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In the Know - A Quarterly Newsletter (S24)



Scene from a Wednesday night Connection Jam. Photo by Lorraine Makone

Reflections on a Winter in Black Studies

A Message from the Directors

Dear BSP Community,

This past winter saw a programmatic focus on Black Studies scholarship exploring questions of space, the performing arts, the operations of colonial and decolonial turns, and the recovery of literary historical archives. BSP's *Black Visual and Performing Arts* series featured Theatre and Dance Professor **Ana María Álvarez** and an incredible roster of professional dancers such as **Kara Mack** and **Daunté Fyall** leading large groups of students in a weekly evening movement session, *Connection Jam*, which Álvarez asserts allows participants to "practice embodied liberation."

BSP's *Blackness in Latin America* series, cosponsored this quarter with **Latin American Studies** and the **SDSU Center for Brazilian Studies**, gave us the opportunity to learn from Afro-Brazilian scholar-activist **Rute Fiúza** (*Mães de Maio*) who offered an uncompromising account of the terrain of

struggle in Brazil in relation to anti-Black police violence. Following Fiúza, BSP postdoctoral fellow **Juliana Góes** presented her sociological examination of the potentialities for decolonization within urban spaces of Black Brazil.

Continuing the meditation on space and possibilities for Black life, Professor **Zaire Dinzey-Flores** (Rutgers New Brunswick) engaged BSP attendees in February on her latest thinking about what she calls “the racial physiography of sensitive design,” in which she examines “how the built environment, through physical and sociospatial interactions, reflects and influences communal and individual perceptions of reality.”

BSP closed the winter quarter with two monumental evenings of conversation. March 4th brought us a panel discussion on the operations of colonial violence with the pre-eminent historian Professor **Gerald Horne** (University of Houston), BSP faculty fellow **Dennis Childs** (Literature), and Palestinian Youth Movement organizer **Jeanine Erikat**. Finally, IFI’s Professor **Katie Walkiewicz** (Literature) and BSP collaborated to host a roundtable conversation on the state of Black-Indigenous Studies featuring **DeLisa Hawkes** (UT Knoxville), **Eve Eure** (CUNY), **Kelema Moses** (UCSD Urban Studies and Planning), and **Andrew Jolivet** as moderator (UCSD Ethnic Studies).

We look forward to more conversations and spaces of collective study with you in the coming spring.

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](#)

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UCSD BSP PRESENT

IFI
UC San Diego

BLACK-INDIGENOUS STUDIES // BLACK-INDIGENOUS STUDIES
A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

FEATURING:

KELEMA MOSES
Urban Studies & Planning/UCSD

EVE EURE
Literature/Lehman College/CUNY

KATIE WALKIEWICZ
Literature/UCSD

DELISA HAWKES
AFRICAST/UCSD

ANDREW JOLIVETTE
Black Studies/UCSD

WINTER 2024

black studies project

Rsvp DEADLINE FEB 5TH
bit.ly/bspdzinze-flores
Lunch Provided!

talk

From Crack Building to Manor House: The Racial Physiography of Sensitive Design

This talk discusses the racial and aesthetic dynamics of real estate in Brooklyn, NY focusing on how new developments shape community debates about aesthetic values & desirable designs. It explores how the built environment, through physical and socio-spatial interactions, reflects and influences communal and individual perceptions of reality. Dinzey-Flores scrutinizes the discourse surrounding "sensitive design" & historical preservation, highlighting how these concepts are intertwined with issues of race, belonging, & the recognition or neglect of diverse histories and aesthetic preferences.

Zaire Dinzey-Flores
Associate Professor, LCS & Sociology
Chair, Latino & Caribbean Studies
Rutgers University, New Brunswick

LIVE
FEBRUARY 8, 2024
PEB 201, 11:30AM-1PM

TALK - 11:30AM-12:30PM
LUNCH - 12:30PM - 1PM

LOCKED IN, LOCKED OUT
JANE THOMAS BARTLEY

Blackness in Latin America Series

tertulia

Activist in Residence with the SDSU Center for Brazilian Studies
Mães de Maio (Brasil)

UC San Diego Latin American Studies

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7 2024
THE GILDRED ROOM
2PM

Rsvp at
eventbrite.com/es/lan-tertulia-rbte
fluxa-tickets-814399850877

GOES
Black Studies Project Postdoctoral Fellow

February 14th, 2024, 2 pm
The Gildred Room

UC San Diego Latin American Studies

BLACK US GENO

Since the settler colonial seizure of Indigenous and the mass legal kidnapping and chattel enslavement has been a genocidal regime. This event honors the Black and Third World radicalism of Dr. Derrick Chikwe and Palestinian Youth Movement in order to engage central aspects of US genocidal practices. The event will also focus on connecting 1919 and the US-ignited settler colonial genocide to the ways in which Black Christianization, central foundational elements of US practices both of political, artistic, and intellectual resistance. It is developed in order to combat systems of legacies that do the long history of Black-Palestinian solidarities. Current laborations of US and Israeli settler colonialism. Host Professor Derrick Chikwe, Ph.D. The performance Black US Genocide: The Center for Black Studies.

MONDAY, MARCH 5:30-7PM
SME 149
(Structural and Materials E)

TO ATTEND PLEASE Rsvp BY 8:00AM
bit.ly/bspchikwe

Need to crank out some pages?
Join the...

BSP Writing Collective
Fridays, 10:30 am-12 pm
Public Engagement Building 201

Enjoy community, time, and a terrace to meet your writing goals.

UC San Diego Latin American Studies

Black Studies Project

Organizing Cities: Black Movements and Territories of Life in Brazil

Recent colonial and capitalist expansion, scholars and activists have advocated for the role of the world. However, how can we do that? The talk investigates this question. I explore how activists in Brazil organize urban communities as alternatives to Western modernity. In the past, post-colonial movements in Latin America have organized their communities according to ethnic

UCSD Theatre and Dance and Black Studies presents as part of the Black Visual and Performing Arts Series

WINTER 2024 Connection Jam
2 Hour Weekly FREE Movement Laboratory

UCSD Theatre & Dance's Professor Ana Maria Alvarez in partnership with the BSP presents Connection Jam featuring local guest dance lecturers Kara Mack and Daunté Fyall as a part of a year-long Black Visual and Performing Arts Series. 2 hours of soul-filling, radical joy practice. Connection Jam is an opportunity to play, think, engage, and explore with embodiment at the core - build resilience, joy, and connection. It's embodied liberation. ALL are welcome, no experience needed - FREE! (Only requirement: a desire to move your body in community!)

Kara's Jam (Africa in America)
Wed, Feb 21, 2024
6pm to 8pm

Daunté Fyall

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Black Studies in the Winter

Upcoming Events

April - June 2024

Gabriel Bámbóşé



Katelina Eccleston
"La Gata"



Rochelle Mcfee



2024

BLACK STUDIES IN SPRING



Maya Machado



Jade Power-Sotomayor



Tsitsi E. Jaji

Listen to **Tsitsi Jaji** read her poem *The Hard Work of Visiting*, available online courtesy of the UCLA Peer Lab.



Skirted thighs pressed on a grass-hard mat,

as much in a site's mouth as in a mouth's

or sunk in a city-guest's couch, or polished the earthen bench built into a thatched kitchen wall. Had I been there to learn the next movement-- all the clan poems for greeting and being greeted-- I would know the exact cup of hollowed palms, kuhombera on calloused knees, kusimbisa without doubting the



Most listed events will serve RSVP refreshments

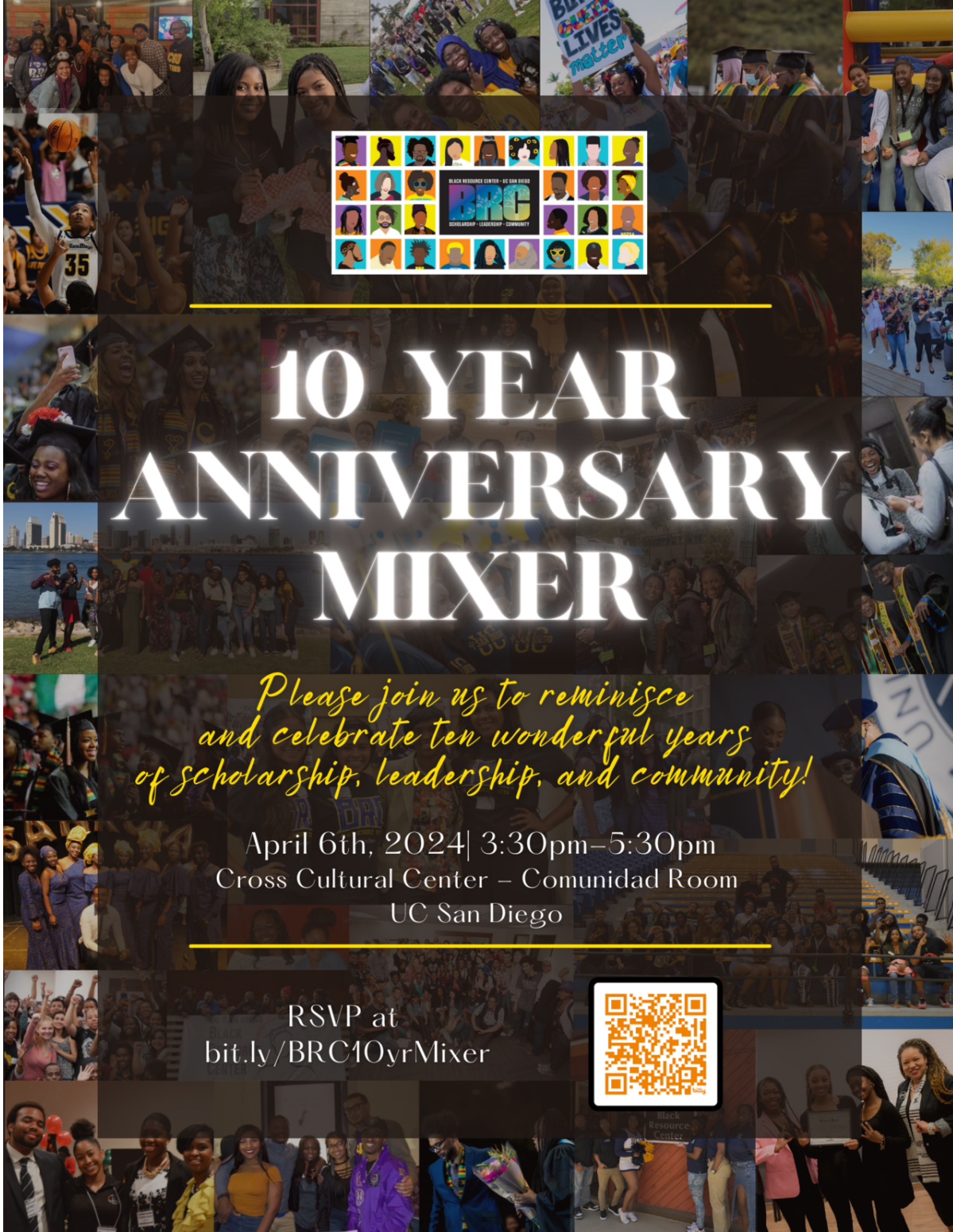
- APR 10 (W) 2:00pm PEB 201 [Unveiling Tallawah](#): *Fostering Resilience and Empowerment in Black Girlhood as a response to Gender-Based Violence in Jamaica* a presentation and discussion event with BSP predoctoral fellow [Rochelle Mcfee](#) (Ethnic Studies). Rsvp to inform food orders at bit.ly/bspgradseminar by April 8.
- MAY 9 (Th) *Perreo 101: A Talk about Reggaetón* with [Katelina Eccleston "La Gata"](#) with Professor [Jade Power-Sotomayor](#) of Theatre & Dance (UCSD). Rsvp coming soon.
- MAY 14 (Tu) *Mothering Tongues: A Reading and Conversation on Contemporary African Poetry* with poet-scholars [Gabriel Bámbgbóšé](#) (Literature) and [Tsitsi Jaji](#) (Duke University), part of the BSP faculty fellow seminar. Rsvp coming soon.
- MAY 21 (Tu) *Artist Talk with Kameelah Janan Rasheed* a Visual Arts production, part of the BSP Black Visual and Performing Arts series. Catch a sighting below of Rasheed's installation *How to Suffer Politely (and other etiquette)* on the streets of Glasgow, Scotland during her exhibit with the Transmission Gallery. Rsvp coming soon.
- MAY 28 (Tu) *Artist Talk with LaJuné McMillian* a Visual Arts production, part of the BSP Black Visual and Performing Arts series. Rsvp coming soon.
- MAY 28 (Tu) 4:00pm LAS Courtyard *End of the Year Celebration*, an evening of food, performances, music, and activities, cosponsored by LAS, BSP, the Raza Resource Centro, and many others. Rsvp coming soon.
- MAY 29 (W) 2:00pm PEB 201 **BSP Graduate Seminar Presentation** with predoctoral fellow [Maya Machado](#) (Sociology). Maya's work explores the social outcomes of race, gender, and nationality in the lives of Afro-Panamanian women working in the tourism industry. Rsvp coming soon.



Streetview photo of a section of Rasheed's 2017 exhibit *How to Suffer Politely (and other etiquette)* at the Transmission Gallery in Glasgow, Scotland. Photo by Lorraine Makone

LIKE MINDS - Affinity Events Around Campus

- APR 6 (Sa) 3:30pm CCC-Comunidad Room *10 Year Anniversary Mixer (see details below)*
- MAY 3-24 Various locations MFA Thesis Shows feat. BSP grant alumni
 - MAY 3-10 Visual Arts Main Gallery *Chanell Stone's Show*
 - MAY 17-24 Visual Arts Main Gallery *Naomi Nadreau's Show*
 - MAY 17-24 Visual Arts Performance Space *JAX's Show*



10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY MIXER

Please join us to reminisce and celebrate ten wonderful years of scholarship, leadership, and community!

April 6th, 2024 | 3:30pm–5:30pm
Cross Cultural Center – Comunidad Room
UC San Diego

RSVP at
bit.ly/BRC10yrMixer



BSP Funding Opportunities

Open Call Deadlines

Check out and spread the word...

**MON
APRIL 8**

BSP Graduate Student Researcher Application

The BSP Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) is a graduate student who works closely as part of BSP leadership and convening team to connect with and support fellow graduate students...[\(read more\)](#)

Apply for 2024-2025 at bit.ly/yearlonggsr

**MON
APRIL 8**

**MON
APRIL 8**

**MON
APRIL 8**

BSP Sara Clarke Kaplan Dissertation Fellowship

Dissertation Fellowships are intended to provide one academic quarter of support to students in the dissertation research or writing stages of their doctoral program...[\(read more\)](#)

Apply for 2024-2025 at bit.ly/bspdissertation

BSP Sara Clarke Kaplan Predoctoral Fellowship

Predoctoral fellowships provide a 50% appointment for one academic quarter to students in the earlier phases of dissertation project development...[\(read more\)](#)

Apply for 2024-2025 at bit.ly/bspdissertation

BSP Faculty Fellowship

Faculty Fellowships are intended to help faculty make significant progress on a major research project by providing one course release and the opportunity to share their work...[\(read more\)](#)

Apply for 2024-2025 at bit.ly/bspfacultyfellow

ONGOING

ONGOING

BSP Faculty Research Grants

BSP provides ongoing faculty research support in the amount of small grants of up to \$3000. Awards support projects undertaken during the current academic year (2023-2024)...([read more](#))

Apply for 2024 grants at bit.ly/bspfacultygrants

No new applications will be accepted after Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Harriet Tubman Undergraduate Advocacy Awards

Every spring BSP awards stipends of \$1500 to undergraduates who have served the UCSD community as student leaders. If you would like to nominate...([read more](#))

No nominations will be accepted after Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

ONGOING

Funds for Co-sponsorships

BSP provides small grants (from \$150-\$500) throughout the year to co-sponsor events on campus and support activities that correspond with BSP's mission....([read more](#))

Community Spotlight

Life of the Mind



1. Streetview photo of former BSP artist-in-residence **Evan Tyler Scoggins'** *Systemic Glitch* exhibit at the **Art Produce Gallery** in North Park last November. 2. Evan giving BSP a private tour of the November exhibit. 3. Evan and mentor artist **Sara Winston** posing for pictures at the *Systemic Glitch* opening, featured behind them is Evan's first full woven piece (to the right) and Sara's work, a textile combining Igbo and Swiss weaving and indigo dyeing techniques reflective of the personal traditions that inform her work. 4. Afro-Cuban dance lecturer and choreographer **Juan Carlos Blanco** and visiting professional drummers warm up before a Wednesday night **Connection Jam** at Studio 3 of the Molli & Arthur Wagner Dance Building. 5. Theatre & Dance professor **Ana Maria Alvarez**, founder of Connection Jam and Juan Carlos Blanco lead the dance cypher to the live sounds of *rumba guaguancó*. 6. Mid-groove photo of West African dance lecturer and choreographer **Daunté Fyall** (center left) leading a Wednesday night jam. 7. (from the left) BSP affiliated faculty **Zeinabu Davis** (Communications), **LaGina Gause** (Political Science), and **Sara Johnson** (Literature) last December at the BSP Sunset Happy Hour at the Gliderport Bella Vista Social Club & Caffé. 8. (from the left) BSP graduate student researcher **Zhané Gaillard** (Anthropology) and predoctoral fellow **Maya Machado** (Sociology) at the BSP December Happy Hour. 9. BSP graduate student researcher **Eden Wiggins** (Latin American Studies) posing for a photo during pre-event set up. 10. (fifth from the left in pink) **Rute Fiúza** (Mães de Maio), Afro-Brazilian scholar and activist in residence at the Center for Brazilian Studies (SDSU), pictured here with attendees of her tertulia talk cosponsored by LAS and BSP, as part of the Blackness in Latin America series; this event was also organized and translated by BSP postdoctoral fellow **Juliana Góes** (bottom left in grey). [Photos by Eden Wiggins, Zhané Gaillard, and Lorraine Makone]

Highlights, Awards, Happenings & More



- [Watch](#) choreographer, creative director, and TDMV lecturer [Kara Mack](#) (afro-diasporic music and dance) interview luminaries [Misty Copeland](#) and [Rennie Harris](#) for the [Othring & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley](#).
- Check out the exhibit featuring stills of *Black Surf Week* surfers by [eeman agrama](#) (UCSD) at the [Cross Cultural Center's Artspace](#). (*located in the Price Center, second floor*)
- Did you read about our [faculty affiliates](#)?
 - Interview with filmmaker [Zeinabu Davis](#) (Communications) for UC San Diego Today - ["Pandemic Bread" Pushes People to Remember](#)
 - Interview with choreographer [Ana Maria Alvarez](#) (Theatre & Dance) for Dance Magazine - [Art, Activism, and the Academy](#)
 - On artist [Paul Mpagi Sepuya](#) (Visual Arts) for Frieze [exhibit review] and Dazed Digital [interview]
 - [Paul Mpagi Sepuya Lays Bare the Workings of the Studio](#)
 - [Paul Mpagi Sepuya reflects on his cerebral yet erotic photography](#)

Art, Activism, and the Academy
Ana María Alvarez redefines the dance program at UC San Diego. BY STAV ZIV

Ana María Alvarez didn't always imagine herself ending up back on campus. "I've had a love-hate relationship with the academy," says Alvarez, the founder of CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater who joined the University of California San Diego's Theatre and Dance Department as a tenured faculty member in late 2022.

It's true that her journey into dance was intertwined with higher education: She double-majored in dance and politics at Oberlin College and earned her MFA in choreography at UCLA. Her thesis work looked at salsa as a way to express social resistance in the debate around immigration. The Cuban American daughter of two labor union organizers, Alvarez had also seen her mother transition into academia, which made it feel familiar and accessible.

It hasn't always felt inviting and inclusive, however. "I was constantly fighting to legitimize the ways that I danced, and the ways that I moved, and the things that I was interested in studying," she says. When it came to exploring social dance practices outside of ballet and modern and how she wanted to move through the world as an artist, Alvarez says, "I found myself having to really push back and advocate and argue with people that it mattered."

After she graduated, Alvarez focused on art and activism the way she envisioned it. After some early adjunct-teaching gigs in dance departments, she shifted her focus to cultivating her own work, accepting occasional guest-choreographer and visiting artist opportunities instead. "It felt like the field wasn't ready yet," she says.

Years later—after carving her own path, building a thriving company, and receiving recognition for her work—she found the job opening at UCSD. "It literally was describing who I am as an artist," she says. "When I got the job description, I was like, 'I think they're ready.'"

She's so glad they were. "I've always had deep, deep love for learning, deep love for teaching, deep love for inquiry and curiosity," she says. "So much of my own artmaking practice is about asking questions and grappling with the world, and there is no better place to be doing that than inside of a university."

66 MARCH 2024

Steve Wylie, Courtesy: CONTRA-TIEMPO

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.

WAYFINDING

DIEGO DIVISION



SCHOLARS DRIVE

MARSHALL FIELD

ECONOMICS BUILDING

SEQUOYAH HALL

Plant Power Fast Food @ the corner ground floor of Catalyst

BSP HQ on Level 2

MARSHALL COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

KALEIDOSCOPE

CATALYST

SOCIAL SCIENCES PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT BUILDING

SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH BUILDING

TAPESTRY

ARTS & HUMANITIES

PETERSON HALL

MOSAIC

THE JEANNIE

AIR LANE

TENAYA HALL

MANDLER HALL



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