural communities of the California Central Coast will work together to explore whether within the context of the emerging new citizenship regime in California, new generation and/or millennial immigrant community leaders have the capacity to overcome a set of organizational, political, and cultural barriers to immigrant community empowerment. This planning process will explore a set of leadership development strategies to empower millennial generation immigrants (first, second, third generation, etc.) to help overcome those barriers. It will produce qualitative reports, a plan for expanded collaborative action research, and an experienced team prepared for implementation.

Working LA Series: Young Workers in Los Angeles as Applied Researchers and Advocates for Change

Principle Investigator: Janna Shadduck-Hernandez, Project Director, UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education

Young workers are the faces that greet us in coffee shops hotels, retail stores, restaurants and grocery markets. They are the cashiers and baristas at Starbucks, stockers and security guards at Walmart, sales people in mail chain stores, and servers in fast food restaurant franchises. Despite their visibility, there is a lack of understanding of who working youth really are. The Young Workers in Los Angeles as Applied Researchers and Advocates for Change project uses participatory action research to document and disseminate the experiences of young workers in Los Angeles employed in low-wage industries like restaurant, retail, grocery, hotel/hospitality, and customer service. The purpose of this project is to increase the capacity of young workers, students, and youth and worker advocates to conduct research and publicly promote findings and recommend best practice strategies based on their experiences in the low-wage service sector economy. Ultimately, our goal is to impact policies that will increase wages and promote equality and mobility among young workers within the current Los Angeles labor market.

To read more about CCREC’s funded projects, click here. To read more about CCREC’s planning and development grants, click here.

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Raquel Lopez
CCREC Advisory Board Member and Executive Director of Casa de la Raza in Santa Barbara is rooted in a long history of equity oriented work.
~By Sheeva Sabati

CCREC Advisory Board member, Raquel Lopez, is the Executive Director of La Casa de La Raza, a community-based organization located in the Eastside of Santa Barbara that serves Latino Families through a broad range of services. La Casa de La Raza has deep historical roots in the community; established in 1971 out of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement, La Casa remains the only independently owned and led Latino Community Center within the region. In my conversation with Raquel, it became clear that La Casa takes seriously its mission to “develop and empower the Latino community” through the various facets of its work, which integrates cultural preservation and affirmation alongside a vast array of support services and advocacy for their community members.

La Casa is structured around three core components: the Family Resource Center, the Youth Center, and Cultural Arts Programming. As Raquel describes, the Family Resource Center is, “the heart of what we do, el corazón of what our work is.” With a small but strong core team of 5 full-time staff members (including Raquel), La Casa serves between 100-200 families each month, supporting them through a variety of concerns that range from legal, medical, employment to housing-related issues. La Casa staff assist with translations and answering questions about formal documents; they are also trained to file divorce paperwork, as well as legal forms for child support. When they aren’t able to provide direct assistance, La Casa helps families navigate often complicated and obscure public service structures, whether referring someone to a reputable lawyer (one who will actually work in the interest of Latino families) or informing someone about what questions to ask when they visit a government related office.

La Casa has developed its Family Resource Centers approach in response to the needs of its community. “Our families are stuck, and so we’ve learned how to do this work because there are very specific needs that no one else is responding to.” As Raquel goes on to describe, “Our families are facing complex issues. It’s not one incident, it’s very interconnected.” It is for this reason that families come to La Casa from as far as 15 miles north and south of Santa Barbara, and even from Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties. People travel such distances not only because La Casa offers these services free of charge, “but because they can’t find these same services in their own communities.”

La Casa is also very intentional about its approach, operating from an empowerment-based model. “It’s not charity, it’s a model based out of ‘you have the skills.’” La Casa provides a space where families can talk “from that model of ‘we know, we just sometimes need help, and we can help each other, versus waiting for somebody to take care of us.”

La Casa’s Youth Center provides after-school, evening, and summer programming for elementary to high school aged children and youth. They focus on math and sciences, literacy, cultural arts, and leadership. In addition, La Casa provides a gender-specific program for young Latina women called MARIPOSA, addressing gender and cultural barriers while introducing educational and career opportunities. Raquel points out that “we don’t label our youth. Some folks serve ‘at risk’ youth or ‘gang members,’ we don’t do that, we don’t ask, we just serve our youth.”

Last year, the La Casa Youth Leadership Council initiated and organized a series of dances and raised over $15,000, offering young people in the community age-relevant and safe activities in the evenings. The youth were able to use these funds to support and expand La Casa’s programmatic offerings and have taken on an active role in choosing the new arts-based classes to add to the curriculum. However, Raquel shares her dismay around the lack of media attention to these exciting youth-led initiatives, in spite of La Casa’s efforts to solicit coverage. For Raquel, this speaks to the broader social context within which La Casa’s work is situated: the representations of the Latino community that seem to receive the greatest circulation are not necessarily positive ones, despite the vibrant and important work in the community.

La Casa organizes events all year long, such as Día de los Muertos, posadas, art exhibits, book readings, movies nights, and an array of concerts and dances. The majority of these events are “culturally based, but they also have a lot of advocacy and empowerment” integrated into them, so “its not just a dance or

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(Photo above: Día de los Muertos dancers at La Casa.)
Raquel Lopez

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just a party,” but a way to gather and organize the community.

As the Executive Director, Raquel manages more than just staffing, overseeing the budget, and working with the Board of Directors. She is also actively involved in programming, policy, and advocacy. Moreover, she manages a historic facility that boasts over 26,000 square feet of functional space.

La Casa also has a long history of working in partnership with surrounding universities, including UC Santa Barbara and nearby community and private colleges, not only receiving students to volunteer at the center, but also in collaborative research partnerships. La Casa’s members at the time played a supporting role in developing “El Plan de Santa Barbara,” which called for the implementation and autonomy of the Chicano Studies program at UCSB and was written by Chicano scholars and activists out of the Chicano movement work of the late 1960s. More recently, La Casa also collaborated with UC Santa Barbara to develop “Huehuetlatolli,” a math and science curriculum that integrates Mayan/Aztec teachings. La Casa also collaborated on an adolescent well-being and pregnancy prevention project, which was unique in its approach of bringing mothers into the framework as part of the solution. There was also a recent community-oriented research project on gangs.

When I asked Raquel how these collaborative partnerships have emerged, whether through existing relationships or alignment of the researcher’s work to La Casa’s mission, Raquel replied, “That’s a good question, and I’ll tell you, I say ‘No’ much more than I say ‘Yes’ to potential research projects. I think everything that we’ve been able to do with folks leaves things behind in our community that are important. So going back to the question, why do I do this? Why do I collaborate? Why do I feel that it’s important? I think that it’s important to say ‘No’ to things that aren’t relevant, but when you do find like-minded scholars and folks who want to have an impact in the community, its our duty to work together; because we can’t do it alone, and we need each other.”

Raquel shares that mistrust exists among many community organizations towards collaborating with university researchers, and for good reason, given the history of exploitative relationships through research, particularly with communities of color. Yet she also notes that there’s growing interest in alternative models to collaboration, such as participatory action research, which “insists that we work with community in a different way.” Raquel describes how her involvement on CCREC’s Advisory Board has been productive in giving her insight to the challenges community engaged scholars face within the university context, and how she is able bring this perspective to other community organizations who are considering but are skeptical of becoming involved in collaborative research projects. “I never really understood, because it’s not my world, that you’re seen as ‘less than’ at the university if you’re involved with community and that your work can’t possibly be ‘top-notch’ because you’re now working in community, right? So hearing about all of those challenges and barriers coming from the university perspective that I’ve heard in [my conversations with the CCREC Advisory Board] has been really helpful when I’m in community and I hear some of the skepticism. I can say, ‘well I know it’s a challenging thing but I really encourage you to explore working this way, and finding the right partners.’”

Raquel notes how she also receives criticism for collaborating with university researchers. “They’ll say, ‘why would you have those folks who don’t care about community work with the community, they just take.’ And they’re right, it has happened in our community, but its not happening with these people that we’re working with. So I can defend those moments, and I feel stronger about it because I know that I say ‘No’ to folks more than I say ‘Yes.’” In the same spirit, Raquel sees her involvement with CCREC as positioned to support La Casa’s community as well. “I think the fact that you’ve invited community along with scholars onto the Advisory Board to have these candid and open conversations, to be really truthful, has been a great experience because I see the struggles that we all have.”

Raquel also sees the alignment between La Casa’s mission and CCREC’s work. “One of the wonderful things about CCREC is the fact that we’re willing to take these issues on and, as partners, explore these things and make it better for everybody because at the end of the day, we’re committed to social justice.” Raquel sees that this work comes from a place of “mutual reciprocity, where we all are benefiting. There’s nothing wrong with folks benefiting from each other; we need each other.” This transparency has made an impression on Raquel: “I think that CCREC does that really well; wants to talk about these issues, is willing to listen, and then grow and make the changes. I think it’s a balanced discussion, in terms of what can we do for one another. There are very few times that I’ve said that in these kinds of organizations or group meetings; there’s usually somebody trying to take something from somebody else. But CCREC seems really to be about mutual growth, and a mutual struggle, that together we’re figuring this out.”

CCREC Fellows make a difference across the state through collaborative research

Creating Frameworks for Collaborative Research for Health, Equity, and Sustainability

Jason Corburn, Associate Professor of City & Regional Planning and School of Public Health at UC Berkeley, worked with the City of Richmond, California, to develop and adopt a public policy strategy and ordinance called Health in All Policies (HiAP).

Increasing the Impact of Citizen Science

Heidi Ballard, Professor of Environmental Science Education at UC Davis, co-wrote an article for Science (28 March 2014: Vol. 343 no. 6178), titled “Next Steps for Citizen Science.” The piece offers suggestions for strategic thinking by citizen science practitioners and their scientific peers, and for tactical investment by private funders and government agencies, to help the field reach its full potential.

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CCREC Highlights

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CCREC continues to support and improve the practice of equity-oriented collaborative research. This summer, CCREC will provide a training opportunity for graduate students and early career scholars.

Increasing Capacity for Collaborative Research and Developing the Next Generation of Engaged Scholars

CCREC is hosting the first annual Summer Collaborative Research Training Institute on August 22-24, 2014, at UC Santa Cruz, to introduce graduate students and early career scholars to theories, methods, ethics, and democratic aspects of collaborative research. Through seminars, roundtables, and hands-on workshops, participants will develop skills and knowledge to begin engaging in equity-oriented community-based collaborative research.

The facilitators are CCREC Fellows from several UC campuses and core community partners. Registration opened in March and the 25 spaces filled within 2 weeks with graduate students and scholars from 6 UC campuses, as well as several other U.S. Universities and a range of academic disciplines from Informatics to Linguistics to Education. Additionally, CCREC offered 13 scholarships ranging from partial to full support.

CCREC is building the field of equity-oriented community-based collaborative research in part by providing opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue and engagement.

Exploring the Intersections of Digital Media, Collaborative Research, and Democracy

CCREC has begun planning for the Digital Media, Community-Based Research & Democracy Conference, a national gathering at the Chaminade Resort in Santa Cruz on November 14 and 15, 2014. This invitational conference for about 100 leading theorists and democratic activists provides an opportunity for exploring the intersections of digital media with truth seeking and the formation of publics able to engage in equity-oriented research and advocacy. There has been limited scholarly attention to the role of knowledge generated from research in digital media and democracy, positioning CCREC as a leader in this scholarly area. The conference will be organized around four interrelated themes: data matters, truth matters, power matters, and tool matters.

CCREC has made significant progress on developing an ethical framework and tools for engaged scholars, which, with the help of a second major grant from the Spencer Foundation, will continue in our fifth year.

Ethical Issues in Equity-Oriented Collaborative Community-Based Research

CCREC was awarded a second major grant from the Spencer Foundation in the amount of $273K to sustain CCREC’s work on the ethical and epistemological issues unique to equity-oriented collaborative community-based research through the summer of 2015. This new grant will enable CCREC to produce a book that examines these issues philosophically, a casebook to train early career researchers, a special issue of the journal Theory and Research in Education, to hold a conference of leaders from major professional organizations, and to develop an ethical framework for engaged scholarship. To support this project, a postdoctoral scholar, Natalie Baloy, was recruited from an impressive pool of applicants. Additionally, CCREC PI/Director, Ron Glass, and Anne Newman, CCREC Associate Researcher under the first major grant from Spencer, published two articles in top-tier academic journals and presented conference papers addressing ethical and epistemological issues in equity-oriented community-based collaborative research. Click here for more information on the ethics project.

CCREC is working collaboratively to plan additional major conferences on collaborative research with support from the Spencer Foundation, the WT Grant Foundation, and the American Educational Research Association.

Forging Partnerships to Increase the Visibility and Support the Practice of Equity-Oriented Collaborative Community-Based Research

CCREC is involved in a national network of engaged scholars, Urban Research-Based Action Network (URBAN), housed at the MIT Co-Lab and supported by Sage Publications and the Miller-McCune Center for Research, Media and Public Policy. The URBAN network includes scholars across the social sciences, education, and urban planning. Ron Glass, CCREC PI/Director, serves on the URBAN national executive committee (the national leadership team of the network), and with that group has secured grants for three national conferences in 2015 and 2016 on central topics in collaborative research (totaling $105K). CCREC has also taken the leadership on URBAN participation in the American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual meeting, which convened three collaborative research sessions and a business meeting at the AERA annual conference in April this year.

CCREC’s Community-Engaged Computing Initiative brings together computer scientists, social scientists, and humanities scholars to solve the complex analytic challenges in constructing an accessible database to support researchers, policy makers, community organizations, and ordinary citizens in their quests to understand the real problems affecting the economy, employment, education, environment, housing, health, and nutrition.

Making Data Matter for Understanding and Solving Community Issues

Working with CCREC Fellow and Governance Council member Rodney Ogawa, Project PI, and with representatives from three UCSC research centers and a Silicon Valley nonprofit educational research organization, CCREC was awarded a planning and development grant in the amount of $356,542 from the National Science Foundation to develop a regional pilot project that designs and tests a model database that will support data-intensive research in education by integrating structured and unstructured data that can capture both the depth of analytical levels and breadth of measures to understand in-school and out-of-school factors affecting academic achievement. This could potentially lead to a larger NSF grant to develop a comprehensive national database. CCREC is also involved in a multidisciplinary collaborative research proposal to NSF on Data Science for Social Good. CCREC also continues to work closely with the Data and Democracy Initiative of the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS).
Featured Fellow: Adrián Félix
Engaging in community-based research to better understand the citizenship process and improve conditions for Mexican migrants in the U.S.

~ By Sheeva Sabati

Adrián Félix is an Assistant Professor in the Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Department at U.C. Santa Cruz. His research focuses on México-U.S. migration, migrant transnationalism and racial/ethnic politics and identity. Professor Félix began working with CCREC through the Central California Young Adult Civic Engagement (YACE) Project, a collaborative research project with Fathers & Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ) in Stockton, the Merced Organizing Project (MOP) in Merced, Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement (MILPA) in Salinas, and Centro Binacional de Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO).

The following is an excerpt of a conversation with Professor Félix about his experiences in collaborative and community-based research as an early-career scholar.

Sheeva: I'm interested in hearing about your entry into collaborative and community-oriented research. In particular, how does this approach fit within the content areas or focus of your research?

Adrián: I think my work has always been grounded in community organizations from its inception. But in some ways, my work in community organizations happened through academic research. Unlike many of the scholar activists that I am fortunate to count amongst my mentors who were activists from a very young age, I describe my experience and upbringing as the quintessential [migration] story: the son of Mexican migrants who came from a working class family that was completely apolitical, withdrawn, skeptical, and cynical of formal political engagement. So growing up, community organizing, community politics, or formal politics was never really a discussion. I think that's very unfortunate, but very typical of many working class migrant families. As a result of the legacy of having lived under a politically corrupt, single-party state and the many challenges that migrants face politically in the United States, oftentimes, I think, are these political alienations. Rather than engaging in community activism, organizing, or political participation directly, people become completely alienated, and develop a very non-existent sense of political efficacy, or don't have a sense that they can change and transform their daily realities. All of that is to say that I think that I kind of found my way into community organizing and activism through academic research, the impetus, if you will. But that said, I think that my work itself, because it's in many ways concerned with a lot of these questions that I just shared, like the political reality, political experience, political condition of Mexican migrants in particular, the work itself has always been community-grounded in one way or another.

S: I know you’re interested in issues of immigration, migration, and race, specifically within Latino communities, but perhaps you can contextualize your research for us.

A: As a political scientist who is interested in understanding the cultural and historical specificity of Mexican migrants and their political struggles, political identities, political attachments, political loyalties, and the impediments behind all of that, my work is unusually qualitative, ethnographic, and by extension, community-based. This is atypical for political science, which tends to be very dominated by quantitative research such as large survey-based, statistical studies. I think these quantitative studies are important to a certain extent, in terms of understanding patterns of political participation, but they don’t necessarily offer a window into the sort of mechanisms behind how politics and power play out in the lives of people on the ground. So in an attempt to understand that, and to provide some context and texture to that transnationally, my work was always ethnographic. The first chapter of my dissertation and now book project is a political ethnography of the citizenship process, which entails extended research in citizenship classrooms. I studied citizenship classes that were offered mainly through long-standing community organizations in Southern California and in the greater Los Angeles area. That was my sort of direct, initial engagement with these organizations. Very quickly, that unfolded into a much more community-based, participatory action research collaboration; a collaborative relationship, not only with the organizations themselves but also with just ordinary folks that I was connecting with.

So, what started as this political ethnography of citizenship classrooms has developed for me into this long lasting commitment towards alternative and critical education, which really speaks to how synergistic that relationship is between ‘researchers’ and ‘research subjects.’ When I first came to Santa Cruz, I knew there were these groups of migrants up here in Northern California that I was going to reach out to, to interview for my book, but before I did that, they had called to basically recruit me as a political consultant and strategist for their campaigns. So that was a reminder to me that I’m not just a researcher, that I’m also in this key role that can be useful for this wider array of community organizations that are engaging politically in very different ways, and that I try to connect with and assist in whatever way I can. That doesn’t mean that we always agree on things; there are a lot of disagreements, sometimes differences and conflicts, but it’s part of this long-standing relationship that connects and interweaves my research with community.

S: As an early career scholar whose work is grounded in the community, what have been some of the biggest barriers for you, specifically from within the context of a research institution and at the beginning your career?

A: It’s a very difficult political balancing act, having these oftentimes competing commitments and convictions. I think CCREC is well aware of this, and it’s one of the main reasons that CCREC exists, given that there’s very little institutional support for this kind of engaged scholarship or engaged research. That’s why I think CCREC is of vital importance. We need more institutional support for this type of work in order to make it more feasible; otherwise, these conflicting, competing commitments make it very difficult for younger academics to be able to do both things well. The cues that I’ve taken from the

Ph (Photo above: Adrián Félix and the men from MILPA with former congressional candidate José Hernández at the Practical Activism Conference at UCSC.)

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Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California  http://ccrec.ucsc.edu
Featured Fellow: Adrián Félix

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scholar activists who I consider my mentors is that early on in their careers, they’ve had to sort of take a step back from their community work, which is unfortunate, but it’s sort of a tactical move on their part to be able to manage the demands of the job in order to, in the mid- to long term, return to that community work once there’s that greater stability through tenure. I’m currently right at that juncture or crossroads, where I have to decide how to manage these oftentimes competing commitments. That’s something I’m trying to think through and strategize because I do feel the pressure from the academic institution in terms of expectations; expectations of a young scholar, young professor, teaching, research, and publishing, and all the different demands that we have on our time. But at the same time, I don’t think I could do any of that if I didn’t have one foot firmly planted in community work with community organizations. So, I think it’s a difficult political balancing act, one that I’m still working through. I just hope that I can continue to be an ally or resource for our community partners that we work with.

CCREC Fellows make a difference

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Racial Formations in the United States

The Third Edition of Racial Formation in the United States, written by CCREC Fellow and Professor of Sociology at UC Santa Barbara, Howard Winant, along with Michael Omi (UC Berkeley), will be published by Routledge on July 9, 2014.

New material in the Third Edition of this classic text covers many of the racial conditions that have emerged since the publication of the Second Edition twenty years ago, including the steady journey of the U.S. toward a majority nonwhite population, the ongoing evisceration of the political legacy of the early post-World War II civil rights movement, the initiation of the ‘war on terror’ with its attendant Islamophobia, the rise of a mass immigrants rights movement, the formulation of race/class/gender ‘intersectionality’ theories, and the election and reelection of a black President of the United States.

Linking Academic and Community Guidelines for Community-Engaged Scholarship

Robin DeLugan, Associate Professor of Anthropology at UC Merced, with Stergios Roussos, and Geneva Skram, wrote an essay, “Linking Academic and Community Guidelines for Community-Engaged Scholarship” (March 2014, Volume 18(1), Journal of Higher Education Outreach & Engagement). The article aims to serve as a useful guide for faculty development in community-engaged scholarship (CES), highlighting best practices necessary for supporting CES in universities and communities by adding reference to the competencies that can guide community participation in and support of CES.

Addressing Equity through Community Psychology

Regina Langhout, Associate Professor of Psychology at UC Santa Cruz, co-wrote and published two studies in the American Journal of Community Psychology.


This study joins relational empowerment, youth empowerment, and Bridging Multiple Worlds frameworks to examine forms of relational empowerment for children in school and in a youth participatory action research after-school program.


In this study, a long-term photovoice project was conducted to gain a better understanding of how people living in an unincorporated region define their neighborhood.
CCREC Mission

CCREC is a University of California multi-campus research program initiative that links university researchers, community-based organizations, and policy makers in collaborative projects to achieve creative solutions to the problems in our communities.

CCREC fosters a more equitable California by addressing the interconnected crises in the economy, education, employment, environment, health, housing, and nutrition.

CCREC also prepares a new generation of engaged scholars and community leaders.

What is Collaborative Research?

CCREC uses “collaborative research” as an umbrella term for research methods that actively engage communities and policy makers in the research process from start to finish.

This means that university researchers, community-based organizations, and policy makers will work together in framing the problems to be tackled and the questions that need to be answered; they will work together to undertake the research and interpret the results for their significance for community and policy change; and they will work together to disseminate the research findings and advocate for change. While there are a variety of disciplinary approaches currently used by CCREC Fellows and Affiliates (such as community-based research, community-based participatory research, engaged scholarship, participatory action research, and translational research), CCREC prefers the term Equity-Oriented Collaborative Community-Based Research (EOCCBR) to refer to the kind of work that the Center supports through its programs and other activities. Three elements are central to EOCCBR:

Equity-Oriented • Collaborative • Community-Based

CCREC Advisory Board

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