

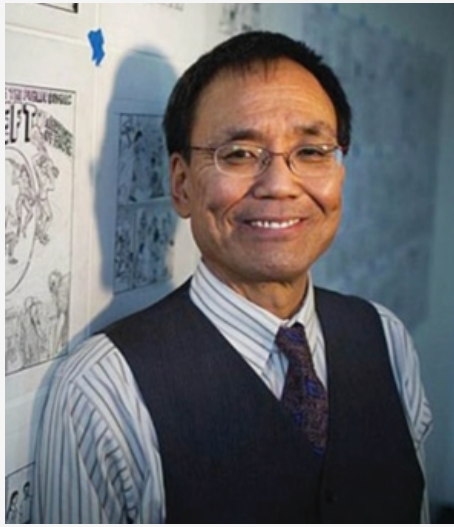
AOKI CENTER FOR CRITICAL RACE & NATION STUDIES

Annual Report



Fall 2023 – Spring 2024





Professor Keith Aoki

Professor Aoki was an accomplished and respected scholar in civil rights, critical race theory, intellectual property, and local government law, and a member of the American Law Institute; his scholarship was published in leading legal journals. Professor Aoki was also a gifted cartoonist who wrote legal articles and two books in comic book style.

The mission of the Aoki Center is to honor the memory of Professor Keith Aoki by fostering multi-disciplinary scholarship and practice that critically examine the law through the lens of race, ethnicity, indigeneity, citizenship, and class.



MISSION STATEMENT

Racial Justice at the Intersection: Connecting Disenfranchised Voices, Integrating Theory and Practice, Supporting Multi-Disciplinary Research

The mission of the Aoki Center is to honor the memory of Professor Keith Aoki by fostering multi-disciplinary scholarship and practice that critically examine the law through the lens of race, ethnicity, indigeneity, citizenship, and class. By integrating the scholarship of the King Hall faculty with the research of academics in other departments and schools across the UC Davis campus and by connecting critical race theory to the world of practice and policy, the Aoki Center seeks to deepen our understanding of issues that have a significant impact on our culture and society. Inaugurated by faculty, staff, and students in the wake of Aoki's untimely death in 2011, the Center was established to reflect Keith's distinguished scholarship but also to remember his passion for art, music, advocacy, whimsy, and pure fun.

A Message From Our Co-Directors



KEVIN R. JOHNSON

Co-Director, Aoki Center
Dean of the UC Davis School of Law
Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public
Interest Law and Chicana/o Studies



RAQUEL E. ALDANA

Co-Director, Aoki Center
Martin Luther King Jr. Professor
of Law

It has been over a decade since Professor Keith Aoki passed away on April 26, 2011, at the age of 55 after a prolonged and debilitating illness. Both of us were friends of Keith's and spent time with him in his last days. Keith Aoki's legacy of profound commitment to racial justice – and justice for all – reminds us of the urgency of the fight for justice in our times. Keith would have a lot to say – and write – about the imperative of teaching critical race perspectives in law school at a time when lawyers are having to defend our fundamental civil liberties and engage in creative legal reforms to liberate us from the oppression of mass incarceration, police violence, voter suppression, hate crimes, and unjust borders, to name just a few of the systemic racial injustices of the day. As Keith Aoki did in his life, we commit to this project with fervor and are honored to continue to host important conversations on a wide range of topics on racial justice and to support projects aimed at improving our laws, legal institutions, and the lives of the most vulnerable.



A Letter from Aoki Fellow Giselle Garcia '23

Dear Aoki Center Community,

The 2023 - 2024 academic year has presented itself with unique challenges for all social justice advocates. We found ourselves reflecting within our inner most depths and contemplating our closely held values, friendships, and how we would choose to live our truth.

I have been educating and dedicating myself to social justice movement work for a little over a decade now. In my most trying times, I have sought for inspiration in the furthest externalities but always found it within those closest to me - my community.

This is why as an Aoki Fellow I have dedicated my tenure to building community with students, staff, and faculty at King Hall, UC Davis Main Campus, and beyond. Because our movement requires longevity and when we feel most exhausted we must be able to trust we can rely on our neighbor. That trust can only be built and continuously fortified through educational and spiritual work.

Sharing spaces alongside each of you has been educational and spiritual for me. Witnessing the strength and courage of our students to advocate for and live out their values has been refreshing and a reason to maintain hope.

I look forward to sharing more space with our Aoki Center community at King Hall and beyond in the upcoming school year. May our resistance against oppression persist, may our hope maintain a disciplined and forever enduring strength, and may we build a new world together.

In Solidarity,



Giselle



Meet the Aoki Center Community

Leadership



Kevin R. Johnson

Co-Director, Aoki Center

Dean of the UC Davis School of Law

Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law and Chicana/o Studies



Raquel E. Aldana

Co-Director, Aoki Center

Martin Luther King Jr.
Professor of Law

Team



Giselle Garcia

'23 Legal Fellow



Nina-Marie Bell

Law School Centers
Program Coordinator

KING HALL AFFILIATES



Andrea Cann
Chandrasekher



Gabriel "Jack" Chin



Mary Louise
Frampton



Angela Harris



Lisa Ikemoto



Irene Ortiseweyinmi
Joe



Thomas W. Joo



Courtney G. Joslin



Lisa Pruitt



Leticia Saucedo



Mary Ziegler

CAMPUS & EXTERNAL AFFILIATES



Erica Kohl-Arenas



Ryken Grattet



Bruce Haynes



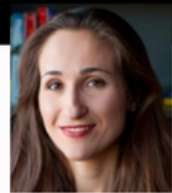
Beth Rose
Middleton Manning



Andrés Reséndez



Maritza Reyes

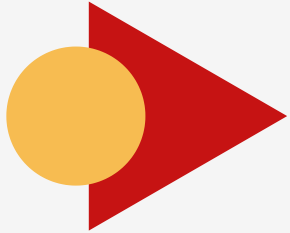


Mindy Romero



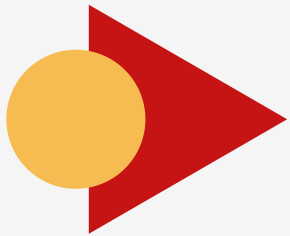
Lawrence Winn

As a center we collectively work to accomplish our values embedded in our mission statement through:



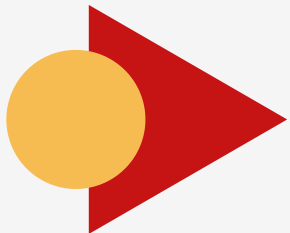
Research

Our co-directors and distinguished faculty affiliates conduct critical research and advance scholarship on issues involving race, immigration, queer critical theory, reproductive rights, and labor to steer the development of knowledge and conversations in these fields.



Education

Through our regular programming, we highlight key issues and encourage an intersectional and critical analysis of law and practice.



Practice & Policy

Our programming, scholarship, blog posts, and newsletters support and advance policy recommendations in line with racial justice goals.

Explore the Aoki Center's wonderful programming and initiatives held throughout the 2023 to 2024 academic year, and how we built community at King Hall and beyond.

On Co-Director Kevin Johnson



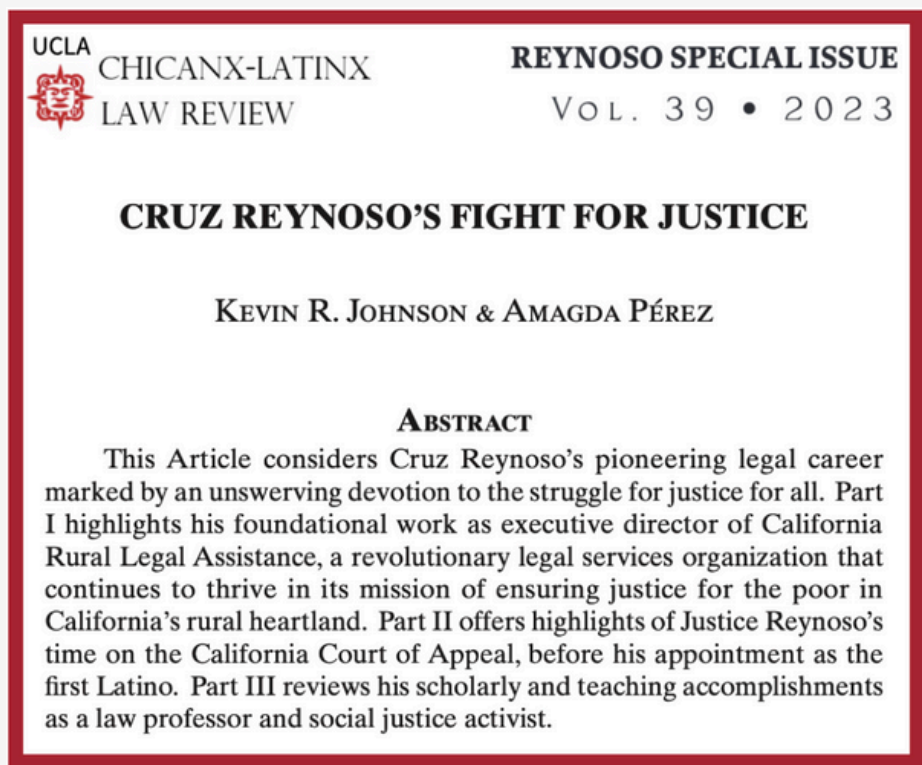
Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

- Dean Johnson wrote for Washington Monthly on how [Biden's Asylum Restrictions Run Into a Roadblock](#) as the Biden Administration attempts to curtail the flow of asylum seekers coming from Central and South America. He discusses the disjunction between law and public resistance to asylum seekers – especially when they are of color.
- [Commented](#) for the Dallas Morning News on Governor Abbot's recent blockade of federal agents from accessing certain parts of the Border.
- Spoke to National Desk regarding NYC Mayor Adam's comments on migrants. [Dean Johnson said](#) such comments appear to be a "weak effort to capitalize on stereotypes about immigrants as criminals." "There doesn't seem to be any real evidence of some kind of immigrant crime wave."
- Dean Johnson [joined Chancellor Gary May on Face to Face](#) and shared how he has centered his work around those ideals of King Hall's namesake, Dr. MLK Jr. He says, "Being a law school devoted to social justice and social change, and the diversity of our faculty and student body helps us to pursue those goals."



Scholarship

Dean Kevin R. Johnson and Professor Amagda Pérez '91 co-wrote the article "[Cruz Reynoso's Fight for Justice](#)" for a special issue of the UCLA Chicana-Latinx Law Review Journal. The article "considers Cruz Reynoso's pioneering legal career marked by an unswerving devotion to the struggle for justice for all."



On Co-Director Raquel Aldana



In celebration

- In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Raquel Aldana was honored on the American Bar Association's list of [Influential Hispanic Activists and Legal Trailblazers](#). She dedicated the award to "the ones who have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of social justice, and especially on behalf of immigrants and Latinos/as/es."
- She was also [awarded as part of the first cohort](#) of the UC Davis Humanities and Social Sciences Stimulating Exceptional and Essential Discovery (SEED) funding program. She received the award for a project titled, "Adjudicating Credibility and the Role of Immigration Forensics Assessments."

HARVARD
LATIN AMERICAN
LAW REVIEW

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 2, SUMMER 2023

LATINAS IN THE LEGAL ACADEMY: PROGRESS AND PROMISE

Raquel E. Aldana,* Emile Loza de Siles,** Solangel Maldonado,***
and Rachel F. Moran****

ABSTRACT:

The 2022 Inaugural Graciela Olivárez Latinas in the Legal Academy ("GO LILA") Workshop convened seventy-four outstanding and powerful Latina law professors and professional legal educators (collectively, "Latinas in the legal academy," or "LILAs") to document and celebrate our individual and collective journeys and to grow stronger together. In this essay, we, four of the Latina law professors who helped to co-found the GO LILA Workshop, share what we learned about and from each other. We invite other LILAs to join our community and share their stories and journeys. We hope that the data and lessons that we share can inspire other Latinas to join the legal academy. We encourage law schools to honor the transformation that our presence and contributions have brought to legal education and scholarship and to join us in considering how our path forward can be even more impactful and sustaining.



Scholarship

Raquel E. Aldana co-authored article, "[Latinas in the Legal Academy: Progress and Promise](#)" alongside Emile Loza de Siles, Solangel Maldonado, and Rachel F. Moran. It's been 50 years since Graciela Olivárez became the first Latina law professor in the United States. This article celebrates the trajectory and contributions of Latina scholarship in the legal academy and reflects on inspiring lessons for Latinas hoping to join the academy.

Raquel E. Aldana co-authored article, "[Lessons From Colombia's Response to Venezuelan Forced Displacement](#)," alongside Efrain Cruz, Sandra Morello Peña, Kari Peterson. "Venezuela accounts for one of the largest numbers of forcibly displaced people in the world [...] Colombia [hosts] by far the largest concentration of Venezuelans." What can we learn from Venezuela's response?

General

Vol. 87, Issue 1, 2024 • March 04, 2024 EDT

LESSONS FROM COLOMBIA'S RESPONSE TO VENEZUELAN FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Raquel E. Aldana, Efrain Cruz, Sandra Morello Peña, Kari Peterson

Venezuelan migration crisis
temporary protection permit

Colombian response

mass displacement

temporary immigration protections

CRITICAL RACE THEORY BOOK SERIES

The UC Davis Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies is pleased to announce a new [Critical Race Theory \(CRT\) Book Series to be published by the University of California Press](#). Co-edited by Dean Kevin R. Johnson and Professor Raquel E. Aldana, jointly Co-Directors of the Aoki Center, the series promises to break new ground in critical race theory by developing a global, interdisciplinary, multiracial, and accessible series of books that reveal how racial subordination and white supremacy are embedded in U.S. life and law.

We are joined in this series by a distinguished Advisor Board:

Mario Barnes, Professor of Law, UC Irvine

Rose Cuison Villazor, Professor of Law and Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar, Rutgers Law School

Angela Harris, Distinguished Professor of Law Emerita, UC Davis

Beth Rose Middleton, Professor and Designated Emphasis Chair, UC Davis (Native American Studies)

Solangel Maldonado, Eleanor Bontecou Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development, Seton Hall

Angela Onwuachi-Willig, Ryan Roth Gallo and Ernest J. Gallo Dean and Professor of Law, Boston University

Mary Romero, Professor of Justice Studies and Social Inquiry Emerita, Arizona State (Justice Studies and Social Inquiry)

Wadie Said, Professor of Law and Dean's Faculty Fellow, University of Colorado

We invite you to submit a book proposal by following the [UC Press guidelines](#). We are looking for books that probe the myriad of ways in which race is the bedrock of law and social structure in the United States across a variety of areas such as education, housing, voting, economic opportunity, health and reproductive justice, immigration, policing, foreign relations. Through the series, we hope to underscore the importance of teaching and learning critical race perspectives at a time when lawyers are forced to defend fundamental civil liberties and engage in creative legal reforms to liberate us from the oppression of today's systemic racial injustices. We are, of course, open to dialoguing with you prior to the submission of your proposal to discuss ideas and approach. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin R. Johnson, Dean and Mabie–Appallas Professor of Public Interest Law & Chicana/o Studies &

Raquel E. Aldana, Martin Luther King Jr., Professor of Law

Co-Directors, Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies

Faculty Affiliate Highlights

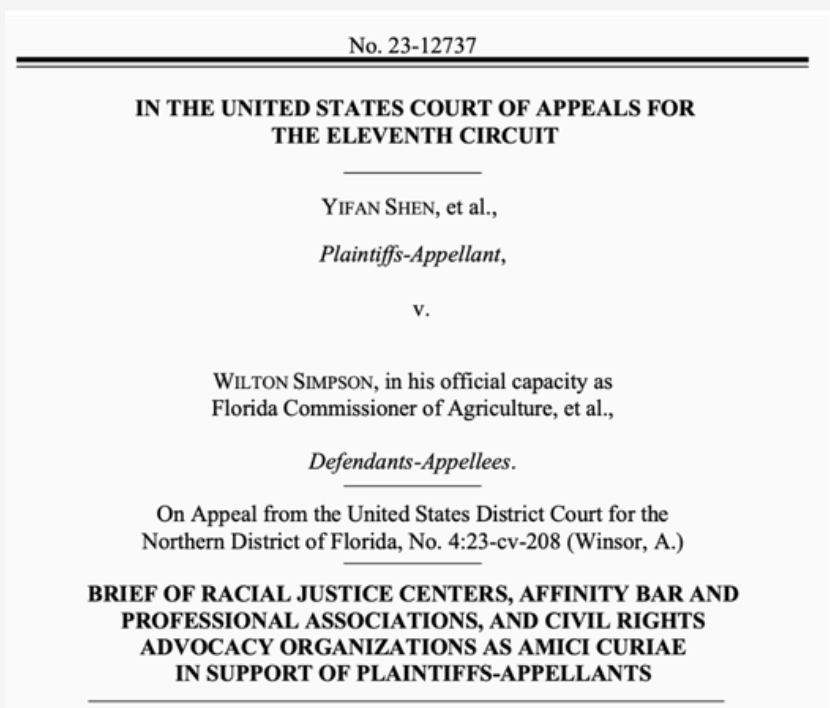


Gabriel "Jack" Chin

Edward L. Barrett Jr. Chair of Law,
Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law,
and Director of Clinical Legal Education

- Professor Chin did arduous work on an Amici brief filed on behalf of the Aoki Center in support of the Plaintiffs-Appellants in *Shen v. Simpson*. He collaborated with other Centers and organizations in the pursuit to enjoin Florida's Conveyances to Foreign Entities Law, which restricts the rights of non-citizen and non-permanent resident individuals domiciled in China to own real property in Florida. We thank him for serving as counsel on behalf of the Aoki Center and for all of his work on this!

- [Read](#) - the Southern District of Mississippi and Massachusetts high courts cites Professor Chin's scholarship.
- Learn about Professor Chin's [research project on Woodland's Chicago Cafe](#). The project has been featured on many news outlets like Capital Public Radio, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and Good Day Sacramento.



Mary Louise Frampton

Professor of Law Emerita

- Professor Frampton is a visiting scholar at UNC Chapel Hill writing a book about the trials arising out of the 1979 Greensboro Massacre.
- She is active on the coordinating committee of the Critical Legal Collective pushing back against the attacks on the truthful teaching of race, which had its inaugural convening in November at Duke Law School.
- Professor Frampton is serving on the planning committees of the UC Davis Grand Challenges' "Reimagining the Land Grant University," the Aoki Center Free People of Color Project, and the DEI Tribal Justice Project.
- In June she will be presenting a paper on teaching restorative justice as a racial justice tool at a Journal of Legal Education conference at the University of Vermont



Irene Oritseweyinmi Joe

Professor of Law &
Chancellor's Fellow

- Professor Joe received the [2024 Distinguished Teaching Award](#).
- Professor Joe was [selected as the 2023-2024 UC Davis Chancellor's Fellow](#). As part of the five-year fellowship, Joe will receive a one-time award of \$25,000 to support research, teaching and service activities.



Andrea Cann Chandrasekher

Professor of Law

- Professor Andrea Cann Chandrasekher spoke at the [Law and the Social Sciences' panel "New Fronts in Equality Law and Social Sciences"](#) on Saturday, Jan. 6.
- She also [spoke at UC Berkeley School of Law](#) about her research on consumer redlining. Her presentation addressed the type of retail discrimination that "occurs when chain stores in Black neighborhoods offer a lower-quality consumer experience than those same chain stores in white neighborhoods."



Aaron Tang

Professor of Law

- Professor Aaron Tang [wrote an opinion piece](#) for the Los Angeles Times headlined, "Trump wants a pause on his Jan. 6 trial. The Supreme Court should barrel ahead."
- Professor Tang published his highly acclaimed book, *Supreme Hubris: How Overconfidence Is Destroying the Court—and How We Can Fix It* (Yale University Press).



Lisa Pruitt

Distinguished Professor of Law

- Professor Lisa Pruitt gave a talk titled, "The Racial Politics of Demon Copperhead," at the [ClassCrits XIV Program](#) at Southwestern Law School.
- Pruitt served as a panelist for the "Teaching and Scholarship" and "How Other States and Industries Draw Talent to Rural Areas" discussions, and moderated the "Rural Community and Attorney Data" panel at the [Symposium on Rural Lawyers](#) at the University of South Dakota.



Thomas Joo

**Martin Luther King Jr.
Professor of Law**

- After Sacramento NAACP president and other officials were suspended over alleged financial improprieties for appearing to have utilized their own businesses to administer a multi-billion dollar county sponsored food program. Professor Joo [spoke to the Sacramento Bee](#) about the contract's clear terms prohibiting the non-profit's officers from using their own business, unless they can counter-argue their business are best suited and underwent a formal bidding process.



Courtney Joslin

Martin Luther King Jr.
Professor of Law

- Professor Courtney Joslin was [interviewed by Law360](#) on employer marital status discrimination, including the refusal to extend benefits to partners of non-married employees and the impact on families.
- Professor Courtney Joslin [testified in support of](#) Michigan legislation that would update the state's parentage laws regarding children born through assisted reproduction and surrogacy.



Lisa Ikemoto

Martin Luther King Jr.
Professor of Law

- Professor Ikemoto [delivered the keynote address](#) at the UC San Diego Genetics Training Program's annual retreat. The talk was titled "Fixing the future? Human heritable genomic modification and the limits of bioethics."
- She was also honored at the [Workshop for Asian American Pacific Islander and Middle Eastern and North African Women in Legal Academy](#) at NYU Law for her years of dedicated service to the academy.



Leticia Saucedo

Martin Luther King Jr.
Professor of Law

- Directed by Professor Leticia Saucedo and Professor Emerita Robyn Rodriguez, [the Labor and Community Center of the Greater Capital Region at UC Davis Law](#) will study the economic and social impact of a variety of labor and employment issues, provide timely, policy-relevant research, and educate the next generation of labor and community leaders.



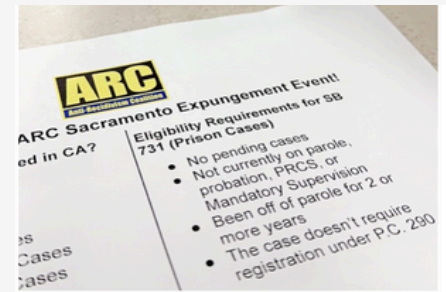
Mary Ziegler

Martin Luther King Jr.
Professor of Law

- Professor Ziegler wrote for the *New York Times* about how Trump's reelection could further negatively impact abortion rights throughout the country.
- The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum selects Mary Ziegler to join a committee of scholars to help guide the museum's efforts to capture the experiences of women in the United States.
- C-SPAN's "Lectures in History" featured Professor Ziegler as one of the world's leading authorities in the legal history of struggles over reproduction in the United States.

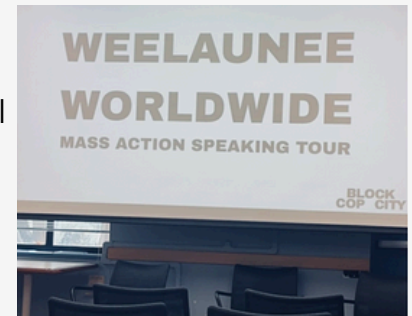
Aoki Legal Fellow in Action

- Giselle represented the Aoki Center to support the community's call for the Senate to pass AB 280: the California Mandela Act, a comprehensive bill to reform the practice of solitary confinement as a tool for torture. Assembly member Chris Holden, who introduced the bill, spoke at the rally alongside a group of solitary confinement survivors who shared their stories. Some survivors spent between 13 and 20 years in solitary and continue to suffer from traumatic effects.
- Giselle joined the UC Davis School of Education for their Senior Day Conference. The Educational Talent Search Program is a federally funded college outreach program for low-income, first gen college-bound students. The event hosted 75 high school seniors from Sacramento, Woodland, Winters and Fairfield to learn about resources for college success. Giselle was able to chat with students who want legal careers and encouraged them to pursue their goals!
- The Anti-Recidivism Coalition is taking advantage of SB 731, California's expansive post-conviction relief law, to help community members seal their records. This will help many who are burdened by a conviction gain more access to stable housing, education, and employment. Giselle participated in their expungement clinic and looks forward to future collaboration between the Aoki Center and ARC!



- Giselle established a book drive for the Aoki Center to collect materials for UC Davis Books to Prisons. She collected book donations to distribute to incarcerated people in facilities across the country. She thanks Professor Hunt and the many students who donated powerful materials!

- She attended Weelaunee Worldwide Mass Action Speaking Tour at UC Davis. The battle to protect the Weelaunee Forest in Atlanta transcends local politics. The design behind the facility is intended to simulate a city to better train law enforcement on military-like urban combat. These facilities are now being proposed or built across the country and many threaten local ecological systems like Atlanta's Weelaunee Forest. It was an important discussion on community organizing and the intersections of racial justice, police militarization, and environmental protection.



- NorCal Resist is a leading community grassroots organization supporting asylum seekers by addressing basic needs and the dearth in access to legal aid. They have met the growing need for asylum seekers to file their asylum applications before their 1 year deadlines through their Pro Se Asylum Clinic. Giselle was able to volunteer and assist a family with a baby on the way. King Hall's Immigration Law Association also joined with over 15 law student volunteers!

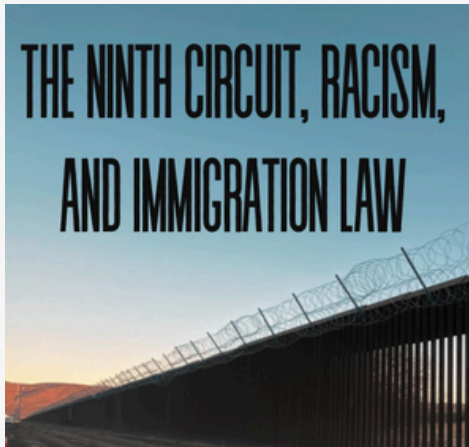


- Giselle was honored to participate in a panel organized by LSA's Wellness Committee & Basic Needs titled, "Breaking the Stigma." The space elevated the need for more mental health support while in law school and after when practicing in the field, and sought to normalize conversations about mental health struggles.

The Aoki Blog

Our [Aoki Blog](#) is a special space for our Center and community contributors to express succinct analysis of various research topics of interest in relation to Critical Race Theory and racial justice.

Dean Kevin Johnson



Raquel Aldana



#Mujeres

Resuestas

CRT as an Abolitionist Project



**Norbie Kumagai and
Melissa Moreno, Ph.D.**

**REMEMBERING AN AFFIRMATIVE
ACTION FAMILY LEGACY IN DAVIS**

Legal Fellow Giselle Garcia



**CHILDREN – NEGLECTED
VICTIMS OF POLITICS**

**Lessons from the UC – A 25 Year Experiment for
Race Neutral Admissions Processes**

**THE INCARCERATED
'WORKER'**

**HOW COLLECTIVE
POWER CREATES
PROFOUND IMPACT
FOR OUR TRANS
AND NON-BINARY
COMMUNITY**



**LABOR STRIKES
MELT I.C.E.**

**A Billion Dollar Jail Expansion
in Sacramento Will Cost
More Than Money**

**LET'S TALK ABOUT
DE-SENSATIONALIZING
CRITICAL RACE THEORY**

A QUIET DESCENT INTO ATROCITY

**#STOPCOPCITY –
WHERE ENVIRONMENTAL AND
POLICING STRUGGLES COLLIDE
IN THE PEOPLE'S FIGHT
TO PROTECT LIFE**

Angela Harris Prize for Critical Race Scholarship

March 2030

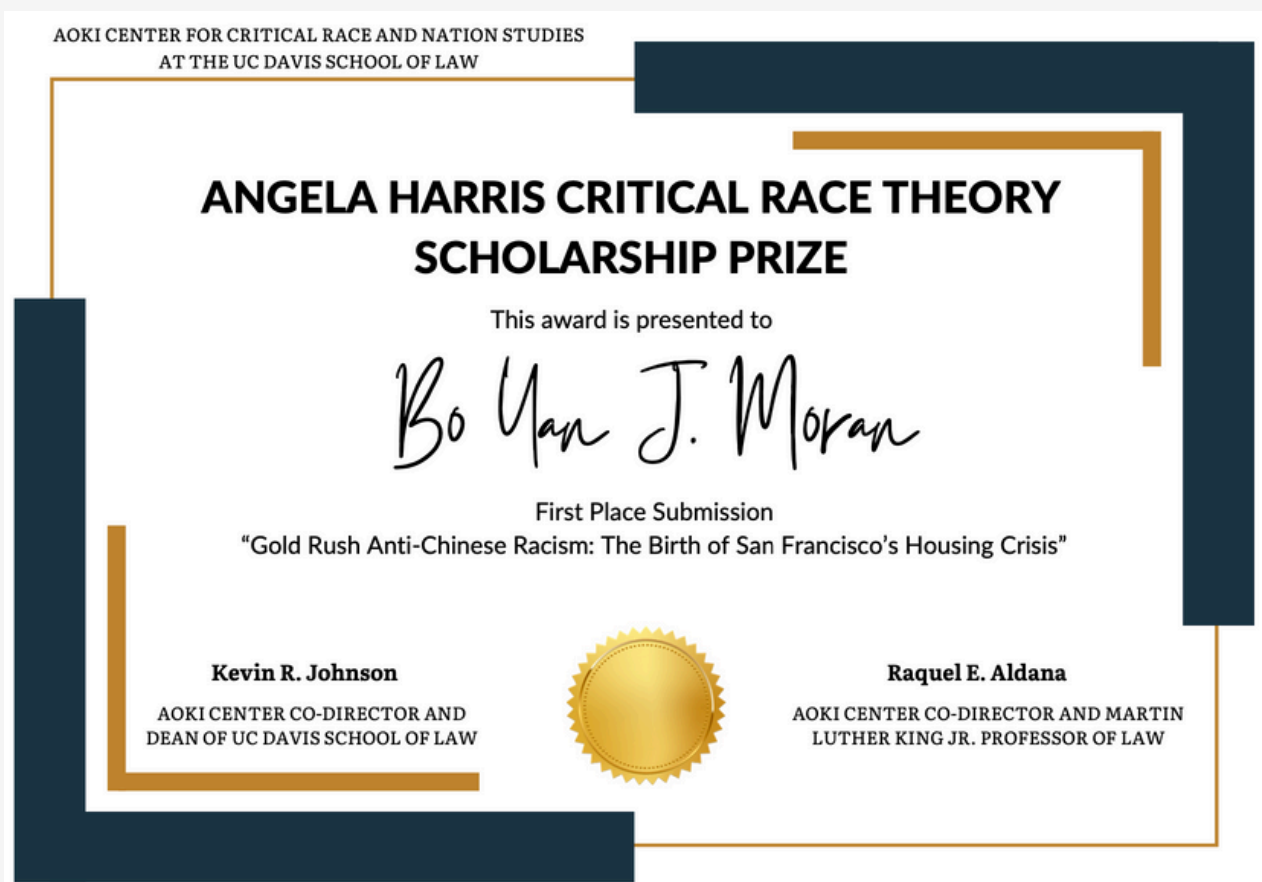
The Angela Harris Prize for Critical Race Scholarship is named after Professor Emerita Angela Harris, who has written extensively in the field of critical legal theory while examining how law sometimes reinforces and sometimes challenges subordination on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other dimensions of power and identity. Through her scholarly work and mentorship, generations of students have taken up the pursuit of examining law through a critical lens.

As an acknowledgement of the impact Professor Harris has made at King Hall, the Aoki Center dedicated the prize for critical race scholarship in her honor. The winning recipient receives a \$400 scholarship and their paper will be published into the Social Justice Law Review journal at UC Davis School of Law. The Harris Prize is awarded during the Public Interest Graduation for the paper which makes the most significant scholarly contribution in the field of critical race theory.

The 2024 Angela Harris Prize was awarded to

Bo Yan J. Moran '24

"Gold Rush Anti-Chinese Racism: The Birth of San Francisco's Housing Crisis"



Fall Welcome Mixer

The purpose of our Welcome Mixer was to connect with faculty, staff, and the student body to introduce the Center and our commitment to building community rooted in social justice work at King Hall. We collaborate with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director, Alexis Elston, and King Hall's DEI Committee.

The Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies & Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at King Hall

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at King Hall

Who are we?

*How can
you plug in?*

Aoki
CENTER

Meet:

Aoki Center Co-Directors
Dean Kevin R. Johnson and
Professor Raquel E. Aldana

Director of Diversity and
Student Life **Alexis Elston**

Aoki Center Legal Fellow
Giselle Garcia '23

2023-2024 **DEI Committee**
Members

JOIN



US

How can you plug in?



Blog about issues
that are important
to you!



Research
something you are
passionate about



Connect with student and local
org initiatives to get on the
ground experience!



Have a proposal?
Let's talk about it!



The School of Law's Racial Justice Speaker Series

Created in response to the tragic killings by police of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others and the widespread protests that followed, UC Davis Law's Racial Justice Speaker Series is now in its fourth year. Reaffirming the law school's longtime commitment to racial justice, the series invites leading scholars from around the country to explore systemic racism as it pertains to all communities of color and areas of law. The goals are to inform, enlighten, and - most important - engage in meaningful conversation with our King Hall community and the larger public.

The Aoki Center is proud to co-sponsor this powerful and important series.



"Go Back To Where You Came From - And Other Helpful Recommendations"

Wajahat Ali

Alum Wajahat Ali returned to King Hall to address the students and faculty through a blunt, honest, and entertaining conversation on how to build what he called a "multicultural coalition" to combat the rise of hate and bigotry in the U.S. He shared stories, lessons in hope, and awkward tales from law school.



"Reckoning with Race and Disability: Guardianship and Racial Extraction"

Jasmine E. Harris

Our national reckoning with racial injustice will be incomplete until we contend with the relationship between race and disability as legal categories in American law and policy. This discussion offered an opportunity to explore the intersection of race and disability through the history of one specific institution - guardianship.



"The Spectrum of Race for Social Justice"

Nicole Santamaría

Nicole Santamaria is the Executive Director of El/La Para TransLatinas, a non-profit dedicated to serving trans, intersex, and gender-diverse Latinx immigrants in the Bay Area. Nicole delved into the multifaceted dimensions of the racial justice movement, exploring the diverse experiences within the Latinx immigrant community. Drawing on personal and professional anecdotes, historical context, and current events, Nicole guided the audience through the intricacies of navigating race, identity, and intersectionality.



"Essential Worker, Expendable Family?"

Aziza Ahmed

From, COVID-19 to a lack of access to abortion, public health crises are shining light on the legal arrangements that shape the ability of individuals to live, that make people sick, or die. Yet, time and again, public health actors neglect to consider how families matter. The impact of this obfuscation is clear: poor health outcomes, especially for poor families of color. Drawing on insights from political economy and feminist legal theory, we explored why and how the family has been exceptionalized in the response to public health crises.



"Where American Constitutional Democracy Stands a Quarter Way Through the 21st Century"

Vikram Amar

Distinguished professor of law Vikram Amar discussed how the Supreme Court's commitment to a constitutional jurisprudence ostensibly grounded in principled originalism requires expertise in constitutional history that the current Justices and the Supreme Court bar by and large lack, and how law schools and legal academics can and should – if they are able to clean their own house first -- play a larger and salutary role in constitutional adjudication. He illustrated this theme through recent controversies involving the regulation of congressional and presidential elections – disputes whose proper resolution is vital to the preservation of our constitutional democracy.



"Native Justice Now: Perspectives on Disproportionate Incarceration and the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women"

Morning Star Gali

Morning Star Gali is the Project Director for Restoring Justice for Indigenous Peoples (RJIP) and the California Tribal and Community Liaison for the International Indian Treaty Council. She illuminated the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) as a pressing human rights issue in California, nationally, and internationally. Morning Star Gali addressed the historic and structural roots as well as far-reaching impacts of the MMIP crisis, current initiatives, and how the public can better support the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of crimes against Indigenous Peoples.

Critical Perspectives on 1L Classes Series

The purpose of the "Critical Perspectives" talk is twofold:

- First, to expose 1L students to critical perspectives that often do not make it onto the syllabus of regular first-year classes and connect students to the concerns and perspectives that brought them to law school in the first place.
- Second, to connect King Hall students more closely with our extraordinary faculty in areas of their expertise, such as race, immigration, gender, sexuality.

Through these talks, interested students can learn more about the cutting edge of legal scholarship in these fields and develop a better understanding of faculty research projects.



CONTRACT FORMATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS –

"THE SAME RIGHT ... TO MAKE AND ENFORCE CONTRACTS ... AS IS ENJOYED BY WHITE CITIZENS"

PROFESSOR JOHN HUNT



CIVIL PROCEDURE –

"CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CIVIL PROCEDURE"

PROFESSOR STACY-ANN ELVY



CRIMINAL LAW –

"IS CRIMINAL LAW INHERENTLY RACIST?"

PROFESSOR JACK CHIN

FALL 2023

SPRING 2024



Property

"Mapping Environmental Justice"

Professor Karrigan Börk



Torts

"Critical Perspectives on Tort Law"

Professor Shayak Sarkar



Constitutional Law

"What Role Should America's History of Bigotry Play in Constitutional Law?"

Professor Aaron Tang

UCD Hispanic Serving Institution Speaker Series

The Aoki Center and UCD Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted the HSI Speaker Series to foster a space of belonging to Latino/a/x students and community members.

UC DAVIS HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION SPEAKER SERIES



MELISSA MORENO, PH.D.

Professor of Ethnic Studies in the California Community College system and former CCC Ethnic Studies Faculty Council Co-Chair

ETHNIC STUDIES INGENUITY IN SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATION

Dr. Melissa Moreno presented about how Ethnic studies (i.e., NAS, CHI, AFROAM, AMS) and its origins, pedagogies, and research provides the basis for developing the intellectual capital to serve our communities. The teaching, learning, and research for “self-awareness” that has emerged from Ethnic studies has been transformative and life changing for many generations. Ethnic studies have made our society and the academy ethically and morally better, and has significantly contributed to the truth-telling and well-being of our communities.

THE AOKI CENTER & UC DAVIS OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION PRESENTS:



PROFESSOR MACEO MONTOYA

UC Davis Chicana/o Studies



Professor Maceo Montoya graced us with a collection of his artwork and the stories that inspired each piece. He reminded us all about the power of narrative to evoke our own emotions and those of our communities.

Interdisciplinary Speaker Series

Through this series, we reach out to race scholars in and outside of law who can help us deepen the ways we think about legal and policy reforms.

“LUCAS R. V. BECERRA – A LANDMARK WIN FOR YOUTH IN IMMIGRATION CUSTODY”



HOLLY COOPER

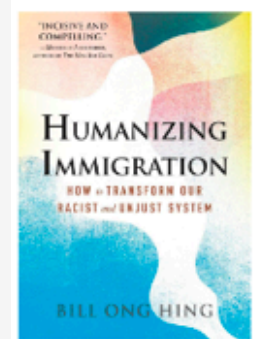
Lucas R. v. Becerra challenged the federal government’s unconstitutional treatment of children in immigration custody. In November 2023, three groundbreaking settlements were reached which significantly expanded the rights of three classes of youth in immigration custody: youth with disabilities, youth prescribed psychotropic medication, and youth seeking assistance from legal counsel. The UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic and Co-Director Holly Cooper helped litigate the case to reach such a successful outcome and shared some lessons with us.

“HUMANIZING IMMIGRATION: HOW TO TRANSFORM OUR RACIST AND UNJUST IMMIGRATION SYSTEM”



BILL HING

Professor of Law and Migration at USF, and Professor of Law and Asian American Studies Emeritus, UC Davis.



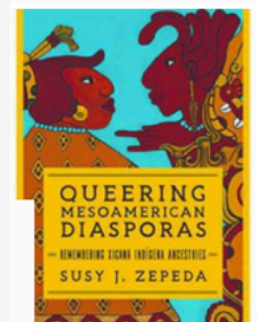
Bill Hing joined us at King Hall for a Book Talk on his latest work, *Humanizing Immigration: How to Transform Our Racist and Unjust Immigration System*. After fifty years working in immigration law and policy, it became clear to Professor Hing that immigration enforcement must end. His book is placed within the abolitionist framework - to abolish ICE. He expressed his frustration and reasoning through personal stories on racism and immigration law, child detention, deportation, the asylum procedure, and our broken immigration court system, and encourages disruption.

“QUEER XICANA INDÍGENA ROOT WORK: OPENING DIALOGUE TOWARDS DECOLONIZATION”



SUSY ZEPEDA

Professor, Chicana/o/x Studies Department, UC Davis



Professor Susy Zepeda joined us to articulate meditation on queer Xicana Indegenous root work with a focus on land and race to illuminate the possibilities of healing intergenerational trauma. She has done so unsettling Azatlan’s settler colonial tendencies and tracing queer ancestry. She argued for a recognition of spirit praxis - a pathway to remember ancestral knowledge and Indigenous wisdom that was left out of early Chicano studies or spoken as folklore that was not intellectual.

Aoki Symposium and Faculty Workshops

Our goal is also to support the work of CRT scholars and create spaces for open dialogue and feedback on each other's ongoing projects.

The Symposium on the Naturalization Act of 1790 featured prominent immigration scholars:

Gabriel J. Chin, Martin Luther King Jr. Professor and Edward L. Barrett Jr. Chair, and Director of Clinical Legal Education, UC Davis School of Law & **Paul Finkelman**, Professor Emeritus, Albany Law School.

Bethany Berger, Wallace Stevens Professor of Law, University of Connecticut School of Law.

Ming Hsu Chen, Harry & Lillian Hastings Research Chair; Faculty-Director, Center for Race, Immigration, Citizenship & Equality.

Rose Cuison-Villazor, Professor of Law and Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar; Director, Center for Immigration Law, Policy and Justice, Rutgers Law School

Amanda Frost, John A. Ewald Jr. Research Professor of Law, University of Virginia School of Law.

This year we introduced our lunchtime Faculty Workshop Series and held dynamic discussions with scholars regarding their research projects.

Irene Oritseweyinmi Joe, UC Davis School of Law
“Criminal Justice Actors (Recruitment and Retention)”

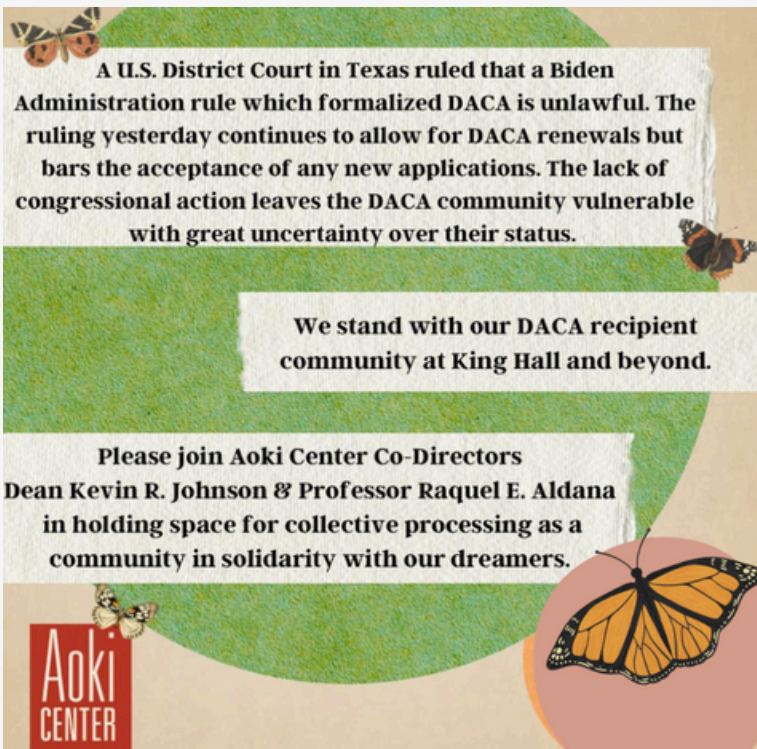
William Wiecek, Syracuse University College of Law
“The Dark Past: The United States Supreme Court and African Americans, 1800-2015.”

Rose Cuison-Villazor, Rutgers Law
“Forbidden Love: Immigration and Citizenship as Interracial Marriage Restrictions.”

Courtney Joslin, UC Davis School of Law
“Nonbinary Parenthood.”



Holding Space for Collective Processing and Healing



After a negative ruling on DACA, Aoki Center Co-Directors immediately organized a space for collective processing and discussion in support of our DACA community at King Hall and beyond.

A group of faculty, staff, and students met to discuss the state of the DACA program and potential action. In attendance were Aidin Castillo Mazantini, Executive Director of UC Immigrant Legal Services Center, and Co-Director of UCD's new Labor Center, Professor of Law Leticia Saucedo, who provided meaningful insight and perspectives to the discussion.

The Israel & Palestine war has shaken the world and its impacts have been deeply felt by our King Hall Community. In an attempt to address the collective emotion on the conflict, the Aoki Center and California International Law Center collaborated to host two conversations.

A CONVERSATION ON ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

A FURTHER CONVERSATION ON ISRAEL AND PALESTINE: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Professor Raquel Aldana, an expert in human rights, and Chimène Keitner, an expert in international law moderated these discussions using their background experiences with international law and human rights abuses.

Featured Moderators



UC Davis School of Law
Martin Luther King
Professor of Law
Chimène Keitner



UC Davis School of
Law Martin Luther
King Professor of Law
Raquel Aldana

On Historical and Contemporary Legal Issues

John Marshall, Chief Justice, Slave Owner, And Slave Trader

Professor Paul Finkelman



For most Constitutional scholars, John Marshall has always been seen as "the Great Chief Justice." He is described as a moderate opponent of slavery who did not like the institution but was concerned about strengthening the Union and keeping the South in it and thus, in the "few" slave cases he heard, he supported the rights of the states to control their own institutions.

Paul Finkelman's recent Harvard University Press book, *Supreme Injustice: Slavery in the Nation's Highest Court*, demonstrates none of this was true. Marshall owned hundreds of slaves in his lifetime, buying and selling them to enhance his wealth, and as a justice he never supported Black freedom - always finding a way to hold Black individuals in slavery, even when trial juries thought Black plaintiffs were entitled to their freedom. In cases dealing with the banned African slave trade, Marshall protected slave traders often in direct violation of U.S. law. Finkelman encouraged us to learn about how academic scholarship can help Americans rethink our history and reexamine our heroes.



Peter Irons

Peter H. Irons is an American political activist, civil rights attorney, legal scholar, and professor emeritus of political science. He visited King Hall and gave two presentations, "The Most Dangerous Branch: The Impossibility of Supreme Court Reform," and "Failure to Assimilate: The Crime of Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu."

He provided empowering discussions filled with personal experiences which has led him to his conclusion - it's time to organize and fight back.



Collaborating with King Hall Students



AFTER THE NEWS STOPS PUBLISHING - the Continued Immigration Crisis of Afghans in Northern California

Two years ago in August, 2021, the main story of every news source for weeks was the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban, the rushed exit of the U.S. military after 20 years of war, and the chaos surrounding trying to evacuate the thousands of Afghans who worked with the U.S. and were promised green cards. Now two years later, Americans have moved on, not realizing that many of the Afghans who were brought here still do not have permanent immigration status.

Come learn about the importance of legal services work in the continued journey of helping our Afghan allies.

Tuesday, October 31 | 12:00 PM | Room 1301 | Lunch Provided

SPONSORED BY:

HALO Humanitarian Aid Legal Organization
University of California, Davis School of Law

AOKI CENTER for
CRITICAL RACE & NATION STUDIES



OUR PANELISTS ARE ADVOCATES DEDICATED TO THIS WORK:

ANNA COLBY, WORLD RELIEF SACRAMENTO

NAWID QATEH, WORLD RELIEF SACRAMENTO

JENNIFER HENNESSY, INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

SARAH TORRES, OPENING DOORS

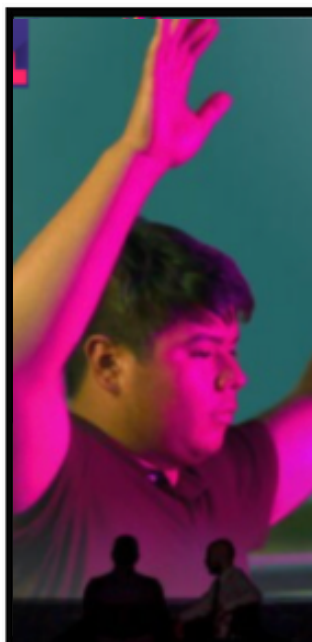
We were proud to host four dedicated advocates for Afghan migrants at King Hall! Sacramento hosts the largest diaspora of Afghans in the country and the need to assist recent migrants after the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban is tremendous.

We learned how a group of attorneys and other legal professionals have come together to form a coalition to assist migrants! We thank the Humanitarian Legal Aid Organization and Immigration Law Association for co-sponsoring!

The Aoki Center was proud to host a film screening of *Sansón and Me*, depicting the story of an immigrant youth serving life without parole for first-degree murder after being the driver when a drive by shooting occurred.

This event was co-sponsored by 7 other King Hall student orgs (Humanitarian Legal Aid Organization, Latinx Law Students Organization, First Generation Advocates, Native American Law Students Association, Immigration Law Association, Jewish Law Students Association, and Students Against Mass Incarceration), 1 main campus org (Underground Scholars), and the California Incarcerated Worker's Organizing Committee.

It featured a rich discussion moderated by Professors Raquel Aldana and Gabriel "Jack" Chin. We were graced by a formerly incarcerated community member who shared their experiences within the prison system and parole.



WE INVITE YOU TO THE FILM SCREENING OF:

SANSÓN AND ME

Brought to you by filmmaker Rodrigo Reyes, *Sansón and Me* tells the story of an immigrant serving life without parole for first-degree murder - after being the driver when a drive by shooting occurred. Because authorities did not allow Sansón to be filmed, his story is shared through dramatic reenactments of his letters, using members of his own family as actors.

We hope to bring awareness and engage in thoughtful discussion regarding the intricacies of our penal system and its profound connection to our immigration system.

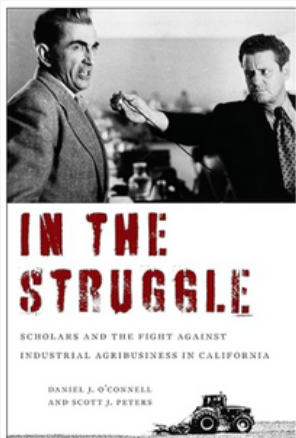
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CRITICAL RACE & NATION STUDIES

HALO Humanitarian Aid Legal Organization
University of California, Davis School of Law



Co-Sponsorships with Main Campus



In The Struggle: Scholars and the Fight Against Industrial Agribusiness in California Book Reading and Panel

Featuring: Dan O'Connell, Scott Peters, Dean MacCannell, Janaki Anagha (Community Water Center and graduate of UC Davis Law School) Mary Louise Frampton (Emeritus, UC Davis Law School) and moderated by Jonathan London (Department of Human Ecology).

In the Struggle brings together the stories of eight politically engaged scholars, documenting their opposition to industrial-scale agribusiness in California. It lays out historic, subterranean confrontations over water rights, labor organizing, and the corruption of democratic principles and public institutions. As California's rural economy increasingly consolidates into the hands of land barons and corporations, the scholars' work shifts from analyzing problems and formulating research methods to organizing resistance and building community power. Throughout their engagement, they face intense political blowback as powerful economic interests work to pollute and undermine scientific inquiry and the civic purposes of public universities.



The Aoki Center and Department of Asian American Studies at UCD hosted a special screening of *Free Chol Soo Lee*! The documentary depicts the incarceration of a young Korean immigrant who was wrongfully convicted for a murder he did not commit and the pan-Asian social movement that arose in NorCal to free him. The screening was followed by a panel of activists, lawyers, and advocates of Chol Soo Lee.

A Legacy for Moving Forward

Co-moderated by Prof. Richard Kim, Asian American Studies & Prof. Raquel Aldana, School of Law

Panelists:

Ranko Yamada, Free Chol Soo Lee activist
Leonard Tauman, public defender for Chol Soo Lee
Stuart Hanlon, trial attorney for Chol Soo Lee
Gail Whang, Free Chol Soo Lee activist
David Kakishiba, Free Chol Soo Lee activist
Sakhone Lasaphangthong, formerly incarcerated community activist

Do Kim, President, The K.W. Lee Center for Leadership

Special guests:

K.W. Lee, investigative journalist
Julie Ha, filmmaker

UC DAVIS
DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN
AMERICAN STUDIES



APALSA

Building the Prison-to-School Pipeline



The Underground Scholars Initiative supports formerly incarcerated students across the UC

at UC Davis

The Aoki Center was proud to co-sponsor Underground Scholaries UC Davis at King Hall for their "Building the Prison-to-School Pipeline." Formerly incarcerated students at different levels of their higher education - community college, undergrad, graduate school - came together to encourage other formerly incarcerated community members to pursue their higher education goals because there is a community for them here at UC Davis and even more allies!

Aoki Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who engages with our weekly newsletter! March 2030

We hope it serves a 'one-stop' hub to receive updates about the wonderful events being hosted and projects being worked on by the Aoki Center and its affiliates. The newsletter also aims to highlight other DEI and racial justice initiatives being held at King Hall, UC Davis main campus, and the greater Davis-Sacramento area. Catch up on our weekly issues here:

SPRING
'24

- [Week 16 Spring 2024 \(04/22/24\) - 04/26/24\)](#)
- [Week 15 Spring 2024 \(04/15/24\) - 04/19/24\)](#)
- [Week 14 Spring 2024 \(04/08/24\) - 04/12/24\)](#)
- [Week 13 Spring 2024 \(04/01/24\) - 04/05/24\)](#)
- [Week 12 Spring 2024 \(03/25/24\) - 03/29/24\)](#)
- [Week 11 Spring 2024 \(03/18/24\) - 03/22/24\)](#)
- [Week 10 Spring 2024 \(03/11/24\) - 03/15/24\)](#)
- [Week 9 Spring 2024 \(03/04/24\) - 03/08/24\)](#)
- [Week 8 Spring 2024 \(02/26/24\) - 03/01/24\)](#)
- [Week 7 Spring 2024 \(02/19/24 - 02/23/24\)](#)
- [Week 6 Spring 2024 \(02/12/24 - 02/16/24\)](#)
- [Week 5 Spring 2024 \(02/05/24 - 02/09/24\)](#)
- [Week 4 Spring 2024 \(01/29/24 - 02/02/24\)](#)
- [Week 3 Spring 2024 \(01/22/24 - 01/26/24\)](#)
- [Week 2 Spring 2024 \(01/15/24 - 01/19/24\)](#)
- [Week 1 Spring 2024 \(01/08/24 - 01/12/24\)](#)

FALL
'23

- [Week 15, Fall 2023 \(11/27/23- 12/01/23\)](#)
- [Week 14, Fall 2023 \(11/20/23- 11/24/23\)](#)
- [Week 13, Fall 2023 \(11/13/23- 11/17/23\)](#)
- [Week 12, Fall 2023 \(11/06/23- 11/10/23\)](#)
- [Week 11, Fall 2023 \(10/30/23- 11/03/23\)](#)
- [Week 10, Fall 2023 \(10/22/23- 10/27/23\)](#)
- [Week 9, Fall 2023 \(10/16/23- 10/20/23\)](#)
- [Week 8, Fall 2023 \(10/09/23- 10/13/23\)](#)
- [Week 7, Fall 2023 \(10/02/23- 10/06/23\)](#)
- [Week 6, Fall 2023 \(09/25/23- 09/29/23\)](#)
- [Week 5, Fall 2023 \(09/18/23- 09/22/23\)](#)
- [Week 4, Fall 2023 \(09/11/23- 09/15/23\)](#)
- [Week 3, Fall 2023 \(09/04/23- 09/08/23\)](#)
- [Week 2, Fall 2023 \(08/28/23- 09/01/23\)](#)
- [Week 1, Fall 2023 \(08/21/23- 08/25/23\)](#)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



We thank **Nina-Marie Bell** for her exceptional support and work for the Aoki Center. Giselle gives a special thanks to Nina-Marie for her support this year.

Nina-Marie started her career at the King Hall in 2008. In 2013, the Aoki Center for Critical Race & Nation Studies was established in memory of Professor Keith Aoki. Nina-Marie served as Professor Aoki's Faculty Support Assistant and has lovingly represented the center that carries his namesake.



We also thank the **Information Technology Department at the UC Davis School of Law** for their dedication to providing unparalleled service and support to the King Hall community and Aoki Center events.

We give a special mention to **Andrea Lopez Arguello** who has worked closely with the Aoki Center. Andrea was this year's recipient of the Chancellor's Achievement Award for Diversity and Community. This prestigious award recognizes Andrea's contributions to diversity, equity and inclusion in support of our campus and great community.

— AOKI CENTER *for* —
CRITICAL RACE & NATION STUDIES

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