



bsp.ucsd.edu

## In the Know - A Quarterly Newsletter (Fall 24)



BSP Faculty Fellow **Gabriel Bámgbóṣé** (UCSD/Literature) and Professor **Tsitsi Jaji** (Duke University/English) share a word and a laugh as they review their set lists for the evening's poetry reading. This reading of published and new poetry was followed by a conversation between Bámgbóṣé and Jaji on various facets of contemporary African poetry. (Photo by BSP Graduate Student Researcher team Zhané Gaillard and Eden Wiggins)



(Clockwise) Ethnic Studies doctoral students **Rochelle Mcfee** and **Tirrezz Hudson** after a rich discussion following Mcfee's BSP dissertation fellow presentation on "the concept of Tallawah as a transformative framework for countering negative representation of Black girlhood."

BSP associate director **Lorraine Makone** and Professor **Bright Gyamfi** (History/UCSD) after listening to poetry and discussion at *Mothering Tongues*, an event featuring poet professors Gabriel Bámbgbóšé and Tsitsi Jaji. The title of the event was taken from Tsitsi Jaji's book *Mother Tongues*, winner of the 2018 Cave Canem Northwestern University Press Poetry Prize.

A picture of practice in full swing as African Diasporic dance choreographer and creative director **Kara Mack** leads the community assembled for her Wednesday night session of *Connection Jam* "a two hour weekly free movement laboratory" created by Theatre & Dance faculty **Ana María Álvarez**, and cosponsored by BSP to support the inclusion of live drumming during sessions. (All photos by BSP Graduate Student Researcher team Eden Wiggins and Zhané Gaillard)

# Reflections on Black Study

## A Message from the Directors

Greetings!

It is our great joy to see the BSP community continue to grow in strength and vitality as the 2024-25 academic year begins. Thank you for your continued engagement. We want to extend a special welcome to new members of our community, and we invite you to spread the word to faculty and students about all of the programming BSP has to offer. In addition to this newsletter, remain [In the Know](#) by keeping an eye out for our initiatives, funding opportunities, and community of fellows and partners, all listed on [bsp.ucsd.edu](https://bsp.ucsd.edu). To keep our spirit of community and inquiry vibrant, please mark your calendars for upcoming events. And please share your news! We would love to hear about what you are doing.

We look forward to seeing you at our welcome event.

Be well,

**Sara E. Johnson & Angela Booker**  
[BSP Faculty Co-Directors](#)

*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.*

## Table of Contents

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

# Upcoming Events

- **OCT 8** (Tu) **BSP ANNUAL WELCOME LUNCH** (PEB 201, 12:30pm-2:00pm). Join Black Studies faculty, graduate students, and staff as we herald a year of Black Study ahead.
- **NOV 4** (M) *A STUDY OF the Effect of Structural Inequities and Syndemics on Willingness to Participate in HIV Research among Black Women* (PEB 201, 12:00pm-1:30pm), a work-in-progress presentation and discussion with BSP Dissertation Fellow, School of Public Health, PhD candidate [Danielle Campbell](#). Lunch will be provided. Rsvp link coming soon.
- **DEC 5** (Th) **BSP COMMUNITY SUNSET HOUR** (Venue tba, 3:30pm-5:30pm). Join BSP for food, beverages, and end of the quarter camaraderie as we watch the sunset. Will be open to faculty and graduate students. RSVP link coming soon.



## Like Minds

## Affinity Events Around Campus & Beyond

- **SEP-OCT 2024** (multiple) Check out UCSD's Latinx Heritage Month (LHM) Calendar of Events [here](#). This LHM features presentations such as a lecture and workshop on October 29 by artist (UCSD & OASIS alum) [Jessica Sabogal](#) titled *Canvas of Resistance: Exploring Latinx Activism*.



## BSP SPOTLIGHT RECENT PAST EVENTS



Watch Professors **Zeinabu Davis** (UCSD/Comm) and **Caroline Collins** (UCSD/USP) discuss Davis's early films *Crocodile Conspiracy* and *Compensation* courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive, tracing an important lineage of filmmaking within the L.A. Rebellion movement. [The Walker Arts Center features a clip of \*Compensation\*](#) which will be showing in restored form at the 2024 New York Film Festival this fall. The restoration was made for the Criterion Collection with support of the UCLA Film and Television Archive and the Sundance Institute.

After its premiere, *Compensation* will have a special screening at the [Chicago International Film Festival](#) on October 27 and then a nationwide theatrical release beginning in February 2025. The San Diego premiere will be hosted by the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego in the current exhibition [For Dear Life: Art, Medicine, and Disability](#).

## BSP Funding Opportunities

Check out and spread the word about BSP residency and funding opportunities. Calls and application requirements will be advertised through the BSP list serve and will be posted at [bsp.ucsd.edu](http://bsp.ucsd.edu).

# ONGOING

# ONGOING

## BSP Faculty Research Grants

BSP provides ongoing faculty research support in the amount of grants of up to \$3000. Awards support projects undertaken during the current academic year (2024-2025) or the next one (2025-2026). 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](mailto:bsp@ucsd.edu). Please include "Co-sponsorship grant request" in the subject line. [Read More](#)

# BSP Community Spotlight



BSP Faculty Co-Directors **Angela Booker** and **Sara E. Johnson** listen as PhD candidate **Abner Sôtenos** (History) reflects on the propositions made by former BSP Postdoctoral Fellow **Juliana Góes** (Sociology) in her culminating work and presentation *Decolonizing Cities: Black Movement and Territories of Life in Brazil*.

**SPOTLIGHT 2023-2024 BSP Funding Awardees**

### **BSP 24-25 Faculty Fellowship Awardees**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Danielle Dean (Visual Arts) | <i>Hemel</i>   |
| Sara Kozameh (History)      | <i>Harvest of Revolution: Agrarian Reform and the Making of Revolutionary Cuba</i> |

### **BSP 2024 Faculty Research Grant Awardees**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Mysia Anderson-White (Theatre + Dance) | <i>Locating the Legacy of Black Miami's M Ensemble Company</i>                         |
| Bright Gyamfi (History)                | <i>Embers of Pan-Africanism: Nkrumahist Intellectuals and Decolonization 1960-1980</i> |
| Jade P. Sotomayor (Theatre + Dance)    | <i>Ancestral Technologies-Bomba project</i>  |
| Boatema Boateng (Communication)        | <i>Remembered Indigeneities in African American Foodways</i>                           |
| Zeinabu Davis (Communication)          | <i>Stars of the Northern Sky</i>   |

### **23-25 PPFP-BSP Postdoctoral Fellow**

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Tye Rush<br>(Political Science, UCLA) | <i>The Majority Rules: The Politics of Voter Identification Laws</i> |
|---------------------------------------|--|

### **BSP 24-25 GSR Fellowship Awardees**

Sara Sparks (Ethnic Studies)

### **BSP 24-25 Sara Clarke Kaplan Predoctoral Fellowship Awardee**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Shanelle Watkins (Educational Studies) | <i>Navigating Leadership and Identity: Exploring the Experiences of Black Women Undergraduate Student Leaders at Hispanic Serving Institutions</i> |
|--|--|

### **BSP 24-25 Sara Clarke Kaplan Dissertation Fellowship Awardees**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Danielle Campbell (Public Health) | <i>A Study of the Effect of Structural Inequities and Syndemics on Willingness to Participate in HIV Research among Black Women</i> |
| Kerry Keith (Communication/CGS)   | <i>Prison Break: Space, Infrastructure, and Fugitivity in California State Prisons</i>  |

### **BSP 2024 Graduate Student Research & Travel Grant Awardees**

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Precious Fasakin (Economics)          | <i>At the Border, On the Margins: Co-Ethnic Trust in West Africa</i>   |
| Aambr Newsome (Visual Arts)           | <i>Ethos</i>   |
| Nicoletta Vangelisti (Communication)  | <i>Making at the Margins: Labor and Value in Alternative Independent Film Production</i>   |
| Jenée Love (Education Studies)        | <i>South Sudanese Refugee Perspectives on "Caring and Contribution": Expanding Positive Youth Development through Discourse Analysis of Youth-led Dramas</i> |
| Coralys Tavender Carter (Visual Arts) | <i>Entanglements -- And what if skin was the center of our body and not its limit?</i>   |
| Eden Wiggins (Latin American Studies) | <i>Gastronomic Heritage: Exploring the Relationship Between Cultural Experiences &amp; Culinary Practice in Afro-Panamanians</i>                             |
| John Singletary (Visual Arts)         | <i>Thesis Research, Untitled</i>   |
| Diana Pena Bastalla (Anthropology)    | <i>Unveiling the Rebellion of 1521 at "Our Lady of Montealegre, Sugar Cane Plantation: Disrupting Power Dynamics in Early Colonial Americas"</i>             |
| Jamil Baldwin (Visual Arts)           | <i>Owed (part of Fieldnotes on How Roots Flourish Without Soil)</i>  |
| Mylan Gray (Theatre + Dance)          | <i>Mother Loss: Estrangement and Belonging in the Black Atlantic</i>   |
| Abner Sótenos (History)               | <i>The Brazilian Black Imagination in Film: How Afro-Brazilians Shaped Modernity through Movies (1950-1990)</i>  |

### **BSP 2024 Harriet Tubman Undergraduate Advocacy Awardees**

Saryah Colbert (Global Health, Dance minor)  
Amari Jenkins (Global Health)

---

**SPOTLIGHT Scenes from BSP Researchers on the Road**





**On the road with Nicoletta Vangelisti** (Communication & Critical Gender Studies/PhD candidate)

**"Chorus of Sojourners" in the studio of artist Woodrow Nash in Akron, OH.** These are miniatures of the statue [Nash] cast which was placed in the Sojourner Truth Legacy Plaza adjacent to the site of the church in which she delivered her famous "Aint I a Woman" speech. I was present as the producer for a new documentary by filmmaker and UCSD faculty Zeinabu irene Davis. Our team documented the plaza opening, conducted interviews with the people involved in making the plaza a reality and with local community members and historians around the impact of Sojourner Truth on Akron. While this trip is not specifically about my current research (as in I don't write about this film currently), BSP has supported my efforts in writing about the cultural value produced by Black women filmmakers over the last 50 years. As a scholar/practitioner it is all entwined and mutually constituted. (Photo and caption by BSP Research and Travel grantee Nicoletta Vangelisti)

**On the road with Mylan Gray** (Theatre & Dance/MFA/Playwriting)

[T]aken in Oliveira, Minas Gerais during a ritual procession called the Congado or Reinado. Black queens and kings are guided through the cobblestone streets to the center of town by marching, drum guards. Each year, they are coronated again as kings and queens as the participants celebrate in the name of one of several Black saints such as Santa Efigenia, Nossa Senhora Aparecida or São Benedito. Underneath, each saint also represents different African deities in this syncretic performance. (Photo and caption by BSP Research and Travel grantee Mylan Gray)



**On the road with Mylan Gray** (Theatre & Dance/MFA/Playwriting)

*I went to Ouro Preto to learn more about the hundreds of gold mines made by enslaved [A]fricans by hand during the 18th century. I took a tour of a Black Owned mine tour company and went inside to see how they were made. (Photo and caption by BSP Research and Travel grantee Mylan Gray)*





(Photos clockwise) James Crawford, Angela Booker, Sara E. Johnson, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Juliana Góes, Imani Munyaka, Paul Roth

Our Black Studies Project affiliated faculty are all over campus and beyond, developing critical thought, community, and scholarship.

Professor of Computer Science and Engineering **Imani Munyaka** and fellow researchers delivered a paper in the spring of 2024 titled *Are Robots Ready to Deliver Autism Inclusion?: A Critical Review*. Researchers "analyzed 142 human-robot interaction (HRI) papers published between 2016 and 2022 that explicitly identified autistic people as the end-users. They sought to determine whether autism is stigmatized in HRI research and to pinpoint how systemic social inequalities could be reproduced by them." Check out the [UC San Diego Today article](#) featuring Munyaka's advisee, first author [Naba Rizvi](#) discussing the work.

Congratulations to former BSP GSR and new faculty member **Dr. James Crawford** (Education Studies). Crawford joins the Teaching Faculty for Critical Community Engagement (CCE) in Eighth College. This year Crawford was also the recipient of the [inaugural Student Centeredness Award](#) for his work in the Teaching and Learning Commons.

Also a recipient of the [inaugural Student Centeredness Award](#) for his work with the Teaching and Learning Commons is BSP research fellow alum and PhD candidate **Paul Roth** (Music). Congratulations Paul!

Read photographer and Visual Arts professor **Paul Mpagi Sepuya** share his reflections on portraiture alongside other artists for the [Los Angeles Times](#) this past summer (featured photo by Maya Iman for an [article with Art21](#)).

Newest campus community, Eighth College, for which BSP's Professor **Angela Booker** (Comm) serves as inaugural provost, won the 43rd *Annual Triton Student UnOlympics*, a campus wide event. Each year during Welcome Week, UC San Diego's eight undergraduate colleges compete in a series of games, chants, and choreographed dances.

Congratulations to former BSP postdoctoral scholar **Juliana Góes** on joining the faculty at the Department of Sociology at Binghamton University.

Professor **Sara E. Johnson's** recently published book, *Encyclopédie noire* received Winner of the 2024 Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Book Prize, French Colonial Historical Society; Honorable Mention, 2024 Gilbert Chinard Book Prize, Society for French Historical Studies; and Shortlist, 2024 Kenshur Prize for the Best Book in Eighteenth-Century Studies, Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies. *Encyclopédie noire* is currently a finalist for the Susanne M. Glasscock Book Prize, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research and a finalist for the 2024 Frederick Douglass Book Prize, Yale Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition for outstanding non-fiction book in English published on the subject of slavery, resistance, and/or abolition. She recently was interviewed about the book on the [New Books Network](#) and on KPFK with Professor Gerald Horne.

## 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](mailto: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.

If you are interested in reserving BSP conference space for your event or meeting related to BSP's community or [mission](#), please email Gennie Miranda with a request at [gbmiranda@ucsd.edu](mailto:gbmiranda@ucsd.edu).





[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
View this email [online](#).

9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0522 | La Jolla, CA 92093 US

This email was sent to .  
*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.