

UCLA Institute of American Cultures

2019–2020 Annual Report

**American Indian Studies Center
Asian American Studies Center
Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies
Chicano Studies Research Center**

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Institute of American Cultures Staff Photo 2019-2020

Message from the Vice Provost

Given the extraordinary times we are currently experiencing, marked by global pandemic and the movement for racial justice around Black Lives Matter, it is noteworthy that the UCLA ethnic studies centers and the Institute of American Cultures (IAC) came into being in 1969 as a result of struggle and sacrifice by students, community activists, staff, faculty and allies. UCLA has the distinction of being the only campus of the University of California with dedicated organized research units (ORU) in ethnic studies:

- American Indian Studies Center
- Asian American Studies Center
- Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies
- Chicano Studies Research Center

In 2019, during UCLA's centennial, the IAC and the centers celebrated their 50th anniversaries. Over the course of 50 years, the IAC and the centers have become nationally recognized leaders in the interdisciplinary area of Indigenous, ethnic and racial studies, producing over 3,000 books, journal issues, and policy reports. More than 2,000 postdoctoral fellows, visiting scholars and UCLA faculty members and graduate students have benefitted from over \$6 million dollars of funding to support their research and community-based scholarship.

Under the auspices of the Office of the Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost, the IAC and its centers play a critical role in fulfilling UCLA's mandate as a public university in service to the communities that comprise the greater Los Angeles area and beyond. Our research, programming, publications, and preservation efforts are built upon decades of partnerships with underserved populations on and off campus. The impact of our interdisciplinary and intersectional research, representing the entire campus, addresses the most pressing issues of our times and advances research for social justice.

The following annual report represents just the highlights of what is happening with the centers and IAC, and please use the links to visit the websites of the centers to gain a much fuller picture of the remarkable work taking place. Thank you for your support and partnership as we look forward to the next 50 years!



David K. Yoo
Vice Provost

American Indian Studies Center - aisc.ucla.edu

- Work was almost completed on the Hate Crime Map, which is designed to illustrate in maps and tables the types and locations (by county) of hate crimes and harassment in the United States and is set to launch in October 2020.
- The AISC received, together with the Center for Diverse Leadership in Science (CDLS), a \$1,000,000 grant on Bringing Together Diverse Perspectives on Water (Co-PIs Director Speed and AISC-affiliated Professors Aradhna Tripathi and Jessica Cattelino). In addition, again with the CDLS, the AISC received a David and Lucile Packard Foundation grant of \$590,000 for AISC's and CDLS' joint proposal entitled "Efforts to Address Racism, Sexism, and Injustices in STEM."
- In spite of the pandemic, Director Speed was able to carry out a successful joint search with the Departments of Sociology and Geography, resulting in the hire of Navajo scholar Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear in the Sociology department, joining fall 2020.
- Other 2019–2020 AISC research projects included but were not limited to:
 - Human Rights of Indigenous Migrants
 - COVID-19 in Indian Country
 - The State of Native California Report
- Some of our 2019–2020 events included:
 - UCLA American Indian Welcome at Rolfe Hall Courtyard on October 7, 2019.
 - 2019 UCLA Indigenous Peoples' Day at Bruin Plaza on October 14, 2019.
 - Lighting a Path Forward: UC Land Grant, Public Memory, and Tovaangar at the James West Alumni Center and Luskin Conference Center on October 15–16, 2019.
 - Film Screening: *The Incredible 25th Year of Mitzi Bearclaw* at James Bridges Theater on January 16, 2020.
 - *The Sea of Grass: A Family Tale from the American Heartland* – A book talk by Walter Echo-Hawk at the Charles E. Young Research Library on February 5, 2020.
 - A Discussion with Weshoyot Alvitre, Tongva Artist on May 29, 2020 over Zoom.



Panelists at the Lighting the Path Forward event discussed the establishment of Western educational institutions in California and their essential role to the state's development as an economic, political and educational leader in the region, as well as the responsibilities of such land-grant institutions to the tribal communities whose land they reside on.

(Pictured L, R): Craig Torres (Gabrieleno/Tongva); Rudy Ortega Jr. (Tribal President, Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians); Carole Goldberg (Distinguished Professor Emeritus Law School, UCLA); Mishuana Goeman (Associate Professor, UCLA Department of Gender Studies, and Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Native and Indigenous Affairs).



After the film screening of *The Incredible 25th Year of Mitzi Bearclaw*, moderated by Laura Terrance, MorningStar Angeline and Shelley Niro engaged the audience in a lively Q&A session.

(Pictured L, R): Laura Terrance (UCLA PhD Student); MorningStar Angeline (Actress, Mitzi Bearclaw); Shelley Niro (Director).

- The 2019–2020 academic year marked the first full year of the AISC Library with its new librarian, Joy Holland, directing its activities and collections. The library represented the American Indian Center as an exhibitor at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums conference at the Pechanga Resort in October, and planned and hosted a special presentation called "Collecting and Caring for Native Archives and Libraries: Serving Native Communities, Serving Native History." This term also culminated with a community outreach and collection management trip to Alcatraz Island for the 50th anniversary of the Native activist take-over of Alcatraz Island in protest of the harmful federal termination policy of the era, and other Native issues.
- Three issues of the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* were published in 2019–20: volume 42, number 4, and volume 43, numbers 1 and 2.
- Each year the AISC offers funding to support research on Indigenous issues.
- AISC raised \$7,450 on UCLA's Spark platform to provide emergency support to Indigenous and American Indian Studies students impacted by COVID-19.

Asian American Studies Center - aasc.ucla.edu

- Launched the Digital Media Initiative for public access to archival collections, scholar-informed Asian American Studies curricula, and online resources and public programs.
- Developed Asian American Studies *STORYBOOKS*, a prototype for the online delivery of curricula on Asian American and Pacific Islander history, culture and contemporary issues.
- Received grants from the National Parks Service, California State Library and the California Wellness Foundation for a *STORYBOOK* on the life of Civil Rights icon Yuri Kochiyama.
- Published *Mountain Movers: Student Activism and the Emergence of Asian American Studies*, which was honored by the Independent Publishing Book Awards.
- Oversaw the IAC Visiting Scholar Program, IAC Research Grants Program, and the Activist-in-Residence Program.
- Initiated a study on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) homelessness and housing counseling for low-income AAPIs, and provided grants to affiliated faculty for applied research on intergenerational trauma, youth suicide and violence against women.
- Created the [COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub \(translatecovid.org\)](https://translatecovid.org) in partnership with faculty in the Fielding School of Public Health, providing life-saving information on the coronavirus in over 40 languages; ran a Spark Campaign to raise funds for PSA videos.
- Held a series of major 50th anniversary commemorative events, including:
 - Lau Distinguished Lecture featuring Prof. Mae Ngai, Columbia University on “Mother of Exiles: Refugees in American Myth and History”;
 - Founders Reunion with over 100 AASC founders and guests;
 - Asian American Studies Film Festival and opening reception, with a national screening of “Generation Rising,” from PBS’ *Asian Americans* series, featuring producer and UCLA Asian American Studies faculty member Renee Tajima-Peña;
 - “Power to the People” 2-day conference bridging university research with community engagement, which brought together over 300 campus and community attendees; co-sponsored with the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON).
- Completed 40 videotaped interviews with UCLA Asian American Studies Center founders as part of the Collective Memories oral history project initiated for the 50th Anniversary.
- Completed repository transfer of the K. Patrick and Lily A. Okura Collection, which collects the rare papers, records and primary documents of an influential leader in Asian American mental health.
- Increased access for *Amerasia Journal* to 2,500 institutions globally through a publishing partnership with Routledge-Taylor and Francis Press and achieved financial sustainability.
- Transitioned *AAPI Nexus* to an open-access platform utilizing eScholarship for broader access and issued a call for papers, “Inflection Point 2020: Coronavirus, Census and Elections for AAPIs?” shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Expanded the website for the Asian American Studies Center’s Census Information Center to support the 2020 Census at www.aasc.ucla.edu/cic.
- The AASC’s Center for EthnoCommunications created new curriculum and training workshops for Building History 3.0 Project and trained emerging filmmakers.
- Awarded over 20 student scholarships, grants and fellowships; 5 faculty research grants, fellowships and prizes; and 14 community grants.



At the AASC Founders Reunion in July 2019, with alumni and friends of those who helped establish the Center, as well as current staff. (Photo credit: AASC/Christian Gella)



(Photo credit: AASC/Keanu Hakimian)

Panel for the Asian American Activism opening night program at the Billy Wilder Theater (Hammer Museum) for AASC’s 50th Anniversary Image Movers Film Festival, with AASC Director Karen Umemoto, filmmaker and alumna Grace Lee, alumus Florante Ibanez, and Professor Renee Tajima-Peña. Ibanez was featured in PBS’ *Asian Americans* series, produced by Tajima-Peña.

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies - bunchecenter.ucla.edu

- Bunche launched new programmatic initiatives, including the Bunche Fellows Program and offered 4 awards of \$12,000 each to undergraduate students, and the Big Data for Justice Summer Institute, a four-week program designed to develop student's abilities to critique, analyze, visualize and map big data using Tableau, GIS methods, and other digital technologies.
- The Center continued to serve as the lead organizer of the annual Black Convocation, which was held on October 9, 2019 in Carnesale Commons.
- The Center successfully co-hosted the State of Black California Caucus (SOBC) on February 8, 2020 at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center. Approximately 400 people attended the event including invited guests such as policy makers, advocates, community leaders, philanthropic leaders, and scholars.



(Pictured L, R) **Isaac Bryan, Bob Ross (California Endowment), Kelly Lytle Hernández, CA Rep. Shirley Weber, and CA Rep. Steven Bradford at the 2020 State of Black California.**

- With the support from the California Legislative Black Caucus, the Center won a one-time \$3.5M line item for the 2019-20 California State Budget. This funding was used to support research projects such as Million Dollar Hoods, and to fund the Bunche Fellows Program, which supports undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral scholars with interest in research that improves the conditions of Black life. Our postdoctoral fellows are appointed for two-year fellowships in collaboration with the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. It also financed the Bunche Community Fund - ten grants in the amount of \$1,500 each offered to faculty and graduate students to support events and activities that enhance the intellectual community for African American Studies at UCLA and within Los Angeles.
- The Center launched its Black Policy Project – an action oriented policy initiative aimed at bridging the gap between empirical data, community organizing, and sociopolitical decision making.

- The Center's flagship research initiative, Million Dollar Hoods, continued to produce action oriented research reports and currently has over three dozen team members.
- Professor Lytle Hernández and Danielle Dupuy provided instruction for a 2-quarter course during fall 2019 and winter 2020 listed under the African American Studies Department. Using the process and frameworks used by Million Dollar Hoods, this course took a deep dive into understanding the collateral consequences of policing and incarceration on Los Angeles communities. It also provided training in data analysis and mapping using RStudio and ArcGIS.
- Million Dollar Hoods launched its first student-community internship program during Spring 2020 with 5 undergraduate UCLA students.
- Some of our co-sponsorships for the 2019-2020 academic year included the Luskin Center Series on Reparations: "Reparations for Slavery: History and Current Debates," the annual Ethnic and Indigenous Studies Welcome Event, The Lawson Legacy Project lecture, and the Black Excellence event hosted by the UCLA Career Center.



Bunche affiliated students meeting with UC Regent Perez at the Black Forum on May 8, 2019.

Chicano Studies Research Center - chicano.ucla.edu

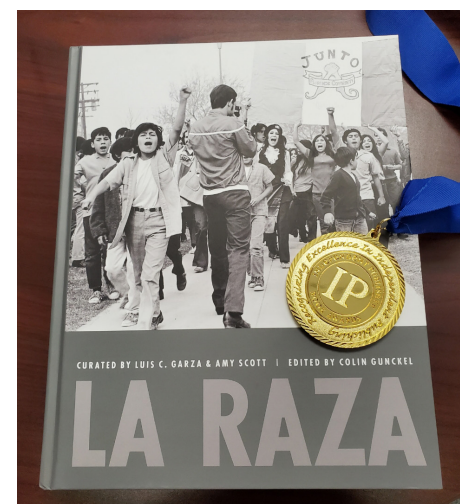
The CSRC celebrated its 50th anniversary with significant outcomes in its core areas: research, press, library/archive, grants/fellowships, and public programs.

- Research projects included “Critical Mission Studies at California’s Crossroads,” a state-wide collaboration, and two new archival projects: “Religion, Spirituality, and Faith in Mexican American Social History” and “Preserving Joteria: The Gronk and Cyclona Papers.” Total external research support reached \$1.5M with new grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the California State Library.
- The CSRC Press won six international book awards, including Gold Medal for US History from the Independent Publisher Book Awards. Publications included the fiftieth anniversary volume of *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* and an expanded fourth edition of *The Chicano Studies Reader*, a standard introductory text for the field.
- CSRC Library remains the leading repository with 692 archival and special collections, housing 433,300 digital objects, 13,000 books and monographs, 5,010 journals, 1,047 publications, 1,068 theses and dissertations, and roughly 4,600 Chicano/Latino distinct newspapers since the 19th century. In 2019-20, CSRC archival materials were included in ten museum exhibitions and reproduced in twelve publications.
- CSRC public programs and exhibitions reached over 324,000 people in the US, Mexico, and Europe. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CSRC swiftly created online programs to maintain connection to its community. These included online panels, workshops for UC students on dissertation research, weekly library research instruction, and eight information sessions to help increase the Latina/o freshman and transfer student yield. CSRC also developed profiles of CSRC staff, students, and alumni for the UCLA Newsroom feature “Rise Up: Images of Bruin Resiliency during COVID-19.” (See photo below)
- The CSRC supported faculty and student research through its dedicated funds for the study of Spanish-language music, immigration, urban poverty, educational access, and arts and culture. For 2020-21, the CSRC awarded eleven research grants to faculty and students, and two Mellon dissertation-completion fellowships as part of a four-campus grant focused on increasing Latino studies in the humanities.
- CSRC Director Chon Noriega received the Distinguished Editor award from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals and the Alfredo G. de los Santos Jr. Distinguished Leadership Award from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.



LeighAnna Hidalgo, a CSRC Mellon doctoral fellow, completes her dissertation at home in the midst of the pandemic.

Photo by Jeff Newton



CSRC’s *La Raza*, received the Gold Medal for US History from the Independent Publishers Book Awards.

Center Public Programs

American Indian Studies Center



Dr. Loriene Roy and Whina Te Whiu spoke about the responsibilities, protocols, and requisite community-service practices that curators should follow when collecting Native subject libraries and Native archives and museums.

(Pictured L, R): Shannon Speed (Director, UCLA American Indian Studies Center, and Professor, UCLA Department of Gender Studies and Department of Anthropology); Joy Holland (Associate Librarian, UCLA American Indian Studies Center); Dr. Loriene Roy (Professor, School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin); Whina Te Whiu (Curator, Te Ahu Museum, and Vision Holder for Raiatea Tribal Museum and Resource Centre, Aotearoa); Mishuana Goeman (Associate Professor, UCLA Department of Gender Studies, and Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Native and Indigenous Affairs).

Walter Echo-Hawk spoke about his recently published book, *The Sea of Grass: A Family Tale from the American Heartland*.

Visit aisc.ucla.edu for more information.



Asian American Studies Center



Screenshot from the #TranslateCOVID video series by AASC, produced by Duc Nguyen/Right Here in My Pocket and Janet Chen/UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications. The series covered handwashing, how to wear a mask and social distancing. The videos are currently being translated into multiple languages and are a part of the COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub by AASC and FSPH at translatecovid.org.

Closing plenary panel on “Alternative Imaginaries and Futures” for the “Power to the People: 50 Years of Bridging Research with Community” Conference, with Meenadchi of Trauma-Informed Nonviolent Communication, Yvonne Yen Liu of Solidarity Research Center and AASC Activist in Residence ’18, Tracy Zhao of API-Equality, and Tavae Samuolu of Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC).

(Photo credit: AASC/Bing Wang)

Visit aasc.ucla.edu for more information.



Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies



Students from the inaugural cohort of the Big Data for Justice Summer Institute.

Bunche Undergraduate Fellows at the 2019 Black Convocation.

(Pictured L, R): Kylie Paramore, Kamry Parks, Amora Haynes, Vivica Rush, Omar Abdulkarim, Jerzy Messan, Mariah Clark, and Kiara Khalid.

Visit bunchecenter.ucla.edu for more information.



Chicano Studies Research Center



Panelists for CSRC's first online public program, "Fifty Years of Chicana Feminist Praxis, Theory, and Resistance," celebrating the 50th anniversary issue of *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. Over 300 people attended the Zoom event and 1,300 people have seen the posting on CSRC's Youtube Channel.

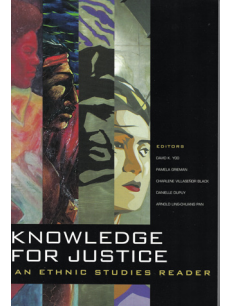
At the 2020 LA Art Show, over 70,000 people saw the CSRC exhibition of artist Gronk's painting installation dealing with immigration and state violence. The CSRC partnered with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

Visit chicano.ucla.edu for more information.



Institute of American Cultures - iac.ucla.edu

- The Institute of American Cultures celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a Gala on October 27, 2019 at the UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center. Students, alumni, staff, faculty, community partners, and friends enjoyed a festive evening honoring the past as well looking to the present and future. Each of the four ethnic studies centers recognized a community partner to receive the IAC Community Impact Award. The awards were presented to Fernandéño Tatavium Band of Mission Indians, Visual Communications, UCLA Black Alumni Association, and Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).
- *Knowledge for Justice: an Ethnic Studies Reader*, ed., David K. Yoo, Pamela Grieman, Charlene Villaseñor Black, Danielle Dupuy, and Arnold Ling-Chuang Pan was published in celebration of the IAC 50th anniversary. *Knowledge for Justice* showcases the publications of UCLA's ethnic studies centers (1969-2019). The authors examine the intersections of race and social justice in their insightful analyses of gender and sexuality, arts and cultural production, and social movements.
- The Institute of American Cultures, with support from the Office of Research and Creative Activities and the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, has sponsored multiple faculty-staff-graduate student teams to develop K-12 ethnic studies curriculum, resources, and teacher training. The IAC is partnering with the ethnic studies centers and the Teacher Education Program (School of Education).
- The IAC has hosted a field trip/site visit every summer to showcase our work and partnerships in various communities. In the summer of 2019, the Asian American Studies Center helped coordinate a visit to Little Tokyo Service Center. Staff from the IAC and four ethnic studies centers received a tour in Little Tokyo about the history of community development in the face of gentrification and visited the Japanese American National Museum Special Exhibit: *At First Light*. The summer 2020 site visit was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- The IAC Fall Forum on November 20, 2019 at the UCLA James West Alumni Center featured the 2019-2020 IAC visiting researchers and scholars, graduate and predoctoral fellows, and research grant awardees. Topics varied from "Designing the Global Sixties: From Cuba and Mexico to the Chicano Movement," "Indigenous Peoples, Sustainability, and Climate Change," "College Impostors and Other Model Minorities," and "The Subaltern School."
- IAC and the ethnic studies centers partnered with the UCLA Advisory Council on Immigration Policy, Institute for Research on Labor & Employment, and the Labor Center on *UCLA: Our Stories, Our Impact*. This multimedia traveling exhibit illuminates the role of UCLA and its alumni in advancing equity and justice in America.
- [Click here](#) for a complete list of the 2019-2020 IAC Visiting Scholars, Graduate/Predocctoral Fellows, Research Grant Awardees, and Shirley Hune Awardee. The IAC and ethnic studies centers provided over \$250,000 in critical support for research on underrepresented communities.



2019-20 IAC Visiting Scholars/Grant Awardees at the Fall Forum

(Pictured L, R): Jennifer Josten, Karida L. Brown, Omar Abdulkarim, Rebecca Tsosie, Erin Khuê Ninh, and David K. Yoo.

2019 IAC Social Justice Graduate Fellows

(Pictured L, R): Kenton Card (Urban Planning), Josephine Pham (GSEIS), Shena Sanchez (GSEIS), Melanie Sonsteng-Person (Social Welfare), Natalie Bradford (Public Health), Ritika Rastogi (Psychology), Terry Allen (GSEIS).



Institute of American Cultures 50th Anniversary Gala Honorees



(L,R) AISC Director Shannon Speed, IAC Community Impact Awardee Fernando Tatavium Band of Mission Indians Tribal President Rudy J. Ortega Jr., and AISC Associate Director Erin Debenport. (Gala photo credit: Todd Cheney)

(L,R) AASC Director Karen Umemoto, IAC Community Impact Awardee Visual Communications Executive Director Francis Cullado, and AASC Assistant Director Melany De La Cruz-Viesca.



(L,R) UCLA Black Alumni Association (UBAA) former president Mandla Kayise, Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies Director Kelly Lytle Hernández, IAC Community Impact Awardee UBAA President Michelle Johnson, Bunche Assistant Director Tabia Shawel, and UBAA Treasurer LaVant Wooten.

(L,R) Chicano Studies Research Center Director Chon Noriega and IAC Community Impact Awardee MALDEF President and General Counsel Thomas Saenz.



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