WELCOME BACK!

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the American Studies department, I’d like to welcome you back to the fall semester! We have a terrific new cohort of 16 M.A. students this year, coming to CSUF from a variety of institutions and undergraduate majors. We are also thrilled to welcome two new assistant professors to our full-time faculty, Sara Fingal and Alison Kanosky. You can learn more about the cohort and our new faculty in this newsletter. Inside, you’ll also find information about our latest graduates, student honors and awards, important dates and deadlines, and grad student conference presentations (another impressive list!).

My grad advising hours this fall will be Tuesdays, 3:00-5:30, and by appointment (I’m on campus most days, so we can find a time that is convenient for you). Let’s make it a great year in American Studies!

Adam Golub / agolub@fullerton.edu / 657.278.5899
CONGRATULATIONS 2016-2017 GRADUATES!

STUDENTS COMPLETING THE M.A. THESIS

Jasmin Gomez, “Reel Latinas, Reel Food: Unpacking Latinas’ Food Narratives”


STUDENTS COMPLETING THE M.A. EXAM

Inez Alvarez
Andrew Bahna
Judson Barber
Patricia Gomez
Tracy Gardner
Aaron Mezzano
Evelyn Pina

M.A. GRADUATES MOVING ON TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Judson Barber will be starting the Ph.D. program in American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin with full funding.

Andrew Bahna will be entering the Ph.D. program in American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin with full funding.
MEET THE NEW COHORT!

Left to Right:

Alfonso Lagunas, B.A., American Studies, Cal State Fullerton
Khaalida Sidney, B.A., Asian American Studies & African American Studies, UC Irvine
Jose Collazo, B.A., Gender, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Studies, Cal Poly Pomona
Ricardo Cordova, B.A., Criminal Justice, Cal State Fullerton
Christina Brown, B.A., English (minor Performing Arts), CSU Channel Islands
Sonya Ibarra, B.A., History and Criminology, University of New Mexico
Derek Islas, B.A., Critical Studies in Creative Media, University of Hawaii, Manoa
Sierra Rivera, B.A., American Studies, Cal State Fullerton
Natasha Popowich, B.A., English (minor Gender Studies & Pre-Law), College of the Pacific
Alexander Foy, B.A., History and American Studies, Cal State Fullerton
Evelin Franco, B.A., Gender, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Studies, Cal Poly Pomona
Henrik Schneider, B.A., American Studies (minor Communications), Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany
Naja Shabaka, B.A., Ethnic Studies (minor International Politics), Cal State Fullerton
Brandon Rocke, B.A., English Education, CSU Long Beach; M.A., English, Chapman University
Jonathan Garcia, B.A. Sociology and Chicano Studies, Cal State Fullerton

Not pictured: Jesus Pelayo, B.A., American Studies, Cal State Fullerton
NEW FACES ON THE FOURTH FLOOR

The department is thrilled to welcome two new full-time faculty members this year. Assistant Professor Sara Fingal earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in U.S. history from Brown University in 2007 and 2012. After she graduated, she lived in the Midwest for five years where she was a postdoctoral scholar at DePauw University, a visiting scholar at the University of Michigan, and an assistant professor at Michigan State University. Presently, she is completing her book manuscript on American beach culture and conflicts over coastal access in California and Mexico during the mid to late twentieth century. Her research interests include race and gender in environmental history, U.S. border zones, and water studies. She has experience teaching interdisciplinary classes on American Borderlands, the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, the Natural Environment, and Water in American Society. At CSUF, she is looking forward to teaching the Americans in Nature, California Cultures, and American Studies Theories and Methods courses. She is excited to develop future classes related to cultural histories of American borderlands and water resources. Fun fact: Sara is Swedexican (Swedish-Irish-Mexican) American and she grew up in Orange County and Pomona. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and traveling.

Alison Kanosky is Assistant Professor of American Studies, and received her Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University in 2015. Prior to coming to CSUF, she spent two years as an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation postdoctoral fellow with Lehigh University's Mellon Digital Humanities Initiative. She is currently preparing to publish findings from her dissertation, which used ethnography and social history to explore how prison and military infrastructure impacts nearby communities, looking in particular at how residents resist and accept such developments. This year, she will teach Theory and Method in American Studies, American Character, and Images of Crime and Violence. She has also taught courses--and hopes to continue to teach courses at CSUF--on mass incarceration, poverty, ethnographic methods, postindustrial community studies, 20th century U.S. social and cultural history, public history and public humanities. Her research areas include cultural studies of security, militarism, punishment, and social violence. She earned her B.A. in American Studies from Northwestern University, and is originally from Freeport, Illinois. She loves to hike and dance, and she is especially delighted to finally be reading the Harry Potter series for the first time.
M.A. STUDENT HONORS AND AWARDS

BAHAR TAHAMTANI has been selected as a Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar for 2017-2018.

ASHLEY LOUP won the Earl James Weaver Graduate Essay Prize for her paper, “Plead the Fifth: The Progression of the African American Lawyer.” JENA DELGADO-SETTE was recognized with an honorable mention for her essay, “The Talk’: A Survival Guide.”

ALEXANDER FOY is the winner of this year’s $1,000 Margarete Liebe Sekhon Graduate Scholarship from the Department of American Studies.

JUDSON BARBER was the M.A. speaker at the American Studies graduation ceremony in May.

AMANDA RITTER and BAHAR TAHAMTANI won the department’s Susan Flinkinshelt Student Service Award.

MICHAEL PARAMO was awarded a Giles T. Brown Graduate Student Travel Grant in Spring 2017.

RECENT M.A. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS


Darcy Anderson, Chair and Comment, “(In)visibility and Erasure” panel, California American Studies Association, Long Beach, April 2017.


Michael Paramo, “‘God Makes No Mistakes’: Analyzing the LGBT Empowerment Anthem and Lady Gaga’s ‘Born This Way,’” International Association for the Study of Popular Music, Cleveland, February 2017.


IMPORTANT DATES

• Fall Grad/Faculty Colloquium: Saturday, October 14th, 7 PM. John Ibson will present his research at the Fullerton home of Pamela Steinle. Directions and more info will be provided.

• Deadline for enrollment in GRAD 700 for Fall 2017: Sept. 5

• Grad Check Online application deadline for students graduating Fall 2017: Sep. 11

• Deadline for submitting thesis to Graduate Studies thesis reader for January 2018 graduation: Nov. 21

• Grad Check Online application deadline for students graduating Spring 2018: TBA

ASSA OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018

President: Giulia Oprea
Vice President: Michael Gandara
Treasurer: Darcy Anderson
Public Relations: Jena Delgado-Sette
Organization Historian: Barbara Tkach (fall) and Julian Orozco (fall/spring)
ICC Representative: Austin Robles
Faculty Advisor: Susie Woo

The first meeting of the ASSA will be Monday August 28th, from 2:30-3:30 in the AMST Lounge, UH-210A

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