Cultivamos Excelencia
Research Symposium 2019

Friday May 31, 2019
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
McHenry Library
UC Santa Cruz

Acknowledgements

Orlando Carrera
Peer Transfer Outreach Specialist

Sylvane Vaccarino
Psychology Graduate Student

Sara Radoff
STARS Director

Charis Herzon
UCSC HSI Initiatives Director

Dr. Pablo Reguerin
UCSC Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Achievement and Equity Innovations

Dr. Jaye Padgett
UCSC VP of Student Success

Dr. Marlene Tromp
UCSC Executive Vice Chancellor

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Claudia Amador, CE Program Coordinator, SJCC
Riana Howard, Cultivamos Excelencia Project Director
Alberto Ganis, CE Graduate Mentor
Greg Careaga, Head of Assessment & Planning, McHenry Library, UCSC
Laura McClanathan Meriwether, Undergraduate Experience Team, McHenry Library, UCSC
Lesly Martinez Ibanez, Cultivamos Excelencia Assistant Coordinator
Maria Alcantara, Cultivamos Excelencia HSI Intern
Dr. Saskias Casanova, Assistant Professor Psychology

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

Claudia Amador, CE Program Coordinator, SJCC
Janice Sapigao, CE English Instructor & Coordinator, SJCC
Riana Howard, Cultivamos Excelencia Project Director
Greg Careaga, Head of Assessment & Planning, McHenry Library, UCSC
Laura McClanathan Meriwether, Undergraduate Experience Team, McHenry Library, UCSC
Ken Lyons, Undergraduate Experience Team, McHenry Library, UCSC
Debbie Murphy, Undergraduate Experience Team, McHenry Library, UCSC
Marcus Thayer, Head of Library Operations, UCSC
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

8:30 AM TO 9:00 AM
BREAKFAST
McHenry Library
Room 2320

9:00 AM TO 9:10 AM
WELCOME
Elizabeth Cowell
Richard L. Press University Librarian Presidential Chair
Dr. Elizabeth Gonzalez
Interim METAS Program Director
Janice Sapigao, MFA
English Instructor and Faculty Coordinator

9:15 AM TO 10:30 AM
IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT & EMPOWERMENT
Room 2353
Lucy Stella Ruiz
Mentor: Jen Kregear
Stephanie Zarate Huerta
Mentor: Michelle Parra
Berenece Adriana Melchor
Mentor: Paulette Garcia Peraza
Daniela Monserrat Valdivias
Mentor: Roxanna Villalobos
Moderator: Paulette Garcia Peraza

RE-WRITING & RE-TELLING HISTORIES
Room 2359
Esmeralda Ramírez Silva
Mentor: Christian Alvarado
Jennifer Lynn Mosch
Mentor: Christian Alvarado
Joaquín Jesus Covarrubias
Mentor: Roxanna Villalobos
Joanna Gonzalez Lugo
Mentor: Chris Law
Moderator: Roxanna Villalobos

10:30 AM TO 10:35 AM
BREAK

10:35 AM TO 11:40 AM
MENTAL HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT
Room 2353
Jasmin Adela Lara
Mentor: Chris Law
Leslie Guzman-Ortega
Mentor: Michelle Parra
Emilio Adrian Enriquez-Ruiz
Mentor: Sarah Neuhaus
Moderator: Michelle Parra

MENTAL HEALTH: FAMILIES & INSTITUTIONS
Room 2359
Samantha Gutierrez
Mentor: Jen Kregear
Sarah Marie Ortiz
Mentor: Roxanna Villalobos
Irais Andrea Preciado Fabre
Mentor: Sara Neuhaus
Moderator: Jen Kregear

Acknowledgements

2018-2019 CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS
Rosalío Camarillo Tapia
Joaquín Jesús Covarrubias
Emilio Adrián Enriquez-Ruiz
Joanna Gonzalez Lugo
Samantha Gutierrez
Leslie Guzman-Ortega
Eileen Hernandez-CueLLar
Cirene Lara
Jasmin Adela Lara
Berenece Adriana Melchor
Lizeth Teresa Mendez
Rosa Isela Molina
Jennifer Lynn Mosch
Angeles Lizbet Orozco
Sarah Marie Ortiz
Irais Andrea Preciado Fabre
Esmeralda Ramirez Silva
Lucia Stella Ruiz
Sonia Yessenia Salazar
Bryanna J Sanchez
Daniela Monserrat Valdivias
Stephanie Zarate Huerta

2018-2019 GRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORS
Christian Alvarado
JASON Dyer*
Alberto Ganis
Paulette Garcia Peraza
Galen Gorski
Jen Kregear*
Chris Law
Sara Neuhaus
Michelle Parra*
Roxanna Villalobos
Returning mentors*

Roland Montemayor
Acting SJCC President

Dr. Elizabeth Pratt
SJCC VP of Academic Affairs

Dr. Elizabeth Gonzalez
Interim METAS Program Director

Dr. Celia Cruz-Johnson
SJCC Dean, Language Arts

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English Instructor, Cultivamos Excelencia

Claudia Amador
SJCC Program Coordinator

Riana Howard
Project Director, Cultivamos Excelencia

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SJCC Transfer Counselor

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UCSC Academic Counselor

Yesenia Escobar
SJCC Counselor

Angela Gullerud
SJCC METAS Program Coordinator

Claudia Barajas
SJCC METAS Program Specialist

SJECCD Board of Trustees

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Cultivamos Excelencia HSI Intern

Lesly Martinez Ibañez
Cultivamos Excelencia Assistant Coordinator

Leslie Anahie Larios
Cultivamos Excelencia Assistant Coordinator

Julia Vasquez
Peer Transfer Outreach Specialist
CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS

SONIA YESSENIA SALAZAR - PSYCHOLOGY
Hello my name is Sonia Salazar, and I am a second-year SJCC student, Psychology major. I come from an alpha female Mexican family, but my research is based on men. I investigate if there are any common challenges undocumented Mexican men face when seeking mental health care. I decided on this research because there are many different assumptions to explain why this population does not receive help. I wanted to hear from undocumented Mexican men themselves, so I decided to take a qualitative approach and conduct interviews. I hope to one day open my own practice as a clinical psychologist, and specifically help those who are undocumented.

BRYANNA J SANCHEZ - COMMUNICATION STUDIES
I am a first-year scholar at San Jose City College and am attaining a AA in Communication Studies in the transition of transferring to a UC to major in Community studies. My research explores the role that family and religion plays in the life of Latinas. I am focusing on what gender and sexual norms exist for Latinas and how religion and the family help reproduce these norms? This research project has changed the way I view peoples’ trajectories through religion and the way they approach certain situations because of cultural values. This has been an amusing year-long experience because you realize everything is not black and white.

DANIELA MONSERRAT VALDIVIAS - ENGLISH
My name is Daniela Valdivias, I am in my second semester in college, I enjoy riding my bike, going on hikes and reading poetry. While doing my research I felt so deeply touched by the stories of women who had been physically abused and by those who have words deeply wounded in them. My topic focuses on the mental health of colored women, specifically self-identified Latinas who are survivors of domestic violence. Even though domestic violence is an international issue, not enough attention is giving to it. This topic can be uncomfortable and awkward but that’s not a good enough reason for us to stay silent. This research has brought more recognition and it has provided an open space for women to write about their emotions about their experiences.

“...I went from using the recorder for its practicality to transforming it into a tool for gathering stories. Or rather, as a way to ensure that certain stories were never lost”

- Tim Z. Hernandez
Hello! My name is Joanna Gonzalez Lugo. I am a first generation college student at San Jose City College with hopes of transferring to the University of California Santa Cruz. I am in my first year at SJCC. For my Cultivamos Excelencia project, I aim to identify and acknowledge differences between traditional history courses and Mexican American History courses as well as examine how student values toward these courses impact the Latinx community. I am grateful for the support of the Cultivamos Excelencia faculty and staff, my mentor Christopher Law, family and friends. I have gained experience and knowledge of research, which I can apply to academic research to improve my community and help others in my society. In my free time, I enjoy dancing ballet folklorico, playing soccer and hanging out with my family and friends.

EMILIO ADRIAN ENRIQUEZ-RUIZ - ASTROPHYSICS
I am a first generation college student in my immediate family. I was raised in San Jose California but was born in Papantla, Veracruz, Mexico, and my family immigrated here on September 3rd, 2001 when I was eight years old and haven’t returned home since. My research seeks to learn how my ancestors viewed the stars to help advance their civilizations. My current major is Astrophysics, however I also plan to major in Physics, so time will tell. One of the things I learned about myself while observing the stars is that my favorite planet is not Earth.

ROSALIO CAMARILLO TAPIA - PSYCHOLOGY
Rosalio Camarillo Tapia is a sophomore in college and is majoring in Psychology. His research focuses on studying the mind of Mexican fathers and the use of alcohol and machismo. He believes his research is important because it can open the eyes of those in the Mexican community who view alcoholism as addiction rather than a symbol for machismo and superiority.

JOAQUIN JESUS COVARRUBIAS- SOCIOLOGY
Joaquin Covarrubias is a sociology major currently attending San Jose City College. His research looks at the impact ethnic studies classes has on Latinx college students and their motivations for higher education. The reason he chose this is because he has seen and experienced the impact it has had on students. He is very grateful for the support he has received from his mentor, family, fellow scholars and the Cultivamos Excelencia staff for helping him navigate this research path. Outside of school, his hobbies include playing and listening to music, watching sports, and eating good Chinese food.

CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS

LUCY STELLA RUIZ - POLITICAL SCIENCE
Lucy Stella Ruiz is currently wrapping up her third year at San José City College, where she recently received Associate’s degrees in Social & Behavioral Sciences, as well as Arts & Humanities. She’s a future Political Science major, and plans to transfer to a four-year institution this fall. Her main interests include Ethnic Studies, with an emphasis on Latinx studies, and Feminist Studies. Lucy is vastly interested in dissecting intersectionality, and familial influence. Her research presents an intergenerational analysis of the differences between Mexican-American mothers and their daughters. She is driven by her colorful culture and beloved family, and hopes to carry her heritage with her in all future endeavors.

ESMERALDA RAMIREZ SILVA - LITERATURE
Hey y’all my name is Esmeralda Silva and my major is literature with a concentration in English. I have just finished my second semester at San Jose City College, and am excited for my third semester. My research has to do with looking at the past to explain the future. During Westward Expansion there were many stereotypes enforced against immigrants in order to convince the Anglo population to move Westward. Many of the stereotypes during this era is still seen today. I am focusing on the stereotypes seen within movies against the Hispanic and Latinx community, and how it may affect how the community is viewed. Aside from focusing on my school work, during my free time I enjoy watching films and giving my bird head rubs.

MAISELLE OLIVIA DE LA CRUZ - PSYCHOLOGY
Irais Preciado Fabre’s research focuses on the parent-child relationship within Latinx families and their views on emotional well-being and support; more importantly, how this affects Latinx youth. This research also looks into how Latinx children deal with their parents’ emotional neglect and still manage to be grateful for their families.

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SARAH MARIE ORTIZ - PSYCHOLOGY
Hi, my name is Sarah Ortiz and I am majoring in Psychology. My research is on how the intersectionality of identifying as part of both the LGBTQ+ community and the Latinx community affects your mental health. As someone who identifies as part of both communities but not having grown up in a traditional Mexican household, I started wondering what it was like for kids that did and did being Latinx affect the way they saw themselves as part of the LGBTQ+ community. That’s where the idea for this topic came about. I wanted to know if identifying as both Latinx and part of the LGBTQ+ community effected your self-esteem and perception of yourself, specifically for female-identifying individuals. I’d like to continue this research and expand to male-identifying individuals.

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Berenice Melchor's research question is, "What are the experiences of adults who were exposed to domestic violence in their home as children? What helps reduce the negative impacts from exposure to domestic violence?"

Hello, my name is Rosa Molina and I am currently a Communications major at San Jose City College as a first-generation college student. My research focuses on how the different parental styles of Latinx parents affect the long term development of their oldest child. Everyone is raised differently so I want to see from a child's view on how that affects them. This research is helping me better understand those around me and myself due to how we were raised.

Hello! My name is Jenni Mosch. I am in my second semester as a sociology major at SJCC and I plan on transferring to UCSC in Fall 2020. I am interested in the contradiction between the American ideal of "spreading democracy" and the reality that the US has historically interfered with democracy that challenges the exploitation of the working class. My main research goal is to examine the United States government's involvement in the events leading up to the Chilean Revolution of 1973 and the subsequent support of the fascist regime of Augusto Pinochet. While my main interests are in sociology and history, I also enjoy philosophy and psychology. In my free time, I watch YouTube videos and read articles about these subjects, and I enjoy hiking and camping.

Hi! I'm Angeles Orozco, pronounced like the city, Los Angeles. I graduated from San Jose High school in 2018 and currently I am a student at San Jose City College majoring in Social and Behavioral Sciences in hopes to get my M.A in Sociology and become a Social Worker or school Psychologist. My research is focused on the parental styles of Latinx parents affecting the long term development on their oldest child. I decided to focus on this topic based on observation and personal experiences. My audience is opened to anyone who is interested in parental views. In my free time, I like to nap with my very old dog, Rocky.

Samantha Gutierrez is an 18-year-old first year college student at San Jose City majoring in Kinesiology her passion and goals in life is to become an Occupational Physical Therapist as she always dreamt of. As a child growing up, in a low income family made her become determined from making her dreams come true. Samantha started her first year in San Jose City College being apart of the undergraduate program called Cultivamos Excelencia. From being apart of that program she gained knowledge throughout her hard work and determined with her project thanks to help along the way. being apart of the undergraduate research project in which showcase the effects of divorce on adolescent children.

I am Leslie Guzman-Ortega, and I just finished my second semester and I am ready to start my third semester at San Jose City College. I am a first generation student aiming for a science major and hopefully to finish my nursing career in the future. For my research project, I decided to work on the low percentage of Latinx students in the STEM field. I want to know the stories behind the low percentage, and why Latinx students decided to pursue a career in STEM and why some decide to leave. I like going to the gym on my free time, I am a very outgoing person, I am always down for adventures, especially crazy ones like skydiving, and I love trying different types of food!

Hello! My name is Eileen Hernandez-Cuellar, I'm in my first year at SJCC, and my major is Sociology. I am interested in the cultural norm that encompass education, especially in Mexican-Heritage families. My project analyzes the importance of parental support inside and out the domicile environment. My educational interests include Sociology, and Ethnic Studies. My other interests include reading and writing poetry.

Hi! My name is Jasmin Lara, and I'm a first generation college student, attending my second semester in college, hoping to transfer to achieve further education. I was born and raised in San Jose, California, and have much appreciation for this city. I will be majoring in environmental policy to do my part for this world.