In this UCCNRS Newsletter – Spring 2015 – we begin on a sad note. As you may already know, our proposal for the 2015 MultiCampus Research Program Initiative (MRPI) funding round was not accepted. This was a great disappointment.

Despite the outcome of the 2015 MRPI funding round, our 2014-2015 activities have continued unchanged. Our 5th Annual Conference, on the theme "Race and Empire, PostColoniality, and DeColoniality," will be held on schedule at UCSD on May 15, 2015. Vijay Prashad will keynote.

The UCCNRS, however, is ending its run. We have accomplished a great deal, or rather those who have taken part in this effort have accomplished a great deal. A lot of research has been carried out and published; there has been extensive training. Perhaps most important, there has been a scholarly reimagining of the dynamics of race and racism: global and local, historical and contemporary, this vision of racial studies crosses the disciplines. It begins to reframe our understanding of race and racism as fundamental features of the modern world and core themes in human emancipation. We are not the first to do this, and we will not be the last.

Thanks again. We extend our solidarity. And we offer you our best wishes for the future. –HW

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

UCCNRS 5th ANNUAL CONFERENCE 5.15.2015 @ UCSD

The UCCNRS will host its annual conference for the 2014-2015 grant cycle, featuring work on Global Raciality: Empire, PostColoniality, and DeColoniality at UC San Diego’s Faculty Club on Friday, May 15 from 10am - 5pm. Our keynote speaker this year, Vijay Prashad, is the George and Martha Kellner Chair in South Asian History and Professor of International Studies at Trinity College in Hartford, CT.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Prashad is the author of The Darker Nations: A People’s History of the Third World (2007), and the editor (with Paul Amar) of Dispatches from the Arab Spring (2013). His work includes numerous books, articles, dispatches, and edited collections on South Asia, the Middle East, and the United States; of particular interest is his writing -- steadily produced for more than two decades now -- on the subjects of neoliberalism, race and racism, the “war on terror,” and the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and India-Pakistan, and Israel-Palestine, among others. He is also a regular columnist in various Indian, Pakistani, Turkish, and US newspapers and web publications.

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

9:00-9:30
Continental Breakfast

9:30-10:00
Welcome messages from Luis Alvarez, UCSD History; Natalia Molina, Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Diversity and Equity, UCSD; and Howard Winant, UCCNRS and UCSB Sociology

10:00-11:30
Concurrent Research Panels

**Transnational Spaces of Racial Formation**
Chair/Discussant: Natalia Molina, San Diego

- Nadine Kharpaly, San Diego, “Institutional Representations of Arab Culture in the United States and France”
- David Baillargeon, Santa Barbara, “‘A Burmese Wonderland’: The Burma Corporation, Humanitarianism, and Race in British Burma, 1906-1935”
- Xiaojian Zhao, Santa Barbara, “Yellow Perils in Italy and the United States”
- Bettina Ng’weno, Davis, and Lok Siu, Berkeley, “Comparative Raciality of Afro and Asian Latin Americans”

**Colonialism, Empire, and Their Afterlives**
Chair/Discussant: Paola Bacchetta, Berkeley

- Emiko Saldivar, Santa Barbara, “Racial Formations at the End of the Multicultural Turn: The Case of Mexico”

- Winter Schneider, Los Angeles, “Black Liberty: Race Making in 19th Century Haiti”
- Caroline Ritter, Berkeley, “The Cultural Project of the Late British Empire in Africa”

**Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism, and Occupation**
Chair/Discussant: Sunaina Maira, Davis

- Maryam Griffin, Santa Barbara, “Bus Stations and State Formations: The Politics of Public Transportation in Israel/Palestine”
- Devin Beaulieu, San Diego, “‘Savages’ in an Indigenous State: Internal Colonialism, Race, and Indigenous Territory in the Bolivian Amazon”

11:30-12:00
Networking Break

12:00-1:45
Lunch and Keynote Address

**Race and Empire Today**

Vijay Prashad

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
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2:00-3:30
Concurrent Research Panels

Trajectories of Racial Science
Chair/Discussant: Osagie Obasogie, Hastings/SF
- Catherine Bliss, San Francisco, “Postcolonial Idioms of Race and Identity in the Genomic Age”
- Victoria Massie, Berkeley, “Reconceptualizing Race through the Transnational Circulation of Genetic Ancestry Testing Information”
- Hareem Khan, Santa Barbara, “Modern Skins: Racialized Subjectivities in Postcolonial Mumbai”

Racialized Militarization and Security States
Chair/Discussant: Paul Amar, Santa Barbara
- Stefan Bargheer, Los Angeles, “Race into Culture: Military Intelligence and the Remaking of the Social Sciences during World War II”
- Kyung Hee Ha, San Diego, “Zainichi Koreans in the Era of Global(ized) ‘War on Terror’”
- Alfred Flores, Los Angeles, “Little Island into Mighty Base”: Land, Labor, and U.S. Empire in Guam, 1941-1972
- Chandra Russo, Santa Barbara, “Witness Against Torture, Guantánamo, and the Prospects for Solidarity as Resistance”

Decoloniality, Solidarities and Resistance
Chair/Discussant: Danny Widener, San Diego
- Gregory Burris, Santa Barbara, “Palestine in Black and White: White Settler-Colonialism and the Specter of Transnational Black Power”
- Grace Kyungwon Hong, Los Angeles, “Against Domestication: Audre Lorde’s Anti-Imperialist Vision”

3:45-4:00
Closing Remarks

4:00-5:00
Reception

ANNOUNCING THE 2015 UCCNRS MINI-GRANTS

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the UCCNRS was not funded in the 2015 UCOP/ORGS grant-making cycle for MultiCampus Research Program Initiatives. However, we were able to make an exciting series of short-term MiniGrants to be carried out during the 2014-2015 academic year. The abstracts for these grants and the names of their principal investigators (all collaborating UC faculty) are listed here.

| ARCTIC CULTURAL STUDIES RESEARCH WORKING GROUP | The Arctic Cultural Studies RWG proposes to make visible and audible the ways in which the far north is a crucial yet underrepresented site for research on racial and cultural formation processes, especially on Indigenous peoples and communities. The Arctic has a long history of being coded as racially "white" and "pure" – a tactic by settler populations and missionaries in order to make processes of colonization less problematic or more relatable to American "southerners." We feel a productive first |

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start is to consider the Arctic people’s ongoing experiences with settler colonialism, food insecurities, murdered and missing indigenous women, and the role media plays in social justice movements. Our goal is to engage in critical dialogue about media representations of Arctic peoples, cultures, and environments and their implications for 21st century social justice movements. We will host research presentations by renowned national and international scholars, and will highlight the research interests and specialties of faculty from multiple UC campuses and disciplines. These include: scientific and humanistic research in arctic media analysis and criticism in relation to current events in the far north; perspectives from emerging scholars, artists and activists, especially those engaged in comparative global indigenous networks; a focus on the poetics and politics of transnationalism and diaspora in arctic contexts; and the crucial intersections between the sciences, humanities, and arts research in social-justice movements.

Jessica Bissett Perea, Native American Studies, UC Davis
Christyann Darwent, Anthropology, UC Davis
Shari Huhndorf, Native American Studies/Comparative Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley

BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS AMONG UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYSTEM

Unauthorized immigrants face structural barriers in the United States based on their legal status. Although unauthorized status provokes intense challenges to the educational outcomes of immigrant youth, few researchers have critically examined “unauthorized status” as a central determinant of their educational outcomes in the United States. How does unauthorized status affect the educational outcomes or educational progress of college students? This qualitative study uses focus groups aimed at exploring the factors that help and hinder undocumented students’ academic success at selected campuses of the University of California system. Findings will reveal the salience of legal status as one significant factor that shapes the educational life chances of undocumented immigrant college students. This study has the potential to inform segmented assimilation theory and contribute to the development of public policy prescriptions aimed at increasing undocumented students’ academic success. By exploring the experiences of undocumented students at distinct university campuses, this project will shed light on how local context shapes educational outcomes for undocumented students.

Tanya Golash-Boza, Sociology, UC Merced
Zulema Valdez, Sociology, UC Merced

CRITICAL THEORY AND HEALTH SCIENCES-RESEARCH WORKING GROUP MEETING

The proposed working group will be comprised of scholars within law, the social sciences, humanities, and health sciences with active research projects on the intersection of race, science, and medicine. This first meeting will develop ways to incorporate critical race theory into health sciences research. Topics for discussion will include: Which research practices in the health sciences create the greatest risk for reifying race as a biological trait? How can we develop a coherent field of thought that demonstrates the pervasive role of race across the health sciences? What interventions would encourage health care professionals and researchers to think about and measure race as a social and political variable rather than a natural boundary of human
difference? What future technologies are on the horizon that might further reify race as a biological trait? How can scholars help build a national consciousness about the dangers of thinking about race in biological terms? How do we build critical race sensibilities into public policy concerning the remediation of health disparities? How can Critical Race Theory expand, complicate, and reshape the traditional ways that we think about "evidence" and "disparities?" Participants will plan ongoing collaborations that translate these discussions into future research and writing projects, pedagogical interventions, and public discussion in academic and non-academic venues. This working group will seek to diversify the theoretical framing of evidence based research through other critical lenses, e.g. feminist theory, queer theory, critical disability studies, etc.

*Terence Keel*, Black Studies and History, UC Santa Barbara
*Osagie K. Obasogie*, Law, UC Hastings/Social and Behavioral Sciences, UC San Francisco

### IMPROVISATION AND SOCIAL MOVEMENT MOBILIZATION

This project seeks to engage activists and scholars in critical dialogues about organizing theories and strategies, structural and personal obstacles, and leadership models that guide equity-oriented grassroots organizing. We engage in community-campus interactions that involve horizontal, egalitarian collaborations in planning and executing dialogues. In May of this year we will conduct a two day workshop with representatives of our California community partners to compare and contrast the ways these groups use improvisation pedagogies and tactics along with innovative leadership training to launch race based but not race bound challenges to neoliberal policies and planning in urban areas. We expect to organize and edit a forthcoming special issue of the journal *Kalfou*, focused on Improvisation and Social Movement Mobilization that grows out of the Center for Black Studies Research’s equity oriented community based collaborative research projects with the International Institute for Critical Improvisation Studies (Guelph, Ontario), Students at the Center (New Orleans), Project Row Houses (Houston), Environmental Health Coalition (San Diego), Los Angeles Community Action Network (Los Angeles), Born Free, Die Free (Los Angeles), PODER (Santa Barbara) and Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (Oakland), among others.

*George Lipsitz*, Black Studies and Sociology, UC Santa Barbara
*Diane Fujino*, Asian American Studies and Center for Black Studies Research, UC Santa Barbara

### JUSTICE PROPULSION LAB AND RACIAL VIOLENCE ARCHIVE

This project involves development of a new interdisciplinary workgroup (Justice Propulsion Lab) at UC Irvine, where technology tools are used to facilitate innovative and impactful approaches to social problems research, teaching, and outreach. The project’s principal objective is to expand collaborative efforts between the Schools of Social Ecology, Law, and Information and Computer Science in research, education, and outreach initiatives broadly concerned with issues of social justice. This undertaking is provisionally titled Justice Propulsion Lab (JPL). Focusing centrally on the problem of racial violence, the essence of the initiative - its notion of justice propulsion - is leveraging information and computer science to render social problems research, educational, outreach efforts in social ecology, law, and other fields more
compelling and impactful. Faculty and students in the School of Information and Computer Science will partner with counterparts in the Schools of Social Ecology and Law to design and implement custom information technologies intended to (1) improve the visibility and influence of scholarly work, (2) engage stakeholders, and (3) promote social justice.

Geoff Ward, Criminology, Law and Society, UC Irvine
Naomi Sugie, Criminology, Law and Society, UC Irvine
Alfred Kobsa, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, UC Irvine

This project will convene a research-working group on race and education that will develop more effective accounts of the role of race in Latino educational inequality. The research-working group will produce a world-class anthology on the state of Latinos and education, organize seminars or symposia, train junior editors, network around the book project, and act as clearinghouse in which externally funded research projects can be developed around "big data" research projects. The aim is to offer assistance to educational policymakers, legislators, and parents/communities who seek to generate greater educational equality across racial lines, especially where poorer children, children of color and children of immigrant families are concerned. Preliminary expressions of interest have been received from the Gates Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Gilberto Conchas, Education, UC Irvine
Kris Gutierrez, Education, UC Berkeley

Paola Bachetta, UC Berkeley Gender and Women’s Studies, received several awards in 2014 and is currently a Visiting Professor-Researcher at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France. She was appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of the Critical Ethnic Studies Association, and her recent publications appear in Cahiers du CEDREF, Decolonizing Sexualities: Transnational Perspectives, Critical Interventions, Decolonize the City and Regards croisés de femmes en lutte: Chemins vers un féminisme sans frontiers.

Geoff Ward, UC Irvine Criminology, Law, and Society, contributed several articles to leading journals including Social Problems, Theoretical Criminology, and Race and Justice. He co-edited a special edition of Race and Justice entitled “Legacies of Historical Racial Conflict and Violence.”

Howard Winant, Director of the UCCNRS, has been named the recipient of the American Sociological Association’s 2015 Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award. The award is “… given to a sociologist for a lifetime of research, teaching, and service to the community in the tradition of these pioneering scholars.”

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Malaphone Phommasa, UCSB Education, is a UCCNRS Predoctoral Fellow and recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow in the College of Education at Marshall University.

Eva Michelle Wheeler, UCSB Spanish and Portuguese, is our center’s other Predoctoral Fellow and recently accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Languages and Linguistics at New Mexico State University.

SEEING AND BELIEVING
OSAGIE K. OBASOGIE ON BLINDED BY SIGHT

In our last newsletter, we profiled Steering Committee Member Osagie K. Obasogie’s new book, Blinded By Sight. In an interview with UCCNRS Postdoctoral Fellow Jean-Paul deGuzman, Obasogie shared some further insights about his research and interventions.

JD: Could you tell us about some of the unanticipated findings from your research?

OKO: It was an interesting process just in terms of stumbling on the idea of wanting to talk to blind people about race. It all started off seeing the movie Ray, and thinking about how he had this deep understanding of race that was very important to his life from when he was a young child. And it played as important part of his life as anyone else. I assumed that other academics or social scientists or journalists had explored blind people’s lives in terms of race. The really surprise that no one had bothered to ask this question, how do blind people experience race? So that was the first surprise. It speaks to how much we assume that race is a visual experience and it doesn’t even occur to ask this question. The assumption is that well blind people don’t have an understanding of race. This project was really an opportunity to probe those assumptions and have a deeper understanding of how race plays out. The whole point of this book is a discussion of how blind people aren’t that different from everyone else. They’re engaged in ways that are similar to others in community.

JD: Could you tell us about how your work with blind people’s experiences of race contributes to what you call a “constitutive theory” of race?

OKO: So the traditional social construction of race approach tries to tease out the ways various social meanings become attached to bodies: what are the social, political, and economic forces that lead certain meanings, whether criminality, work, etc. Its a conversation about how or when or in what ways these meanings come to be attached to certain bodies, and recognized as black, or white, or Asian. What this book proposes is that social constructionism is useful in understanding how race plays out in the real world. But this is a separate inquiry about how certain bodies are seen as being racially different themselves. We treat this as a visual and natural process of seeing a body that appears different and therefore is racialized as different. What I’m really trying to shed light on is how we understand racial difference, not as a natural division, not something we can just visually observe

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and recognize, and but rather a series of social processes that produce our ability to see difference. By talking to blind people, the book is really trying to flesh out what are the social experiences, how are people socialized to see or experience bodies as being racially distinct. This socialization is something that doesn’t just happen to blind people, but all people. For sighted people it’s a very complicated intertwined process.

JD: Your book brings together Critical Race Theory and empirical research. What are some other insights do you hope scholars and students might take from Blinded By Sight?

OKO: So the book is highly interdisciplinary. For example, I was influenced by the literature from art history, which is attentive to the ways social influences and social contexts change the way people visually engage different types of art, such as drawing or sculpture. My hope is that the book will have an impact in many fields whether it’s law, social sciences, the humanities, etc., because it’s a book that’s really trying to provide a thesis for us to think about how race is socially constructed in terms of how social relations lead us to see race in certain ways. So, to really think critically and beyond the idea that race is visually obvious. We are actually socialized to see race in particular ways.

2014-2015 UCCNRS SPEAKERS SERIES

During the 2014-2015 Academic Year, our UC Santa Barbara Team has been busy organizing colloquia on the ways race intersect with multiple facets of society. We were thrilled to host the following scholars:

Tanya Golash-Boza, UC Merced, “Mass Deportation and Global Capitalism in the 21st Century”

Wendy Cheng, Arizona State University, “Remapping Race in Suburban Southern California”

Zakiya Luna, UC Santa Barbara, “Reproductive Justice: Identity, Rights, and Social Movement Conflicts”

Tracy Lachica Buenavista, California State University, Northridge, “Considerations from the Margins: Asian American Perspectives on Undocumented Immigration”

Emily Ryo, University of Southern California, “Do Immigration Laws Shape Our Attitudes Towards

It was a great run!
Thank you for all of your support and solidarity!
- THE UCCNRS STAFF