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The Undergraduate Historical and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies Journal at UC Merced

Volume 10, Issue 1



THE UNDERGRADUATE HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL RACE & ETHNIC STUDIES JOURNAL AT UC MERCED

Volume 10, Issue 1 (Spring 2025)

The Undergraduate Historical and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies Journal at the University of California, Merced

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Letter from the Editor-in-Chief and Co-Editor-in-Chief

For the past few years, we have been living in a time marked by ongoing global crises, widespread protests for justice, and powerful acts of local resistance—all of which influenced the making of this issue of the *HCRES Undergraduate Journal*. Social Justice, Global Conflict, and Local Resistance are the three core themes that form the heart of this issue. We chose these core themes because they resonate deeply with the current political climate. Although these themes are deeply embedded in historical and critical race and ethnic studies scholarship, the articles and reviews in this issue continues that dialogue—bridging past and present through interdisciplinary analysis and reflection.

It is vital to continue these conversations and to recognize how historical events, such as colonialism and resistance, continue to shape our world today. The student scholarship compiled in this issue does just that by reflecting on the historical experiences of people of color who endured colonialism and oppression, and fought back through resistance and community-building efforts. The student authors featured in this issue have approached their subjects with critical rigor and deep care. Without contributions from our authors and the HCRES faculty at the University of California, Merced, this issue would not be possible. They all have worked tirelessly to bring the key topics of Social Justice, Global Conflict, and Local Resistance to light, and to UC Merced Undergraduate students as a whole student body. Thank you to the editorial board and HCRES faculty for all the hard work!

Overall, we are so ecstatic to bring the HCRES Journal back for another edition! We hope you enjoy this new issue and that it prompts you to think critically about the world and events around you, as the political climate seems to be ever-shifting, now more than ever.

Dalila Barragán and Brooke Acebo
Editor in Chief and Co-Editor in Chie

Faculty Forward

The Department of History and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies (HCRES) proudly presents the Spring 2025 issue of the HCRES Undergraduate Journal (Volume 10, Issue 1). This issue is the sixteenth overall to be published by our History and CRES majors at UC Merced, and just the second issue to be released since we relaunched the Journal in 2024 after its hiatus during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our new and returning members of the Journal's student-led editorial board worked tirelessly during the 2024-2025 academic year to produce, promote, and eventually publish essays and reviews written by their peers. This important scholarly work is representative of the editorial board's sharp aptitude for disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, joyful curiosity for learning about new cultures, places, and ideas, empathy for their HCRES classmates, and steadfast commitment to 'get the work done.' Moreover, this new issue is a product of continued community building initiatives in HCRES and concerted efforts by faculty members and our students to foster and celebrate undergraduate research excellence.

The editorial board sought out paper submissions around the theme of Social Justice, Global Conflict, and Local Resistance to encourage their peers to think critically about processes of oppression and exploitation in the past and present. Through their social media and in-person campaigning in Fall 2024, they marshaled a great deal of enthusiasm for the new issue and HCRES students eagerly submitted their revised term papers, writing assignments, and other research projects to be considered for publication. The editorial board honed their professional skills, like copyediting and community outreach, as they conducted peer reviews of article submissions and worked in collaboration with HCRES faculty reviewers. This current issue is a testament to their teamwork, determination, and unbounded passion to not only bring attention to global and local injustices, but to highlight the acute ways that ordinary women, men, and children resisted subjugation throughout history and in the present-day. It contains one interview with a historian, four articles, two book reviews, and the Journal's first film review.

This collection of outstanding student scholarship will take readers across diverse settings in time and space, from the conquests of the Mongol Empire during the 13th and 14th centuries to the rebellious concerts of 1980s Chilean rock bands during the reign of Pinochet. From these contributions, readers will be introduced to enduring themes, such as colonialism, identity formation, resistance, and community-making, that remain at the heart of both History and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies research. I am grateful for the leadership of the Journal's Editors-in-Chief, Brooke Acebo and Dalila Barragan, and the hard work of our Editors: Castner Hatanaka, Katy Vargas, Kendra Sesco, Virginia Mateo, and Noe Rangel. I am so proud of the team's collegiality, compassion, and dedication to the Journal and each other. I have been lucky to serve with them, and their work is undoubtedly a harbinger of continued academic excellence and community building among our intrepid HCRES student body at UC Merced.

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