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In the Know - A Quarterly Newsletter (Fall 23)



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Spring 2023. Professors **Ainsley LeSure** (Brown/Political Science) and **Kelema Moses** (UCSD/USP) discussing Kwame Ture and Charles V. Hamilton's text *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation* during a second event focusing on Moses's work-in-progress on the influence of the Black Power movement on Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) land struggles during the 1970s. Photo by Matt Ford/MFA

Reflections on a Decade of Black Study

A Message from the Directors

Welcome to the 2023-2024 academic year. During its tenth year of existence, BSP continues to strengthen and promote the vitality of Black Studies scholarship and community at UCSD. In partnership with the Department of Ethnic Studies, the Black Diaspora and African American Studies degree program, the Black Resource Center, and multiple academic departments across campus, BSP has worked to provide substantive support for and recognition of scholars and scholarship in the field of global Black Studies. Last year we collaborated on over fifty events and fellowship opportunities that brought speakers to campus and supported research opportunities and art partnerships both locally and from around the world—from San Diego, to Louisiana, New York, Uganda, and Italy. We look forward to seeing you at the various forums in the quarter ahead. Check out the events and opportunities below!

BSP provides a platform for supporting meaningful work in Black Studies among faculty, graduate and undergraduate students from across the UCSD campus, while building sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships with broader San Diego and UC communities.

Sara Johnson
Angela Booker
[Faculty Co-Directors](#)

Table of Contents

- **Upcoming Events** with BSP
- **Funding Opportunities** with BSP
- **Community Spotlight** with BSP

Upcoming Events

- **OCT 12** (Th) **BSP WELCOME LUNCH** (PEB 201, 11:30am-1:00pm). Join Black Studies faculty, graduate students, and staff as we herald a year of Black Study ahead. RSVP now at bit.ly/bspwelcome2023
- **OCT-NOV** (W) **CONNECTION JAM: TWO-HOUR WEEKLY FREE MOVEMENT LABORATORY** (Molli and Arthur Wagner Dance Building, Studio 3, 6:00pm-8:00pm). *Connection Jam is 2 hours of soul-filling, radical joy practice: an opportunity to play, think, engage, and explore with embodiment at the core - build resilience, joy, and connection. Practice embodied liberation.*
 - **OCT 18** (W) BSP is collaborating with Professor Ana Maria Alvarez, founder of the *Connection Jam*, and new visiting faculty in the Department of Dance to hold a year-long Black Visual and Performing Arts Series. Our first event, **Connection Jam** (Afro-Cuban) features a class led by dance instructor **Juan Carlos Blanco** founder of Omo Aché Cuban Cultural Arts, a San Diego-based organization dedicated to preserving and presenting Cuba's rich cultural heritage of music and dance.
 - **OCT 25** (W) **Connection Jam** (Africa in America) features a class led by dance instructor **Kara Mack**, choreographer and creative director with an expertise in African Diasporic music and dance. Mack's numerous credits include working as Assistant Choreographer for COMING TO AMERICA 2.
 - **NOV 8** (W) **Connection Jam** features a class led by dance instructor **Daunté Fyall**, a passionate dance instructor, performing artist, choreographer, motivational speaker and Founder of the Multifaceted West African Performance Company DAANSEKOU "wise son."
- **NOV 1** (W) **SOMETHING LIKE A BATTLECRY: On the Public Artworks of Ethiopian-Turkish Sculptor Kuzgun Acar** (PEB 201, 2:00pm-3:30pm), a work-in-progress presentation and discussion with BSP Pre-doctoral Fellow, Visual Arts student **Hande Sever**. RSVP now at bit.ly/seminarwithhande

bsp welcome lunch

black

studies

project

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A CASUAL AFFAIR

*Featuring catering by
Felix's BBQ With
Soul*

Thursday

Oct 12 '23

PEB 201

11:30am-

1:00pm

Black studies scholarship is alive at UCSD because of you. Join BSP for a casual bite and a hearty hello as we herald a year of Black study ahead.

Rsvp at bit.ly/bspwelcome2023

Something Like A Battlecry

On the Public Artworks of Ethiopian-Turkish Sculptor Kuzgun Acar

Wednesday, November 1st, 2023

2:00pm-3:30pm | PEB 201



Featuring a Work-in-progress
Research Presentation by

Hande Sever

PhD, Visual Arts

BSP Pre-Doctoral Fellow

Hande Sever's (4th year, Visual Arts) dissertation research focuses on the life and work of Ethiopian-Turkish artist Kuzgun Acar (1928–1976), a pioneering Black artist and activist whose entire oeuvre was destroyed in the aftermath of the 1971 and 1980 Turkish military coups. For instance, in response to his involvement in the anti-fascist labor movement Acar's public sculpture *Türkiye Rölyefi* (1967) was removed from the facade of the Emek İşhanı building in Ankara, Turkey and melted by the military government in 1974, leaving behind only a 24 x 18cm black and white analog photographic print. Hande's completed dissertation will provide the first critical study of Acar's life and work, remediating a significant gap in the history of modern art and situating his work within an international network of Black and Middle Eastern visual artists. Hande is currently completing her chapter on the public artworks of Acar, as well as translating segments of the book *Kenya-Crete-Istanbul: Human Biographies from the Slave Coast* (2005) by Kenyan-Turkish activist and founder of the Africans' Culture and Solidarity Association in Turkey, Mustafa Olpak.

LUNCH
PROVIDED!

black
studies
project

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PLEASE RSVP [HERE](#) BY MONDAY OCTOBER 23, 2023 AT 5 P.M. TO HELP WITH FOOD ORDERS.

Watch Juan Carlos Blanco of Omo Aché instruct a class on Arará dance traditions.





Like Minds Affinity Events Around Campus

- **OCT-NOV** (*multiple*) Check out **UCSD's Latinx Heritage Month (LHM)** Calendar of Events [here](#). This LHM features incredible presentations such as [ArtPower's](#) Cumbia, featuring the band *Son Rompe Pera*.
- **OCT 22** (Su) **Professional Development Workshop with Léopold Lambert**, editor-in-chief of [The Funambulist](#) (Social Sciences Building, #107, 10:30am-12:30pm), hosted by the Departments of History and Ethnic Studies. Read more and rsvp now [here](#) (*spaces are limited*).

BSP Funding Opportunities

ONGOING

ONGOING

BSP Faculty Research Grants

BSP provides ongoing faculty research support in the amount of grants of up to \$4000. Awards support projects undertaken during the current academic year (2023-2024) or the next one (2024-2025). Proposals should support work distinct from other grant-supported aspects of an applicant's research. [Read More](#)

Funds for Co-sponsorships

BSP provides small grants (from \$150-\$500) to co-sponsor events on campus. Want to bring a speaker? Host an event? These grants run throughout the year while funding is available, and support activities that correspond with BSP's mission. Please direct any inquiries to bsp@ucsd.edu. Please include "Co-sponsorship grant request" in the subject line. [Read More](#)

BSP Community Spotlight

**SHERLEY ANNE WILLIAMS WRITING
RESIDENCY**



On the heels of the publication of her book *To the Realization of Perfect Helplessness*, recently awarded the 2023 PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry, National Book Award-winning poet, artist, and scholar **Robin Coste Lewis** addresses a full house during the **Sherley Anne Williams Writing Residency** inaugural lecture in the spring of 2023, an event cosponsored by BSP and the UCSD Literature New Writing Series, and supported by UCSD Special Collections and the the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Photo by Matt Ford/MFA

SPOTLIGHT 2022-2023 BSP Funding Awardees

BSP 23-24 FACULTY FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

- Dennis Childs** (Literature) *Liberation Time: Anti-Black Genocide and the Modern Abolition Movement*
- Gabriel Bámbóšé** (Literature) *Reinventing Black Poetics: African Women's Poetry and Radical Translation of Negritude*

BSP 23-24 FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES

- Scott Desposato** (Political Science) *Black Mayors and Public Service Provision in Brazil Southern*
- Nancy Kwak** (USP & History) *California Eats: A history/A history of food and urban infrastructure in Southern California*
- Jade P. Sotomayor** (Theater + Dance) *¡Hablá!: Speaking Bodies in Latinx Dance and Performance*
- Kazim Ali** (Literature) *Black Buffalo Woman: An Introduction to the Poetry and Poetics of Lucille Clifton*
- Danielle Dean** (Visual Arts) *Hemel Homestead - A Video Installation*

BSP FACULTY SUMMER 2023 GSR FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

- Imani Munyaka** (Comp. Sci. & Eng.) *The Intersectionality in Data Science Project*
- Claire Adida** (Political Science) *A systematic test of whether White Americans hold different stereotypes toward African immigrants vs. Black Americans*
- Amy Bintliff** (Education) *Centering Wellbeing and Trauma-Informed Care in Two Schools Serving Refugee Youth in Arua, Uganda: A Research Practice Partnership Between Africa ELI and UCSD*
- Zeinabu Davis** (Communication) *Documentary - Stars of the Northern Sky*
- Roy Perez** (Ethnic Studies) *So Close: Race, Sex, and the Proximal in Queer-of-Color Art and Performance*
- Jaclyn Jemc** (Literature) *Clarion Writers Workshop*
- Holly Okonkwo** (Ethnic Studies) *Liberatory Code: African American women and the Politics of Computing*

Danielle Raudenbush (Sociology)	<i>Health after Release from Prison</i>
Shaista Patel (Ethnic Studies)	<i>Examining the figure of buffalo in thinking through relations between Indigenous, Black, and Dalit feminist scholarship</i>
Angela Booker (Communication)	<i>Summer 2023 - Relational Scale Research Planning Project</i>
BSP 23-24 DAYO GORE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP	
Juliana Góes (Sociology, UMass Amherst)	<i>Decolonizing Cities: Territories of Life and Black Movements in Brazil</i>
BSP 2023 GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH & TRAVEL GRANT AWARDEES	
Vedant Vohra (Economics)	<i>Racial Earnings Gaps in the U.S.: The Role of Employers</i>
Olivia Kayang (Visual Arts)	<i>The Memory of Slavery in Ghana after Lose Your Mother</i>
Nakaweesi Katongole (Anthropology)	<i>Ennaku: variations of sadness in an idiom of distress</i>
Johnnie Chatman (Visual Arts)	<i>Endless Horizons - Revisiting the American West, Cowboys and the Landscape</i>
Rochelle Jackson-Smarr (Education)	<i>Stories from the Field: Black Service-Learning Student Experiences</i>
Nykelle DeVivo (Visual Arts)	<i>the crossroads</i>
Kevin Schwenkler (Music)	<i>An Anti-Tragic Framework for the Musical Life of Julius Eastman</i>
Jaz Bryant (Visual Arts)	<i>Thank you kindly</i>
Noelle Sepina (Ethnic Studies)	<i>Made in the Philippines: Blaxploitation & Transnational Collaborations in the Marcos Era</i>
Matt Ford (Literature)	<i>How We Live, How We Make / Rapture In Blue</i>
Jasmine Sadler (Education)	<i>Return of the Ancestors Professional Learning Community</i>
Amir Saadiq (Visual Arts)	<i>You Don't Know Us Negros</i>
Maya Beck (Literature)	<i>Nine Cities</i>

Jordan Griffin (Anthropology)	<i>In Search of Gardens at Fort Missoula: Methods in Locating Evidence of Gardening at a 19th Century Buffalo Soldier Site in Montana</i>
Naomi Nadreau (Visual Arts)	<i>Explore in Silence</i>
Daniel Rios (Ethnic Studies)	<i>Historical Ligatures and Cultures of Resistance: Race, Labor, and Plantation Communities in California's San Joaquin Valley</i>
Chanell Stone (Visual Arts)	<i>Undulation</i>
Paul Roth (Music)	<i>Don Cherry: Ontologies of Human Music</i>
James Crawford (Education)	<i>Actualizing Black Male Youth Healing and Empowerment: A Qualitative Case Study of a Black Educational Fugitive Space</i>
Samuel Lyons (Literature)	<i>Reading the Movements and Sounds for Liberation: Abolitionist Social Performances and Publicities, 1790-1850</i>
Kevin Green (Music)	<i>To Hip-Hop or Not: Perceptions of Race, Genre, History, and Pedagogy in the African-American Bandworld</i>
Fabiola Carranza (Visual Arts)	<i>Elasticity and Swirling Schemes: Plasticity in the work of Buddy Gillespie and Senga Nengudi</i>
Moses Headley (History)	<i>Summer 2023 Berlin Archival Research Project</i>
BSP 23-24 SARA CLARKE KAPLAN PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES	
Maya Machado (Sociology)	<i>The Social Outcomes of Afro-Panamanian Women in the Fishing Industry</i>
Hande Sever (Visual Arts)	<i>Kuzgun Acar: Something Like A Battlecry</i>
BSP 23-24 SARA CLARKE KAPLAN DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES	
Rochelle McFee (Ethnic Studies)	<i>Tallawah: A Re-imagined Black Girlhood in the English-speaking Caribbean</i>
BSP 23-24 GSR FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES	
Eden Wiggins (Latin American Studies)	
Zhané Gaillard (Anthropology)	

BSP 22-23 HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGRADUATE ADVOCACY AWARDEES

Dellilah Jacobson (Physics)
DeVon King
Aleya Boatwright (NanoEngineering)
Kyleen Martin (Ethnic Studies)
Kennedy Cofield (Human Dev. Sci.)



SPOTLIGHT Scenes from BSP Researchers on the Road

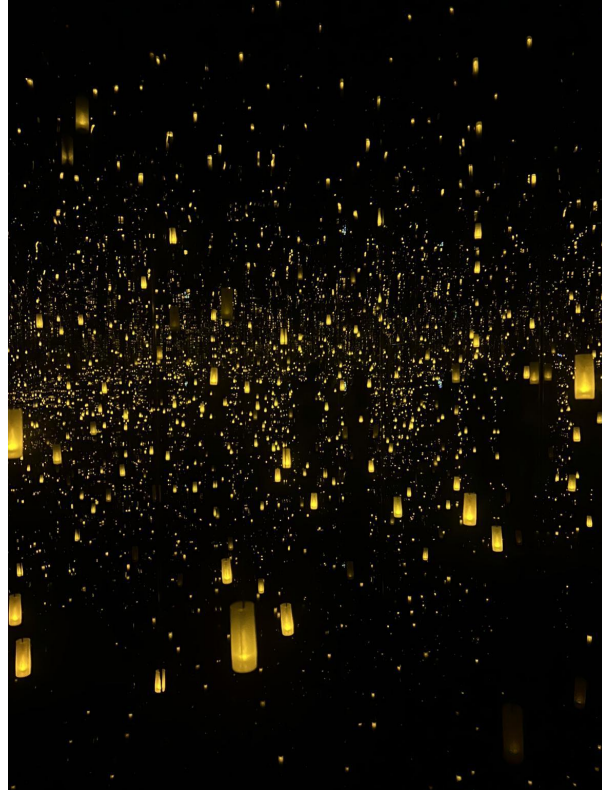




On the road with **Olivia Kayang** (Visual Arts/MFA, student).

From left to right: "(1) An excerpt of the book *Cool Running: The Story of Ghana's Honk Horn Lorries & Por Por Music*, taken at the Dikan Library, the largest collection of photography books in West Africa, located in Osu, Ghana. I visited the library to investigate how the images there hold memories of Ghana's past. (2) A photo taken during a trip to the newly expanded Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, showing a quote by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. (3) A photo of my father standing between 2 smocks at the Ghana National Museum in Accra, Ghana. My father, who originates from Northern Ghana, supplied personal anecdotes about specific cultural artefacts." (photos taken in September 2023)





On the road with **JAX** (Visual Arts/MFA, student).

From left to right: (1) Ming Smith at the Houston Museum of Contemporary Art. (2) James Turrell at Rice University.





On the road with **Kevin P. Green** (Music/PhD).

"Many people are familiar with HBCU band culture, but are not always aware of how all-encompassing it is as a lifestyle outside of collegiate events. The award enabled me to travel to the Atlanta Metro area one last time to document the phenomenon of community summer/mass/all-star bands. I had interviewed the leaders and members of the Georgia Mass Band (GAMB) in summer of 2022, but did not get to attend their culminating event, 'Battle for the Culture.' 'Battle of the Culture V: Fifth Quarter Edition,' was held on June 24, 2023."

From left to right: "(1) GAMB members marching into the stadium. (2) Patrons show who they are affiliated with during these summer events. (3) GAMB members want to know what the response will be."





On the road with **Naomi Nadreau** (Visual Arts/MFA, student).

The photos feature work that Naomi made in The Labyrinth, New Mexico. Of their work, Naomi writes, "I have a visual arts practice utilizing found objects, natural materials, and ceramics evoking the otherness of self-possession and the pursuit of alternative means of existence through genres of Science Fiction and material." Of the landscape, Naomi asks, "[i]s there a place for Black people in the desert?"

On the road with **Jordan Griffin** (Archaeology/PhD, student).

"This is the only remaining structure of the Brown family homestead just outside of Butte, Montana. The Browns were among the first and few Black families to settle in this area for mining. I spent time surveying the area this June [2023] to begin planning archaeological excavation. My research will help reveal this family's daily lives and gardening habits."





On the road with **Fabiola Carranza** (Visual Arts, CGS/PhD, student).

"Talking to Linda Goode Bryant at the launch of the 2023 Nasher Sculpture Center's Graduate Symposium Compendium—where my essay was published. This event was held in honor of the sculptor Senga Nengudi, who won the Nasher Center's Laureate Award.

Linda Goode Bryant is an activist, filmmaker, curator and the founder of the gallery *Just Above Midtown*, a non-profit space that supported the production of new works by African-American artists and artists of color in New York City from 1974 until 1986. Meeting Linda and Senga was a great honor for me as I have long been a fan of their friendship and collaborations. This graduate symposium and the compendium that was launched on this day was significant for me as it marked the first piece of academic writing I've ever published and it happened to be an essay analyzing tornado imagery in *The Wizard of Oz* and in Senga Nengudi's artwork. When Senga accepted the award she burst into song, "We're off to see the Wizard!"

SPOTLIGHT Black Visual and Performing Arts Series

2023-2024

THIS YEAR heralds an incredible roster of offerings in the study of Black visual art and performance. Part of a year-long series, this fall features *Connection Jam*, a free dance and movement laboratory hosted by BSP and **Ana Maria Alvarez** (faculty/Theatre & Dance). Alvarez's Wednesday weekly *Connection Jam*, will feature special class sessions led by **Juan Carlos Blanco** (Afro-Cuban), **Kara Mack** (Africa in America), and **Daunté Fyall** (West African). Read more about their work below, and stay tuned for more series programming announcements.



Connection Jam session with Juan Carlos - Wed, Oct 18

Lecturer in Dance - Afro-Cuban

Juan Carlos Blanco was born and raised in Havana, Cuba, where he performed with several professional companies for over 15 years before coming to the U.S. In his youth, he began his performance career with the folkloric arts groups Cumballe and Oba llú in his hometown of Guanabacoa, a community of Havana known for its rich Afro-Cuban cultural traditions. He later joined one of Cuba's most renowned folkloric companies, Raices Profundas (Deep Roots), soon becoming lead male dancer and soloist and touring Latin America and Asia.

In 1998 Juan Carlos founded Omo Aché Cuban Cultural Arts, a San Diego-based organization dedicated to preserving and presenting Cuba's rich cultural heritage of music and dance. With Mr. Blanco as its artistic director, the Omo Aché Afro-Cuban Music and Dance Company performs in schools, universities, and multi-cultural venues throughout California.

Lecturer in Dance - Jazz, hip hop, West African

Kara Mack is a choreographer and creative director with an expertise in African Diasporic music and dance. Recent credits include COMING TO AMERICA 2 (Assistant Choreographer) as well as Freeform's GOOD TROUBLE.

Other notable credits include assisting Industry-Leading Choreographer Fatima Robinson on Kendrick Lamar's iconic performance at the 58th Grammy Awards, Busta Rhymes' performance at the 2021 MTV VMA's, and the upcoming "The Color Purple" Movie. Other television credits include co-choreographing Chance the Rapper's performance on SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE as well as projects with the NBA, Disney, NBC, and Fox and being Margot Robbie's Movement Coach for the movie "Babylon".

Kara is the founder of Africa in America®, which serves as a primary resource for professionals and participants of African Diasporic music, dance, arts & culture in America. Her passion and expertise have led her to teach all over the nation including The Debbie Allen Dance Academy. Kara was also an Artist-In-Resident at the renowned Theater of Hearts; a Los Angeles based non-profit organization focusing on reaching at-risk youth through the arts.

As a dancer Kara has performed on several award shows including the Grammys, NAACP Image Awards, The BET Awards, and the Billboard Music Awards.

Connection Jam session with Kara - Wed, Oct 25



Lecturer in Dance - West African

Born in Frankfurt, Germany and raised in Washington DC; **Daunté Fyall** is a passionate dance instructor, performing artist, choreographer, motivational speaker and Founder of the Multifaceted West African Performance Company DAANSEKOU “wise son”. His Roots began with the World Renowned Assane Konte, Founder/Artistic Director of Kankouran West African Dance Company of Washington, DC.

As a Senior Company Member, Daunté’s performance venues/credits include: The Kennedy Center of Washington DC, the Trinidad & Tobago Emancipation Festival, The Smithsonian Museums of Washington DC, and The White House of the United States of America to name a few! Most Recent, Daunté had the privilege of performing on the Oprah Winfrey Network hit show “Iyanla: Fix My Life”; and in the “Aries” Musical Project with Mike WILL Made-It feat. Pharrell Williams. Daunté

SPOTLIGHT Welcome to New Faculty & Staff



A hearty BSP hello and welcome to the new members of the Black Studies community (from left to right, clockwise):

- Mysia Anderson**, Assistant Professor, Theatre
- Monika Gosin**, Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies
- Bright Gyamfi**, Assistant Professor, History
- Matana Roberts**, Assistant Professor, Music
- Gennie Miranda**, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Ethnic Studies

A special shout out to outgoing Ethnic Studies/Black Studies Project CAO **Cecilia Ozkan**. Ceci now serves as the CAO for UCSD's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and continues on in her support of BSP's mission as an *ex officio* member of the BSP Executive Committee.

A resounding congratulations as well to Assistant Professor of Music **Kevin P. Green**, newly hired faculty member at [Cal Poly Pomona](#). If you haven't, be sure to check out his amazing photos above from his last research travel trip in support of his dissertation *To Hip-Hop or Not: Perceptions of Race, Genre, History, and Pedagogy in the African-American Bandworld*.

Contact Us!

If you have any inquiries about BSP, or would like to be added to our listserv for more event and opportunity notifications, please email bsp@ucsd.edu

We are located on the Second Floor of the Public Engagement Building (PEB). PEB is located across from the Arts & Humanities Building & Plant Power Fast Food.



Plant Power Fast Food
@ the corner ground floor of Catalyst

BSP HQ on Level 2



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