**Message from the Director**

CCREC builds capacity for equity-oriented collaborative research that links university researchers, community-based organizations, and policy makers in joint efforts to understand the most pressing problems in California and to forge strategic responses.

While many people think this kind of engaged scholarship makes straightforward sense, to other people it threatens the core purposes of a great research university. The critics believe it may weaken the university’s commitments to rigorous epistemological standards, undermine its political neutrality, or divert scarce resources from the pursuit of truth without regard for its applied value. The supporters counter that the university has a unique obligation and capability to provide the leadership and assistance that communities need to grapple with their complex challenges through evidence-based democratic deliberations that include even the most marginalized community members.

This debate can become heated and divisive, as evidenced by recent headlines in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that took Syracuse University to task for its initiative known as Scholarship in Action (SIA). SIA sought to reorient a core portion of the university’s human, cultural, intellectual, and financial resources to partner with the private sector, the city of Syracuse, and the neighborhoods around the campus to address deeply entrenched educational, social, and economic development problems. Embraced by the majority of the faculty as well as its many partners, SIA still has vocal detractors who believe it has lowered the university’s standards and squandered resources.

CCREC believes these issues are vitally important, and we can provide national leadership to address them squarely; we have projects underway to establish ethical, epistemic, and other standards for equity-oriented collaborative research. In April next year, we will join the Syracuse Chancellor and other SIA leaders on a panel at a major international scholarly conference in Vancouver, BC, to present our work and engage these debates. Please visit our website and follow our newsletter for updates!

-Ron Glass, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Philosophy of Education
UC Santa Cruz

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**Feature: Jonathan Fox Interview**

Read an update on the CCREC supported project, “Civic Engagement Among Indigenous Mexican Migrant Youth in the Central San Joaquin Valley: Strategies, Repertoires, and Lessons,” in an Interview by CCREC undergraduate researcher, Brooke Velasquez.

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(Photo by Victor Macias)

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**CCREC Highlights**

*Read about what’s happening at the Center as we begin our second year of operation.*

**“Uneasy Remains Film Project” Update**

Read about the project led by CCREC Fellow, Beth Rose Middleton from the UC Davis Native American Studies Department, and link to the film trailer and project website.

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**CCREC in the News!**

CCREC is featured on the UC Office of the President Research Website!

“Center chases truth about state’s crises”

By Ariel Rubissow Okamoto

_A multicampus center connects researchers and people in the community to address poverty, employment, health, the environment and other California issues._

To see the article, go to:


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**Get Involved with CCREC**

Get involved! Learn how to join CCREC by becoming a Fellow, Affiliate, and/or funding partner.

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An Interview with CCREC Fellow, Dr. Jonathan Fox

CCREC Undergraduate Student Research Assistant, Brooke Velasquez, interviewed Dr. Fox, Professor in the Latin American and Latino Studies Department at UC Santa Cruz, regarding his project called “Civic Engagement Among Indigenous Mexican Migrant Youth in the Central San Joaquin Valley: Strategies, Repertoires, and Lessons.” This project was awarded a CCREC Planning and Development Grant earlier this year. Below is an excerpt from the interview.

**Brooke:** Why did you decide to undertake this project?

**Jonathan:** This project focuses on learning from the experiences of 1.5/2nd generation youth from Oaxacan families, and using this research to help them to consolidate their own forms of organization and representation. They face the challenge of having to navigate several different cultures at the same time—the indigenous cultures that their parents brought with them, the broader Mexican culture that their communities are a part of, and then the dominant U.S. culture. This context provides them with both opportunities and challenges—which languages are they going to become fluent in? Who are they going to be learning from in terms of deciding whether and how to become active in defending the interests of their communities? That’s really their main focus—on documenting and learning from their own processes of committing to social change and community empowerment. In that process, we, the researchers, including our colleague Gaspar Rivera-Salgado from the UCLA Labor Center, as well as UCSC grad students who also work with immigrant communities, are working with these mostly 20-something organizers to develop the skills to help them document their own experiences and those of their counterparts. The decision was to focus on members of youth-led organizations like the Central Valley Youth Association, which is an immigration reform campaigning organization led primarily by Dreamers. Another organization is Los Autónomos, which is an organization of primarily neighborhood-based 1.5 and 2nd generation Oaxacan youth, primarily Mixteco, in Fresno.

**Brooke:** Why do you think a project such as this is important?

**Jonathan:** From an action research point of view, it’s important for the social actors themselves to set the agenda in terms of how their stories are told. From a broader, civic engagement point of view, once they have a research product that is ready to share with the public, it will help them gain recognition and it will show their capacity to represent themselves—in contrast to being the youth wing of somebody else’s organization or being submerged into a broader multi-generational organization. The goal is to underscore the power of youth speaking for themselves, for them to represent themselves as distinct actors with their own way of navigating at least three different cultures.

**Brooke:** Why do you think it’s important for the larger community to know about these stories? Why is it important that the youth tell their own stories?

**Jonathan:** The main reason it’s important is to help young people from immigrant families to gain power and to be treated seriously. It’s a way to help deal with the dominant pattern of exclusion, subordination, and alienation. Keep in mind that by any indicator, there is a crisis of civic and political under-representation of Latino immigrant youth in the Central Valley.

**Brooke:** Switching gears a bit, how did you decide on the working group? What is the importance of this “working group”—why not just have researchers leading the focus groups? How did you find these youth organizations?

**Jonathan:** They found themselves, by networking with their respective organizations. One possible outcome of this research process, one reason why it is important that they lead the interviews, as they learn from each other, is that the members of the different youth organizations will help bring together their own civic networks. This will encourage a more consolidated and cohesive youth network among Oaxacan youth in the region.

Continued on next page.
Interview with CCREC Fellow, Dr. Jonathan Fox

Continued from Page 2.

**Brooke:** How are the interviews for the focus groups conducted? Do they have questions already planned out? How many more interviews will be conducted?

**Jonathan:** Currently, the team has led four focus group interviews, and it is planning to conduct about two to three more. A focus group consists of about four to six people active in the youth-led organizations, and two researchers from the team lead the interview. The team has been working hard at fine-tuning what researchers call the “interview protocol,” the list of questions. That’s where they have been learning how to combine open-ended and more focused questions and how to sequence them.

**Brooke:** So the researchers are helping them on this— not necessarily doing the interviews, but in terms of the protocol?

**Jonathan:** As research advisors we have offered input to the team on their interview questions, and we have brainstormed together on how to improve the questions based on their interview experiences. They sent drafts of the questions and we had several conference calls to discuss their strengths and limitations. After the very first experience, the pilot focus group, the team went back to the drawing board. They found that the first set of questions didn’t really take them where they wanted to go, so they had to reassess. They are learning by doing.

**Brooke:** How will you analyze the findings? How will you compile the data?

**Jonathan:** We will all meet next month to jointly review the transcripts and exchange ideas about what we think are the most significant findings. What are the common patterns across the different organizations? What is similar or distinctive about each young activist’s experience? That is going to be a collaborative process. We are approaching this inductively as opposed to imposing a specific research hypothesis or framework. We are going to let the findings speak for themselves.

**Brooke:** Great. So, what I’m seeing is that this is all about what they want to do and where they want to take it. In terms of your expectations or your colleagues’ expectations, there is not a set goal or end point so to speak?

**Jonathan:** The goal is to project their voices. Not random voices, but their thoughtful, analytical, and research-based voices.

For more information about Jonathan Fox’s action research projects, see [http://jonathanfoxucsc.com/](http://jonathanfoxucsc.com/).

(Below: Equipo de Cronistas Oaxacalifornianos (Oaxacalifornian Reporting Team) and Alliess; Photo courtesy of Jonathan Fox)
CCREC Highlights

CCREC is beginning its second year of operation as a University of California Multicampus Research Program Initiative.

CCREC welcomes new staff. We have a new undergraduate student assistant, Brooke Velasquez (UCSC senior in Creative Writing), and a new doctoral student researcher, Sheeva Sabati (UCSC Education Department).

We have moved. We are now located in the McHenry Library on the UCSC campus. The CCREC office is on the ground floor in 0228, and the coordinator’s office is located at 0280 (also on the ground floor). See page five for contact information.

A new Governance Council (GC) has been elected: Heidi Ballard (UCD, Education); Victor Becerra (UCI, Social Ecology); Robin DeLuigan (UCM, Anthropology); Suresh Lodha (UCSC, Computer Science); Meredith Minkler (UCB, Public Health); and Rod Ogawa (UCSC, Education).

Community-Engaged Computing initiative launched to bring computer scientists and social scientists together 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 that threaten the future of the state and nation. This initiative aims to construct a comprehensive and trustworthy source of information for reason deliberation and decision-making, and to position the University of California as an honest broker and curator of information and analyses that serve the public good.

A CCREC “Signature Project” to demonstrate best practices in equity-oriented collaborative research is underway. CCREC has established core design principles for five regional Signature Projects that will embody best practices and become long-term laboratories for testing the efficacy of equity-oriented collaborative research. The inaugural Signature Project, centered on youth and young adult civic engagement in Central California (from the eastern border of the central San Joaquin Valley to the central coast counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito), builds on deep connections among CCREC Faculty Fellows and youth and young adult leaders, community-based organizations, and policy makers. Now in the formation stage, this Signature Project will contribute to multiple research literatures as well as enable youth and young adults in an often-neglected region achieve their potential as citizens and change agents.

Travel awards coming soon! Watch our website for an upcoming RFP for early career and doctoral student travel support for collaborative research presentations at academic conferences.

CCREC is releasing the Request for Proposals for the second round of planning and development grants to support research projects that use collaborative methodologies to address the interrelated crises affecting the state of California. The active engagement of communities and policy makers in the research process relies on careful early planning to bring stakeholders together, identify the research questions, and design the research as a whole. CCREC recognizes that this process is time consuming and requires resources, but is rarely supported in standard grant processes as it is typically expected that these will be already completed at the time of application. CCREC aims to promote collaborative research by providing grants that support these crucial early collaborations and processes of research design. Details will be posted on the CCREC website at http://ccrec.ucsc.edu/projects/rfps.

CCREC Supported “Uneasy Remains Film Project” Update

Seed Grants RFP to be released in January. CCREC will release the Request for Proposals for the second round of planning and development grants to support research projects that use collaborative methodologies to address the interrelated crises affecting the state of California. The active engagement of communities and policy makers in the research process relies on careful early planning to bring stakeholders together, identify the research questions, and design the research as a whole. CCREC recognizes that this process is time consuming and requires resources, but is rarely supported in standard grant processes as it is typically expected that these will be already completed at the time of application. CCREC aims to promote collaborative research by providing grants that support these crucial early collaborations and processes of research design. Details will be posted on the CCREC website at http://ccrec.ucsc.edu/projects/rfps.

CCREC Seeks to Increase Cadre of Fellows and Affiliates

CCREC is comprised of University of California Academic Senate faculty members, researchers, and graduate students who are community-engaged scholars working at the intersection of the core areas of CCREC’s concerns: economy, education, employment, environment, health, housing, and nutrition. In addition, various University of California research centers that pursue work in the core areas are CCREC partners, as are community organizations working on CCREC related projects. CCREC also partners with local and state policymakers who are committed to finding collaborative solutions to the problems facing California communities.

CCREC is currently accepting applications for fellows, affiliates, and partners. Join us in making a difference in California’s communities and beyond!

Check out our website for more information http://ccrec.ucsc.edu/news/become-fellow-or-affiliate.

Become a CCREC Funding Partner

CCREC is generously supported by a Multi-Campus Research Program Initiative (MRPI) grant from the University of California Office of the President. Additional support is provided by UCSC’s Division of Social Sciences and Education Department. Please help us continue our important work by becoming a funding partner. Contact Ron Glass at rglass@ucsc.edu or 831-459-5188 for more information.
CCREC Governance Council

The CCREC Governance Council is comprised of University of California Academic Senate faculty members and researchers who are community-engaged scholars working at the intersection of the core areas of CCREC’s concerns: economy, education, employment, environment, health, housing, and nutrition.

Heidi Ballard  
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School of Education

Suresh Lodha  
UC Santa Cruz  
Baskin School of Engineering

Victor Becerra  
UC Irvine  
Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)

Meredith Minkler  
UC Berkeley  
School of Public Health, Health and Social Behavior

Robin DeLugan  
UC Merced  
School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Art

Rodney Ogawa  
UC Santa Cruz  
Department of Education

What is Collaborative Research?

CCREC uses “collaborative research” as an umbrella term for methodologies 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. Collaborative research is engaged scholarship in action, in which university researchers, community members, and policy makers respect the knowledge that each partner brings to the discussion so that together they might know better how to understand the complex problems facing our communities and how to design and implement research-based responses to those problems. Currently, CCREC Fellows (the leadership of the Center) pursue a variety of approaches that are considered collaborative research, and these are known by a variety of labels.

- Community Based Research  
- Community Based Participatory Research  
- Engaged Scholarship  
- Participatory Action Research•

CCREC Mission

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

CCREC links university researchers, community-based organizations, and policy-makers in collaborative projects to achieve creative solutions to the problems in our communities.

CCREC prepares a new generation of engaged scholars by coordinating and focusing University of California system-wide efforts to support collaborative research that makes a difference in our communities.

Contact Us

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