

## *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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Erick Ramirez, Cultivamos Counselor  
Karina Ruiz, CE Graduate Mentor, Latin American and Latino Studies  
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  
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Dr. Saskias Casanova, Assistant Professor Psychology

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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

# Cultivamos Excelencia

## Research Symposium 2019

*the tree of  
tomorrow*



Friday May 31, 2019

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

McHenry Library

UC Santa Cruz

**CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA**  
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS



**METOS**

# RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

**BREAKFAST**  
McHenry Library  
Room 2320

## WELCOME

Elizabeth Cowell  
Richard L. Press University Librarian Preseidential Chair

Dr. Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Interim METAS Program Director

Janice Sapigao, MFA  
English Instructor and Faculty Coordinator

## IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT & EMPOWERMENT Room 2353

**Lucy Stella Ruiz**  
Mentor: Jen Kregear  
**Stephanie Zarate Huerta**  
Mentor: Michelle Parra  
**Berenice Adriana Melchor**  
Mentor: Paulette Garcia Peraza  
**Daniela Monserrat Valdivias**  
Mentor: Roxanna Villalobos

Moderator: Paulette Garcia Peraza

## RE-WRITING & RE-TELLING HISTORIES Room 2359

**Esmeralda Ramirez Silva**  
Mentor: Christian Alvarado  
**Jennifer Lynn Mosch**  
Mentor: Christian Alvarado  
**Joaquin Jesus Covarrubias**  
Mentor: Roxanna Villalobos  
**Joanna Gonzalez Lugo**  
Mentor: Chris Law

Moderator: Roxanna Villalobos

## BREAK

## MEDICAL 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

Rosalio Camarillo Tapia  
Joaquin Jesus Covarrubias  
Emilio Adrian Enriquez-Ruiz  
Joanna Gonzalez Lugo  
Samantha Gutierrez  
Leslie Guzman-Ortega  
Eileen Hernandez-Cuellar  
Cirene Lara  
Jasmin Adela Lara  
Berenice 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

**Janice Sapigao**  
English Instructor, Cultivamos Excelencia

**Riana Howard**  
Project Director, Cultivamos Excelencia

**Claudia Amador**  
SJCC Program Coordinator

**Sabrina Hagmann**  
SJCC Transfer Counselor

**Erick Ramirez Manriquez**  
UCSC Academic Counselor

**Yesenia Escobar**  
SJCC Counselor

**Angela Gullerud**  
SJCC METAS Program Coordinator

**Claudia Barajas**  
SJCC METAS Program Specialist

SJECED Board of Trustees

**Maria Alcantara**  
Cultivamos Excelencia HSI Intern

**Lesly Martinez Ibañez**  
Cultivamos Excelencia Assistant Coordinator

**Leslie Anahie Larios**  
Cultivamos Excelencia Assistant Coordinator

**Julia Vasquez**  
Peer Transfer Outreach Specialist

8:30 AM TO 9:00 AM

9:00 AM TO 9:10 AM

9:15 AM TO 10:30 AM

10:30 AM TO 10:35 AM

10:35 AM TO 11:40 PM

## 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

## RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

LUNCH CATERED BY  
UCSC CATERING  
MCHENRY FIRST FLOOR STAFF ROOM

GROUP PHOTO  
McHenry First Floor Staff Room

CASE STUDIES & SHIFTING SUPPORT IN  
LATINX COMMUNITIES  
Room 2353

Eileen Hernandez-Cuellar  
Mentor: Alberto Ganis  
Sonia Yessenia Salazar  
Mentor: Paulette Garcia Peraza

Moderators: Alberto Ganis &  
Rosalio Camarillo Tapia  
(Mentor: Jason Dyer)

INTERROGATING FAMILY ROLES  
Room 2359

Bryanna J Sanchez  
Mentor: Michelle Parra  
Rosa Isela Molina  
Mentor: Galen Gorski  
Angeles Lizbet Orozco  
Mentor: Jason Dyer

Moderator: Jason Dyer

CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA ANTHOLOGY  
Janice Sapigao & Karla Santiago-Reyes  
Information Commons South

THE TREE OF TOMORROW: MENTOR RECOGNITION  
Riana Howard and Cultivamos Excelencia Scholars  
Information Commons South

CLOSING REMARKS

Riana Howard  
Cultivamos Excelencia Project Director  
Information Commons South

11:40 AM TO 12:30PM

12:30 PM TO 12:40 PM

12:45 PM TO 1:55 PM

2:00 PM TO 2:20 PM

2:20 PM TO 2:45 PM

2:45 PM TO 3:00 PM

## CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS



### 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.



### 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.



### JOANNA GONZALEZ LUGO - SOCIOLOGY

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 folklórico, playing soccer and hanging out with my family and friends.

## CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS



### 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.



### IRAIS ANDREA PRECIADO FABRE - POLITICAL SCIENCE

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.



### 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.



### 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.

## CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS



### BERENICE ADRIANA MELCHOR - PSYCHOLOGY

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?"



### ROSA ISELA MOLINA - COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES

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.



### JENNIFER LYNN MOSCH - SOCIOLOGY

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.



### ANGELES LIZBET OROZCO – SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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.

## CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS



### SAMANTHA GUTIERREZ - KINESIOLOGY

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 an 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.



### LESLIE GUZMAN-ORTEGA - NURSING

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!



### EILEEN HERNANDEZ-CUELLAR – SOCIOLOGY

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.



### JASMIN ADELA LARA – ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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.