



University of California  
**Center for New Racial Studies**  
 A MULTI-CAMPUS RESEARCH PROGRAM

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*What is New Racial Studies*

What is the significance of race in the post-Civil Rights era, the post-colonial era, the post-apartheid era, the era of Obama? Enormous transformations are occurring in racial dynamics: racial identities and racial attributions are becoming more complex and problematic. Demographic shifts are producing national and regional populations that are more racially heterogeneous and difficult to classify: more people of Middle Eastern, African, Asian, and Latin American descent now reside in Europe and North America than ever before. Indeed in the United States the transition to a “majority-minority” demographic is well underway. “New social movements” shaped by race continue to exercise influence throughout the world, both in ongoing efforts to deepen democracy and in contrary efforts to curtail it. Racial domination and repression continue as well.

To research the broader meaning of these contradictions in regard to race and racism is the core mission of the University of California Center for New Racial Studies (UCCNRS). What are the implications of these transformations for social policy, political processes, and cultural life? How has the complex racial transition of the 20th century (and beyond) affected patterns of social organization and control, legal regulation, employment and residence, and the representation and performance of social identities? What effects will the shifting meaning of race have, in the US and elsewhere, on international relations, global and local inequalities, war and peace, gender dynamics, and movements of capital and labor? What is the meaning of the term “racism” today, as massive incarceration and racial profiling of people of color coexists with claims that “colorblindness” is now US racial policy? How does official European anti-racism (multiculturalism, etc.) coincide—or conflict—with rising anti-immigrant initiatives there? These types of questions must be raised systematically.

That there is or could be a “New Racial Studies” suggests that a great transformation is underway in the meaning and social structure of race. Politicians, educators, voters, young people, journalists, and many others are struggling to make sense of a racial system that both changes and remains entrenched. As scholars, we seek to understand the contradictions and dilemmas that arise from the evolving racial order. Scholarly work is sometimes limited by outdated theoretical frameworks and methodologies, but even where researchers and theorists are working on cutting-edge topics, we often pursue our work in isolation. Such themes as the changing demographics of race, the racial state and the law, the racialized body, racial dimensions of North South (and West-East) the global dynamics and afterlife of empire, whiteness as a racial category, ethnic cleansing/genocide as racial policy, racial disaccumulation and continuing racial inequality, and the reclassification of racial identities, exemplify (but hardly exhaust) the range of creative research being produced across the UC system in the huge field of race and racism. Indeed UC is uniquely situated to play an important role in this process because so many scholars based here are *already* engaged in New Racial Studies.

## Meet UCCNRS Director and Associate Director



Howard Winant is Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he is also affiliated with the Black Studies and Chicana/o Studies departments. Winant's research and writing focuses on racial theory and social theory, and the comparative historical sociology, political sociology, and cultural sociology of race, both in the US and globally.



John S.W. Park is an Associate Professor of Asian American Studies and an affiliated faculty member in Sociology. He completed his doctorate in Jurisprudence and Social Policy at Boalt Hall, the School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Park writes and teaches on topics in race theory, immigration law and policy, and Anglo-American legal and political theory. In 2004, he published *Elusive Citizenship*, a book on the philosophical and legal justifications for federal immigration law, as well as the law's subsequent impact on Asian Americans.

## 2011-12 Research Focus: Race/Gender/Class Intersectionality

This year the UCCNRS is supporting the newest work on Intersectionality across the UC system. Coined by legal scholars, the term "Intersectionality" underscores the complex reciprocal attachments and sometimes polarizing conflicts that confront both individuals and movements as they seek to navigate the raced, gendered, and class-based dimensions of social and political life. Constituted by mutually reinforcing vectors of race, class, gender and sexuality, it has emerged as a prominent theoretical and explanatory framework for linking these three axes of identity and difference, alliance and antagonism. Yet Intersectionality remains elusive: Both as individuals seeking to build a socially just and fulfilling "everyday life," and as collectivities seeking to "make history" through political action and social movements, we struggle with the unstable connections between race, gender, and class. Any serious comparative historical view suggests that demands for solidarity across race-, class-, or gender-lines are as likely to compete as to coalesce.

## 2011-2012 Grant Recipients

### Faculty Grants Awarded

Paul Amar, UC Santa Barbara and Mark Sawyer, UC Los Angeles: "The Racial Missions of Militarized Humanitarianism in Haiti: Clashing Formations of Brazilian and Cuban Internationalism"

Sylvanna Falcon, UC Santa Cruz: "Examining Transnational Feminist Interventions in the UN's Efforts to Combat Racism"

Suad Joseph, UC Davis: "Breaking the News: U.S. Media Representations of 'Veiled Muslim Women' in the Reign of Islamophobia"

Ann-Elise Lewallen, UC Santa Barbara: "Woman + Native = Peripheral? A Transnational and Translocal Inquiry into Ainu Women's Intersectionality"

George Lipsitz, UC Santa Barbara: "Intersectionality Among Immigrant Women: Assessing the Leadership Development Strategy of Asian Immigrant Women Advocates"

Amani Nuru-Jeter, UC Berkeley: "Gendered Racism, Social Class, and the Health of African American Women"

Andrew Penner, UC Irvine: "An Intersectional Analysis of How Social Status Shapes Race"

Deborah Vargas, UC Irvine: "Sounding Chicana Racialized Genders and Sexualities"

### Graduate Student Grants Awarded

Alexandra Apolloni, UC Los Angeles: "Singing the Swinging Sixties: Race, Voice, and Girlhood in 1960's British Pop"

Ian Breckenridge-Jackson, UC Riverside: "The New Orleans Rebirth Movement: Composition and Regional Impact"

Arpana "Annie" Gupta, UC Los Angeles: "Brain Processing Associated with Discrimination Among Intimate Partner Violence Positive South Asian Women"

Tania Jabour, UC San Diego: "Spectacular Subjects: Race, Rhetoric, and Visuality in Nineteenth Century American Public Cultures"

Mimi Kim, UC Berkeley: "Contesting Feminisms: Intersectionality and Social Movement Challenges to Gender-Based and State Violence"

Gabriela Mendoza-Garcia, UC Riverside: "Bodily Renderings of the Jarabe Tapatio in Early 20th Century Mexico, Millennial Mexico and the United States: Race, Nation, Class, and Gender"

David Peterson, UC Irvine: "Colliding at the (Color-Blind) Intersections: Liberal College Students Negotiate the Relationship between Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality"

Stevie Ruiz, UC San Diego: "Citizens in the Making: Interracial Politics and Land Rights in the Imperial Valley, 1907-1942"

Trevor Joy Sangrey, UC Santa Cruz: "Put One More 'S' in the USA": The Productive Fiction of the Black Nation Thesis"

Adrianna Michelle Santos, UC Santa Barbara: "Chicana Survival Narratives: Representation, Gender Violence and Politics"

## *2012-2013 Research Theme: Race-Making, Race-Neutrality and Race-Consciousness*

While it is now common to claim that race is less salient than it once was in determining life-chances, social stratification continues to operate fiercely along racial lines. At the same time, the durability of race and ongoing reality of racism continue to inspire movements for equality and social justice. The research theme for the upcoming year is Race-Making, Race-Neutrality and Race-Consciousness. The UCCNRS will be supporting work that focuses on the production of racial categories, the classification of people within them, and the performance of those classifications as a complex process that links macro-level societal dynamics such as demographic trends, the residential segregation, labor, and collective consumption, with micro-level ones, such as acculturation and socialization, the “testing” of attitudes and beliefs, risk-taking in everyday life, and shifting interpretations of difference and identity. Supported research will consider how “race consciousness” continues to operate in the allocation of resources; the deployment of political power; and the organization of communities, interpersonal relationships, and personal identity.

### *Introducing the UCCNRS Anthology Series*

As part of UCCNRS’s agenda to identify and facilitate key dimensions in new racial studies, the Center will be publishing an anthology series to showcase the newest research on race and racism from across the UC system. To address the present period of racial uncertainty and injustice, the series will bring together faculty and graduate-student scholarship in the fields of sociology, public policy, law, ethnic studies, education, psychology, literature, and political science.

The inaugural anthology will be the first in a five-year series. This work will feature expertise in immigration history, race theory, and applied policy studies, and it will provide a re-examination of citizenship and nation building in the United States and elsewhere. In the introductory essay, the Center’s Associate Director, John Park, and the anthology’s two co-editors, UCLA Professor Abel Valenzuela and UC Santa Cruz Professor Shannon Gleeson, propose that the standard framework addressing immigration often overlooks the historical role of race. Other contributors challenge binary racial categories, examine migration, labor, and citizenship status, and delineate the connections between U.S. imperialism and global migration. This first volume will be published in the spring of 2013, and we expect the entire series to provide an exciting and much-needed critical engagement of race in the United States and beyond.

## Steering Committee

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We are on the web!

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## Stay in touch with the UCCNRS!

UC faculty and graduate students may affiliate with us through our website: click on the "People" tab. We also invite affiliates to make use of our (moderated) networked virtual publications program: submit research papers and other appropriate publications.



### UCCNRS Campus Mini Grant Program

UCCNRS funds research-oriented or research-promoting activities in the broad field of new racial studies. Launching UC campus-based research projects or working-groups, supporting research-oriented curriculum development, or assisting UC campus-based research collaborations with public agencies and non-profits, schools, or community organizations, are the key goals of this initiative.

### Research Working Groups

A Research Working Group is a collaboration developed by a group of UC faculty located on different campuses. RWG grants fund collaborative efforts to develop a research program on a significant problem in the broad field of new racial studies. Small seed grants are available for proposals to launch RWGs. These are one-year grants aimed at facilitating the development of promising proposals for external funding.

### Campus Based Activities

Campus-based activities are collaborations among faculty or graduate student-based groups (or some combination of these) located on a particular UC campus. UCCNRS also supports campus-community research collaborations and research collaborations including UC research staff and administrators as appropriate. All supported Campus Activities must have at least one UC ladder-rank faculty PI. While we will consider proposals for events such as symposia, speakers' series, and conferences, these events must have a clear research direction.

# Upcoming EVENTS

At the Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender in the 21st Century

Friday, May 4th, 2012 2pm at UC Riverside, Redwood Dining Room



Keynote: Angela Harris, UC Davis School of Law

ANGELA HARRIS writes widely in the field of critical legal theory, examining how law sometimes reinforces and sometimes challenges subordination on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other dimensions of power and identity.

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### Doing Good Work: Bridging Activism and Scholarship in Latina/o Immigrant Communities

A graduate student initiated symposium sponsored by the UCCNRS and the UCSB Chicano Studies Institute.

Friday, May 25th, 2012 8am-4pm at UC Santa Barbara,  
Mosher Alumni House

**DOING GOOD WORK** is a round-table symposium bringing together community leaders and scholars concerned with the key issues facing Latina/o immigrant communities in California. We will explore the possibilities and challenges of generating activist scholarship.

To register please visit

<http://www.uccnrs.ucsb.edu/webforms/doing-good-work-bridging-activism-and-scholarship-latinao-immigrant-communities>

For questions, please email: [activistscholars2012@gmail.com](mailto:activistscholars2012@gmail.com)