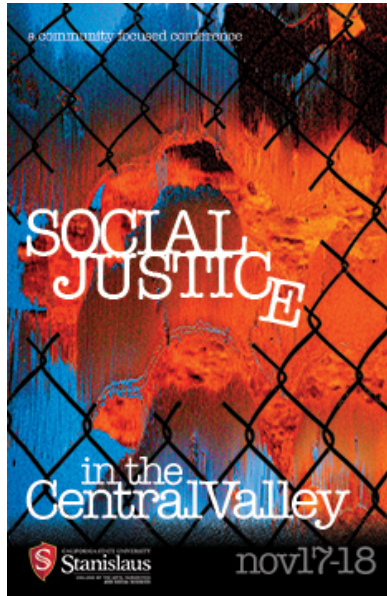


Social Justice in the Central Valley

*November 17 & November 18, 2016
California State University, Stanislaus*



*Special community focused conference on
Social Justice issues impacting the Central Valley*

*Sponsored by Stanislaus State's
College of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Keynote Programs

Thursday Nov 17th 6-9pm MainStage Theatre

Aya de Leon

Dara Silverman

Dr. David Hayes-Bautista

Friday Nov 18th 6-9pm MainStage Theatre

Dr. Taharee Jackson

Devonte Jackson

Dr. Bryant Marks

Schedule of Conference Speakers

Thursday, Nov. 17th — Event Center (12pm-5pm) & Mainstage Theatre (6-9pm)

Event Center (Noon-4:45pm)

- Karissa Moreno (12:00—*The Right to Thrive: Poverty, Health, and the Critical Need to Address Health Disparities in the Central Valley*)
- Kathryn McKenzie (1:00—*Equity Traps in Education: Deficit Thinking, Racial Erasure and Naïve Acceptance of Meritocracy*)
- Nigel Hatton (2:00—*Prison Education Project*)
- Frank Johnson (3:00—*Civil Rights Disappearing?*)
- Tanya Golash-Boza (3:30—*Parallels between Mass Incarceration and Mass Deportation*)
- Gautam Jagannath (4:20—*View from the Social Justice Collaborative/Advancing the Rights of Immigrants and their Families*)

Reception (5:15pm—Mainstage Lobby and University Art Gallery)

- Dixie Salazar installation: “...and homeless near a thousand homes I stood.”

Mainstage Theatre — Keynote Program (6:00-9pm)

- President Ellen Junn (*welcoming remarks*)
- Aya de Leon (*Keynote @6:10pm: Race, Gender and Culture/Personal Healing & Social Justice*)
- Dara Silverman (*Keynote @7pm: Showing up for Racial Justice*)
- David Hayes-Bautista (*Keynote @8pm: Chicano Health Issues in California*)

Friday, Nov. 18th — C-102 (12pm-5pm) and Mainstage Theatre (6-9pm)

Bizzini Hall/C-102 (Noon-4:45pm) *Community Activism in the Central Valley*

- Leng Power & Joseph Homer (12:00—*Addressing homelessness and poverty through grassroots efforts*)
- Faculty Panel (1:00—*Social justice & the new political climate: aftermath of an election*)
- Robin DeLugan (1:45—*Community-engaged teaching and research—projects for addressing inequality, power and social justice at the community level*)
- Maria Mora (2:30—*Immigrant Rights in the Central Valley*)
- Pablo Rodriguez (CNCEF) (3:15—*social justice initiatives in the Central Valley*)
- Keynote Speakers Panel (4:00—*Social Justice concerns in the aftermath of the election*)

Reception (5:15pm—Mainstage Lobby and University Art Gallery)

- Dixie Salazar installation: “...and homeless near a thousand homes I stood.”

Mainstage Theatre — Closing Keynote Program (6:00-9pm)

- Taharee Jackson (*Keynote @6pm: A Different Way to Be White: Becoming Allies for Justice in the Age of All Lives Matter*)
- Devonte Jackson (*Keynote @7pm: the Movement for Black Lives/Challenges to Exercising Full Black Political Power*)
- Bryant Marks (*Keynote @8pm: Building Equity to Promote Minority Male Achievement—Reflections on the Impact of Racial Stereotypes on Performance*)

Aya de Leon is an acclaimed writer, [poet](#), [spoken word artist](#) and community activist. A graduate of Harvard and Antioch, Aya teaches spoken word, poetry and creative writing in the African American Studies Department at UC Berkeley, serving as Director of *Poetry for the People* (a campus arts and activism program founded by June Jordan to work with young student-poets).



Her work has received acclaim in the *Village Voice*, *Washington Post*, *American Theatre Magazine*, and has been featured on Def Poetry, in *Essence Magazine*, and various anthologies and journals. In 2004, Aya was named best discovery in theater by the *SF Chronicle* for “Thieves in the Temple: The Reclaiming of Hip Hop,” a solo show about fighting sexism and commercialism in hip hop, later chronicling these concerns in her poem “[If Women Ran Hip Hop](#).” She received a 2004 Goldie award in spoken word from the *SF Bay Guardian* for “Thieves...” and “Aya de Leon is Running for President.” In 2005 she was voted “Slamminest Poet” in the *East Bay Express*, and she co-hosted the kickoff party for Current TV with Mos Def. Aya has been an artist in residence at Stanford University, a Cave Canem poetry fellow, and a slam poetry champion. She publicly married herself in the 90s and since 1995 has been hosting an annual Valentine’s Day show that focuses on self-love. She has released three spoken word CDs, several chapbooks, and a video of “Thieves...” Since becoming a mom in 2009, she has been transitioning from being a touring performer into being a novelist. Aya began blogging in 2011, and since 2013 has been consistently blogging on race, gender and culture. Her freelance work has been featured in *Guernica* (“Fifty Shades of Political Torture”), *xojane*, *Huffington Post*, *The Toast*, *Ebony*, *Womans Day*, *Writers Digest*, [Mutha Magazine](#), *Movement Strategy Center*, *My Brown Baby*, *The Good Men Project*, *KQED Pop*, *Bitch Magazine*, *The Feminist Wire*, *Racialicious*, and *Quartz*. Kensington Books recently published her debut novel *UPTOWN THIEF*, a Latina Robin Hood heist story set on New York’s Lower East Side.

Dara Silverman is a long-time organizer, writer and trainer who has been building movements for economic, racial, gender and social justice for over 20 years. Dara has served as Executive Director of [Jews for Racial and Economic Justice \(JFREJ\)](#) and was the Founding Director of [Showing Up for Racial Justice \(SURJ\)](#), a national network of white people taking action for racial justice. Dara helped grow SURJ from 12 chapters to over 150 chapters, raising over \$500,000 for Black-led organizing through the matched giving program and moving SURJ successfully through the startup stage. She specializes in working with leaders to align their actions with their vision, and their values with a plan for action.



Over the past twenty years, Dara has been working with local communities across the country to move into action against racism, economic inequality and bigotry. Her talks feature lively examples grounded in decades of real-life campaigns, from the fight for a living wage at Harvard to housing rights efforts in Denver to police accountability campaigns in New York City. Dara has stories from the trenches and years of experience speaking and connecting with young people to bring real life experience to bear on political conversations. Dara has worked with numerous faith communities to develop resources used by thousands of faith leaders on racial justice issues across the country. She has produced workshops on coalition building and offered leadership development to organizations, emphasizing the role of intersectional analysis in helping build toward racial justice. Her work has been published or featured in the *New York Times*, *Tikkun*, *Zeek*, *Curve*, and the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. She contributed a chapter on immigration to the anthology, *Righteous Indignation: A Jewish Call for Justice* and co-created *The Love and Justice in Times of War Haggadah*.

David Hayes-Bautista is currently Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He graduated from UC Berkeley, and completed his doctoral work in Medical Sociology at the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. He served on the faculty at the School of Public Health at U.C. Berkeley until 1987, when he took his current position at UCLA. He has been an important voice in the statewide and national dialogue concerning equitable (and inequitable) provision of (and access to) health care.



Dr. Hayes-Bautista serves as the faculty advisor for the UCLA/Drew chapter of the Latino Medical Student Association and the pre-medical group Chicanos/Latinos for Community Medicine (CCM), and is a senior advisor to the California Latino Medical Association. His research has appeared in a variety of medical journals, including *Family Medicine*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Family Practice*, *Academic Medicine*, and *Salud Pública de México*. His books include *The Burden of Support: Young Latinos in an Aging Society*, *Healing Latinos: Fantasia y Realidad* and *La Nueva California: Latinos in the Golden State*. [His research](#) focuses on the dynamics and processes of the health of the Latino population using both quantitative data sets and qualitative observations. In 2012, he received the Herbert W. Nickens Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges for "outstanding contributions to promoting justice in medical education and health equity in the United States." Dr. Hayes-Bautista writes columns for the *Los Angeles Times* and *La Opinion*, and is often asked to provide opinions on radio and television in both Spanish and English.

Taharee Apirom Jackson is Assistant Professor of Minority and Urban Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership at the University of Maryland. She specializes in teacher education, multicultural education, and urban education reform, with emphasis on challenging systemic privilege and oppression. See ["Starting With Self: Using Self-Discovery to Prepare Culturally Competent Teachers."](#) Dr. Jackson holds degrees from Harvard University, Harvard Graduate School of Education and Emory University. In her own words:

"I will continue to teach my teachers—to teach their students—that all human life is valuable. That skin color is not a marker of automatic danger (blackness) or automatic innocence (whiteness). That way, young black boys won't be presumed guilty as they walk home with candy in their pockets, or when they blast their music loudly at a convenience store. And the white men who gun them down won't be presumed to be acting in self-defense. And get away with murder. Literally."

"And that's not all I can do. I'm a consultant for inclusion and diversity. Oh, yes. I will continue to accept invitations from private corporations, non-profit organizations, school systems, and teacher preparation programs to discuss difference, systemic privilege and oppression, racism, and most importantly, anti-racism."



*"Look out, injustice. I have a plan. I am simultaneously seething and saturated with heart-break at all I've seen in the media this year, and all I experience as a multiracial woman who is often perceived as black. In addition to the story of Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis, Darrin Manning, and Oscar Grant (on whose life the film **Fruitvale Station** is based), I experience similar disdain all the time. Just the other day, a white woman in a dentist's office hurried to her purse and buried it in her arm as soon as she noticed I had walked in. She shot me a long glance to make sure I knew her actions were aimed at protecting her valuables from me. At least she shot me a glance and did not actually shoot me. Because if she had, she would have killed an unarmed, Ph.D.-holding, two-time Harvard graduate. And probably been let go."*

"As someone who is devastated by pervasive racism in American life and law, there is much I can do. Racism and injustice had better watch their backs. Because I am—we are—not helpless. And their time is limited."

Devonte Jackson is a Bay Area organizer and active blogger for [Black Alliance for Just Immigration \(BAJI\)](#), and a Bay Area leader in the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement. *Here is a sample blog posting from Devonte:*

“The Movement for Black Lives Policy Platform lays out a radical vision for Black people in the U.S. and can serve as a tool for movements as we approach the November General Elections. Black Lives Matter Bay Area will participate in an upcoming local elections town hall meeting on October 1st. We are preparing by prioritizing internal education around the Political Power portion of the Vision for Black Lives Platform. Nearly 575,000 undocumented Black immigrants can’t vote and Black folks, regardless of status, face mass criminalization in the form of over-policing, incarceration, and the prison industrial complex, which impacts our ability to vote and exercise full political power. It’s important to recognize and acknowledge how folks who have been intentionally marginalized by the state fit into the broader vision for Black Political Power. This blog is a reflection on the third demand within the Political Power segment of the Movement for Black Lives Policy platform that essentially calls for universal suffrage.”

“The third demand initially caught my attention because it called for the right to vote for all people. Our democracy would be radically transformed if we enfranchised undocumented and formerly/presently incarcerated folks by including them in the political process. The Movement for Black Lives United Front demands the “enfranchisement of formerly and presently incarcerated people, local and state resident voting for undocumented people, and a ban on any disenfranchisement laws... Because of this law there are approximately 11 million people currently residing in the U.S. who lack citizenship and the privileges that come with it, one of those privileges being the right to vote.”

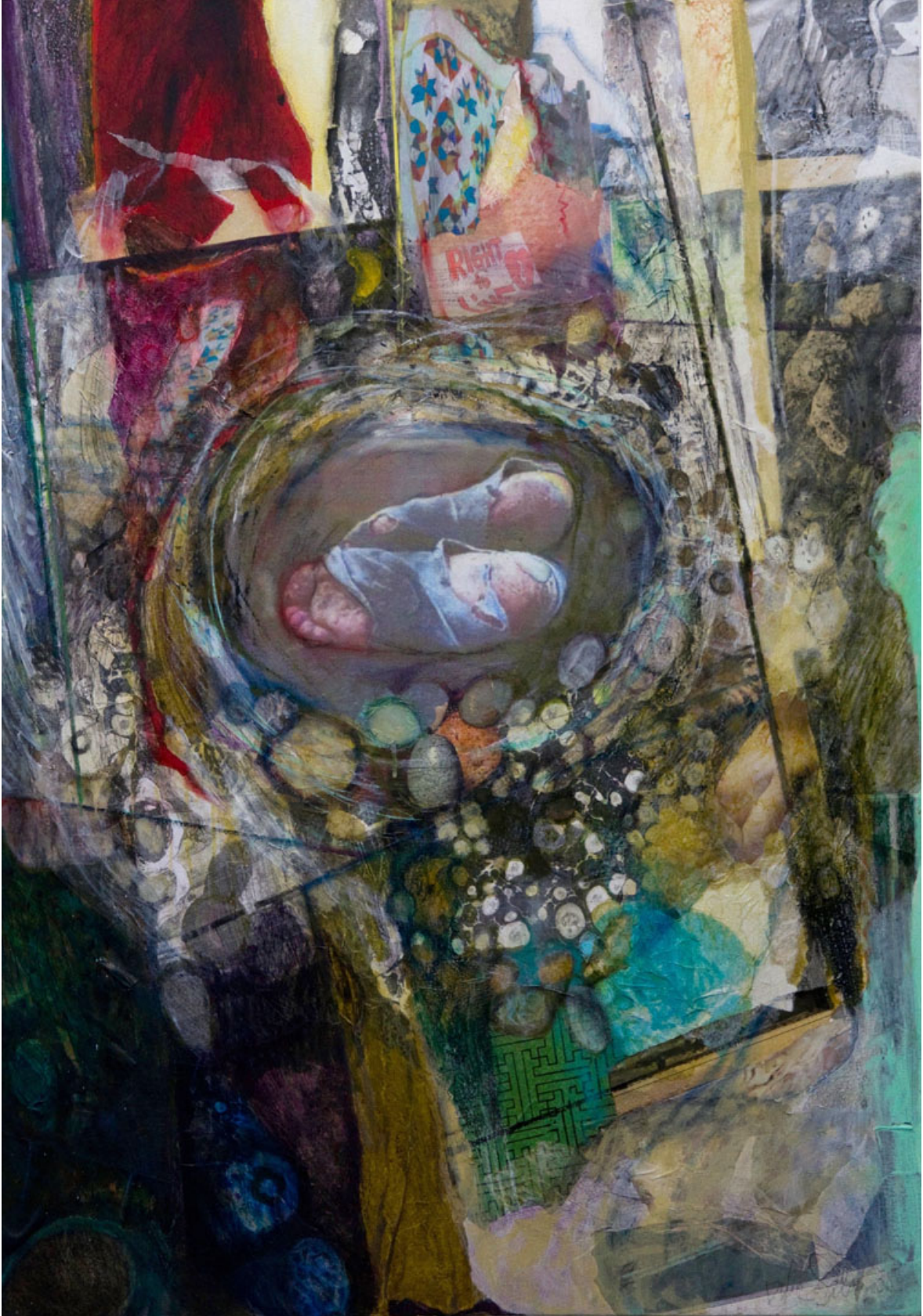


“In many of the visioning sessions I’ve had with Black folks in the movement, we have questioned the necessity of borders altogether. We challenged the very notion of borders by highlighting the violent and controlling oppression they create in Black communities around the globe. We believed that borders shouldn’t define who belongs and who does not. We imagined a world without borders. A world where people have a right to freely move and create home. For me, to live in a world without borders, we must challenge the very notion of citizenship. I argue that we should continue struggling around what Black Political Power means for us. For me, to exercise full Black Political Power, we must demand full participation of undocumented immigrants at all levels of government.”

Bryant Marks, Associate Professor of Psychology at Morehouse College, is Director of the Program for Research on Black Male Achievement and a senior advisor with the [White House Initiative on HBCUs](#). Dr. Marks also serves as a Commissioner with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans; he is a member of the STEM task force of the Commission. He is also a contributor to the [White House My Brother's Keeper \(MBK\) Task Force](#).



Dr. Marks serves on the MBK Task Force for Fulton County, GA, and has given several presentations on minority male achievement and counter stereotypical messaging of young Black men to MBK task forces and elected officials. Dr. Marks is member and former chair of the Diversity Climate Committee for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology and serves on advisory boards for the American Men's Studies Association and the College Board as well as the Morehouse College Board of Trustees. He holds a B.A. in psychology and a minor in economics from Morehouse College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Marks' conducts research and professional development in the areas of Black male psychology and development, institutional practices that improve African American student achievement, diversity in organizations, innovations in STEM education in high school and college, scientific literacy and identity, and using STEM concepts to teach life skills, character, and habits of success.



Somebody's Brother — Dixie Salazar

Karissa Moreno is a bilingual native of the North Bay Area and lifelong advocate of minority advancement. She earned her BA in Cultural Anthropology from UC Santa Barbara and her Master's degree for the University of Chicago. After spending years working with at-risk youth and as an educator, she found her passion fighting to eliminate health disparities and improve access to care. She worked at Santa Rosa Community Health Centers for over 7 years, and in spring 2015, she joined Livingston Community Health as their Chief Operations Officer. *From the Merced Sun-Star:* "Livingston Community Health has opened its first dental clinic in Hilmar, expanding access to dental care in the area. The dental clinic is at 7970 Lander Ave., next door to Livingston Community Health's medical clinic in Hilmar. The dental clinic opened its doors to the general public during a soft opening Monday. Livingston Community Health officials said they opted for a slow rollout, taking only a small group of patients initially, to help the new staff adjust and because there's still some construction taking place at the site. Livingston Community Health officials plan an official ribbon-cutting ceremony during the summer. But those interested in dental services can start scheduling appointments now. **Karissa Moreno**, the chief operating officer at Livingston Community Health, said the Hilmar dental clinic will serve patients regardless of their ability to pay. In addition to insurance, the dental clinic will take Denti-Cal, Medi-Cal's dental program, and will offer fee arrangements to those who qualify. Moreno said services primarily target the uninsured and low-income residents. This group of people, she said, usually avoids dental services because they can't afford out-of-pocket costs. The dental clinic has an enrollment counselor on-site who can help those who qualify sign up for health insurance. Moreno said that once insured, patients tend to seek more preventive care. Dr. Remya Niranjani is the Hilmar clinic's only dentist at this time. Niranjani, who is originally from San Francisco and previously worked in Gustine, said she decided to continue her work in a rural community because of the need for such services by the area's underserved population. "There's a lot more need (for services) here," Niranjani said. "A lot of places don't take (Denti-Cal) and some people have to wait months for an appointment." Moreno said the dental clinic is looking for a second dentist to help Niranjani with patient flow. "It's important to hire the right fit," Moreno said. "Someone committed to working in rural communities." Niranjani said she is currently focusing on preventive and restorative services, and can see about eight to 10 patients per day. Once the dental clinic is up to full speed, she expects to add more invasive and extensive dentistry and see up to 22 patients per provider, per day. The dental clinic also has space for urgent walk-ins. Moreno said Livingston Community Health's next goal is to build a similar dental clinic at its Livingston site. The nonprofit health system would need to seek grants to make this happen, she explained." *Merced Sun-Star (May 6, 2015)*

Nigel Hatton is Assistant Professor of Literature in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts at UC Merced. He has also taught classes at Central California Women's Facility and as an adjunct instructor with the Prison University Project at San Quentin State Prison, where he facilitated literature, writing and journalism courses and consulted with staff for the prison newspaper, *The San Quentin News*. He received his Ph.D. in both Modern Thought & Literature and the Humanities, with a minor in Political Science, from Stanford University, and completed postdoctoral studies at the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark. He also holds Master's degrees in Latin American Studies and Journalism from the UC Berkeley. A former Du Bois fellow at Harvard University, his published work includes articles on human rights and cosmopolitanism, and on writers and thinkers such as Søren Kierkegaard, Martin Luther

King, Jr., Jose Martí, Ivan Klíma and Louise Erdrich. Research and teaching interests include the interrelated histories of the development of classical, modern and contemporary fictional narrative and human rights discourses, and aesthetics as a response to and means for preventing and interrogating cultures of violence. He is also a member of the governance council for the Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California.

Frank Johnson is President of NAACP Modesto/Stanslaus Branch 1048. He has served as a tireless advocate for racial justice and critic of institutional practices and policies promoting or conserving social inequities in the distribution of resources and support for economic, educational, and community health and safety initiatives.

Tanya Golash-Boza is Associate Professor of Sociology at UC Merced and author of five books: 1) *Deported: Policing Immigrants, Disposable Labor, and Global Capitalism* (2015), which explains the connection between mass deportation and global capitalism; 2) *Due Process Denied* (2012), which describes how and why non-citizens in the United States have been detained and deported for minor crimes, without regard for constitutional limits on disproportionate punishment; 3) *Immigration Nation* (2012), which provides a critical analysis of the impact that U.S. immigration policy has on human rights; 4) *Yo Soy Negro: Blackness in Peru* (2011), the first book in English to address what it means to be black in Peru; and 5) *Race and Racisms: A Critical Approach* (2015). She has also published many articles in peer-reviewed journals on deportations, racial identity, U.S. Latinos/as and Latin America, in addition to essays and chapters in edited volumes and online venues such as *Al Jazeera*, *The Nation*, and *Counterpunch*. Her innovative scholarship was awarded the Distinguished Early Career Award from the Racial and Ethnic Minorities Studies Section of the American Sociological Association in 2010. In 2013, she was awarded the UC Merced Academic Senate Award for Distinguished Scholarly Public Service. Tanya's most recent work is on the consequences of mass deportation. With funding from a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Award, she completed over 150 interviews with deportees in Brazil, Guatemala, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic in 2009 and 2010. This research forms the basis of her recent book *Deported* (New York University Press: 2015).

Gautam Jagannath is founding director of the Bay Area's **Social Justice Collaborative (SJC)**. His skills as a trial lawyer and appellate advocate support SJC's main services. He attended Northeastern University School of Law, the nation's leading public interest law school, with the goal of becoming a public defender. However, after noticing the impact of criminal law on low-income immigrants, Gautam was drawn to the intersection between criminal and immigration law. Struck by the lack of access to counsel for immigrants he believed that forming SJC was a natural next step toward alleviating the lack of legal services for low-income noncitizen. Through effective advocacy, SJC provides significant support as an immigration public defender, striving to increase representation for both detained and non-detained individuals. Gautam teaches administrative law and sits on the Board of Directors for the Bay Area chapter of the National Lawyer's Guild and the South Asian Bar Association. He is active in several progressive legal movements. He will speak on the challenges of advancing the rights of immigrants and their families, with attention to how these challenges may be transforming in the aftermath of the recent election.

Drawing on their extensive advocacy and interviews conducted with public agencies, churches, civic groups and individuals who serve our local homeless populations, **Leng Power** and **Joseph Homer (Modesto Peace/Life Center)** will discuss the impressive, complex grassroots system of support provided to local homeless populations, and provide information on how local residents can become involved to help address the challenges of homelessness. Leng has partnered with John Lucas to co-produce a feature-length documentary on local area homeless populations, based on interviews conducted and filmed on the streets of Modesto. Their project, launched by the Modesto Peace/Life Center, is dedicated to providing helpful and inspiring information on homelessness, through a collection of homeless video interviews, collected poems and stories from local community members, by identifying local homeless services, homeless advocacy campaigns and homeless issues facing the community, and by bringing attention to the causes of homelessness. Their goal is to humanize the community's experience of its homeless population by putting a public, human face on the homeless experience.

Stanislaus faculty Aletha Harven, Kilolo Brodie, Vickie Harvey, John Kincaid, and Alfred Perez will participate in a panel discussion of "Social Justice and the New Political Climate: Aftermath of an Election." With research interests spanning the disciplines of Child Development, Social Work, Communication Studies, and Sociology, these faculty are actively committed to social justice education as a component of personal, professional and civic training. **Aletha Harven** will facilitate the discussion and pose some questions to the panel on where we go from here as a culture, to help students and faculty make sense of their feelings and trepidations regarding what is to come under the new administration. Aletha is Assistant Professor of Child Development at California State University, Stanislaus. Her research studies the impact of school-related risk factors on the mental health and academic functioning of Black and Latino students, while also discussing the psychological and social environmental factors that might help students to stay resilient in the face of adversity. Her research examines educational implications, including Black and Latino student mental health, motivation, and academic achievement, providing insight on the promotion of a college-going culture among Black, Latino, and other underrepresented groups of students in the Central Valley.

Robin DeLugan is Associate Professor of Anthropology at UC Merced. She is interested in community building, collective identity and belonging. Her research on postwar nation building in El Salvador traces new attention to historical exclusions, past state violence, and how globalization (including migration) and neoliberalism affect the meaning of national belonging in the 21st century. Her research also looks at indigenous people and nation-state dynamics including contemporary migration from Latin America to California. Dr. DeLugan is co-chair of Community University Research and Action for Justice (CURAJ), a multidisciplinary regional research network that emphasizes engagement with grassroots organizations and local communities in California's Central Valley. Dr. DeLugan received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. Her current research includes projects in support of the *Partnership for the Assessment of Communities: Disparities, Inequality, and Civic Engagement in the San Joaquin Valley*. She is involved with UC Merced's Community-University Research & Action For Justice (CURAJ) Demonstration Project, providing research in the service of

local communities in the San Joaquin Valley (cf. *Environmental Justice* (vol. 6/no. 2—2013, 62-70). Robin earned the 2007 - Helping Hands Award for Community Engagement from the Community Partnership Alliance (United Way Merced). She is the author of *Reimagining National Belonging: Post-Civil War El Salvador in a Global Context* (University of Arizona Press: 2012).

Maria de Jesus Martinez Mora is a doctoral student at UC Merced conducting research on immigrant rights in the Central Valley, with specific focus on the outcomes of immigrant rights mobilization efforts. Maria was recognized in 2015-16 by the UC Merced Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship for conducting socially engaged research addressing issues of critical interest to the San Joaquin Valley community. Her Mesoamerican research activity focuses on issues of indigenous culture, immigration, social activism and social memory.

Pablo Rodriguez brings twenty-one years of experience developing successful mass civic and electoral participation campaigns throughout the United States. Pablo is based in Sacramento and oversees the **Communities for a New California (CNC) Education Fund's** integrated leadership development and mass voter engagement efforts in Riverside, Imperial, Fresno, Tulare, Merced and Sacramento Counties. The integration of CNC Education Fund's grassroots leadership development and mass non-partisan voter engagement creates an environment allowing CNC Education Fund to be a trusted messenger and build relationships with families living in the San Joaquin and Coachella Valleys. Since 2011, the CNC Education Fund's year-round non-partisan Civic Engagement programs have interacted with over 150,000 voters via live phone calls and directly at their homes. Prior to joining Communities for a New California, Pablo served as a Public Policy Consultant and Communications Director at a Sacramento political strategy firm. His responsibilities included the development and implementation of Federal political strategy, issue research, communications, and national community organizing projects. Pablo previously served as Director of the **Dolores Huerta Community Organizing Institute**, where he developed trainings for mass base building and direct political action campaigns for organizations throughout California. In addition he developed service-learning programs with San Jose State University, the National Association of Social Workers, and Loyola Marymount University (LMU). In partnership with LMU, he initiated development of the first micro-finance program focusing exclusively on farm workers in the United States. Pablo currently serves as Board Chair with the Americans for Democratic Action Education Fund, a nonprofit advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. The ADA Education Fund is committed to promoting public policy education and citizen empowerment. He previously served on the Boards of the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project in Sacramento and the La Pena Cultural Center in Berkeley, CA.

A **Keynote panel** featuring **Devonte Jackson, Taharee Jackson** and **Pablo Rodriguez** and moderated by **Aletha Harven** will conclude our Friday afternoon sessions, focusing on Social Justice Concerns in the Aftermath of the Election. At the conclusion of the panel's presentation, we anticipate there will be opportunity for questions and comments from the audience.

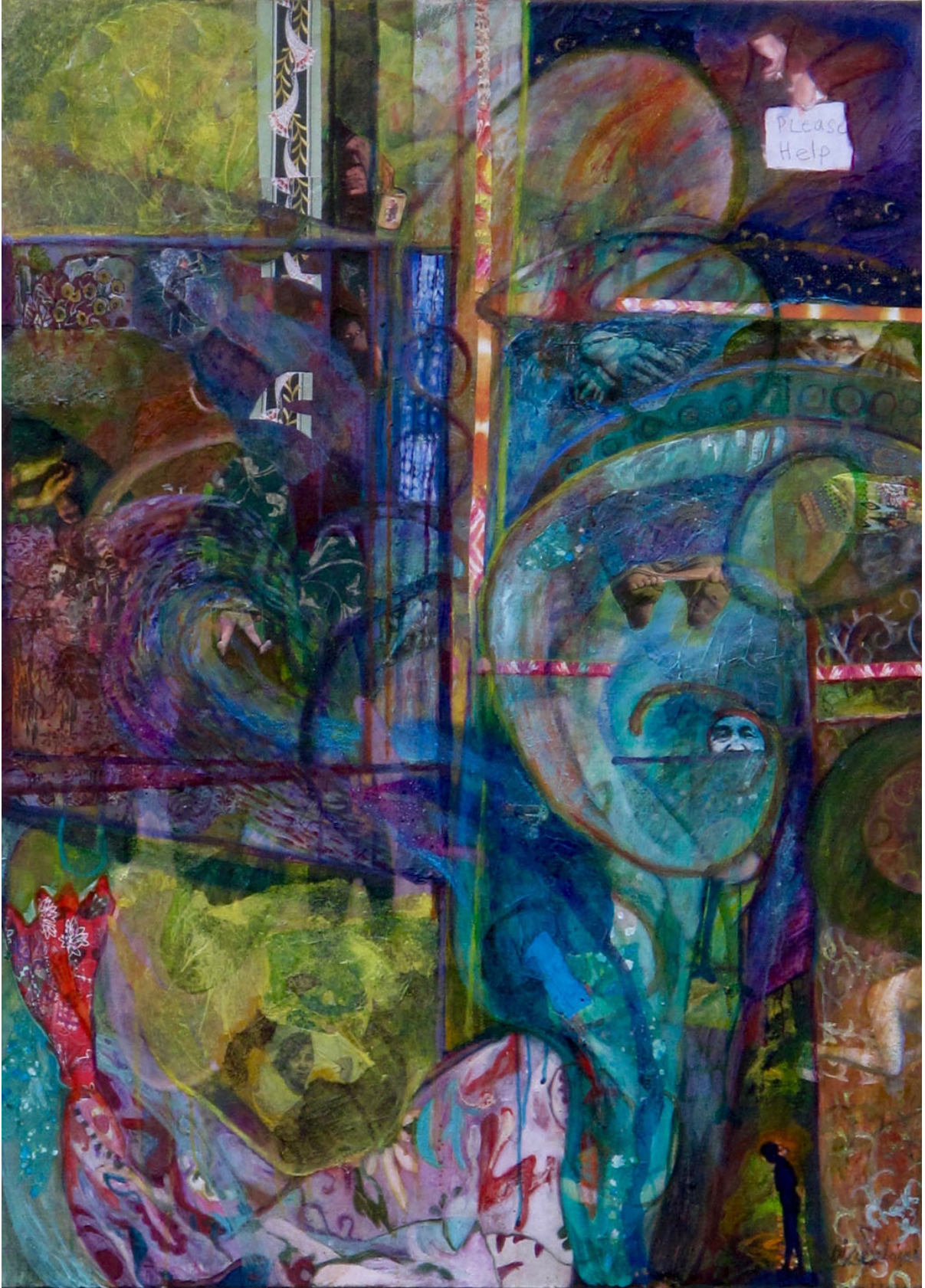
Dixie Salazar, an award-winning artist, author, activist, and educator, has been a working artist and writer for more than forty years. Her work is alive with the passion of

life, and rich in the color and iconography of her Spanish heritage. Her paintings are a delicate combination of flowing forms, vivid color, and provocative abstraction, tempting fantasies that stimulate the imagination. Her work has been shown extensively, including exhibits in San Francisco, Las Vegas, New York, and numerous galleries throughout the Central Valley. Dixie is also an accomplished writer, having published two novels, including *CARMEN AND CHIA MIX MAGIC* (2014), and five volumes of poetry, including *REINCARNATION OF THE COMMONPLACE* (a national poetry award winner published in 1999), *BLOOD MYSTERIES* (2003), *FLAMENCO HIPS AND RED MUD FEET* (2010) and *ALTAR FOR ESCAPED VOICES* (2013). The latter contains poems written in the voices of inmates she met while teaching and writing at men's and women's prisons, including Corcoran State Prison. Her current installation — in the University Art Gallery — is entitled “*...and homeless near a thousand homes I stood.*”

Dixie has spent a lifetime forging her identity out of two cultures: “On one side was my father’s world: Spanish speaking from *las montañas*. On the other side was my mother’s world: a deep Southern drawl wafting from the magnolia and chinaberry trees.” Her poems examine her identity as a product of both cultures, never completely at home in either one, always navigating the alienation of her cultural in-between-ness and comfortable with her status as “outsider,” free to decide where her own “borders” begin or end. “*Dixie works at the tense points of the ordinary and unlocks the extra-ordinary,*” writes our current national Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera. “*Here, the city, the shores, the streets, the display windows, the family rooms—and those that inhabit these spaces—are all cast in hard light and raw truths. Yet, she is singing. All comes back to life in this manner, the text seems to say. An incandescent and brave voice for our times.*”

Her recent projects include a photographic exhibit of a homeless encampment in Fresno (included in our current Gallery installation) and serving on the board of the Eco Village Project and the Dakota Eco Garden, facilities providing sustainable, green housing for the homeless in a community environment. “*In 2009,*” she writes, “*I accompanied a friend who was making a film, set in the homeless encampments of H Street, at that time a huge mass of makeshift dwellings patched together from blue tarps, scraps of wood and odd pieces of junk, by the railroad tracks downtown, with about two to three hundred homeless residents. I was so taken with the visual tableau that I came back with my camera and ended up with a photography show at City Hall. It was fascinating how they put together living spaces with scavenged metal, wood, tarps, and all manner of discarded detritus.... Some years later, a friend bought a big house with half an acre and opened up a transitional living shelter for the homeless. Immediately, I jumped on board and it’s been quite a ride. I’ve met remarkable people, those who are truly at the bottom of the pile, both physically and metaphorically. And they’ve shared their stories and many of their voices have crept into my poems.... I didn’t ever feel that making artwork was a choice for me and being involved in activist work that is meaningful is also not a choice. And it’s not complicated, it’s what I have to do because it’s who I am.*” Her current exhibition of photos and paintings on homelessness will remain in the **University Art Gallery** through Dec 23rd.





Hidden in Plain Sight — Dixie Salazar



No Stopping Anytime — Dixie Salazar