

CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

**REALIZING EQUITY:  
A TRANSDISCIPLINARY  
APPROACH TO JUSTICE  
& TRANSFORMATIVE  
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

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MAY 1, 2021  
9:00 AM PDT

**9:00 AM OPENING REMARKS**

**Quamina Carter**, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students & Campus Life

**Len Jessup**, President, CGU

**Andrew Vosko**, Associate Provost and Director of Transdisciplinary Studies Program

**9:10 AM KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

"Beyond Diversity: The Perspectives and Experiences of International Faculty on Diversity in U.S. Higher Education"

**Sunghee Nam**, Director of the Center for Integrative Studies and a lecturer at California State University, Channel Islands

**9:25 AM BREAK****9:30 AM ROUND TABLE SESSION 1**

Table 1 Theme: Critical & Intersectional Research: Youth Disparities Across the Educational Spectrum

Faculty Facilitator: Gloria González, Associate Professor of Psychology (SSSPE)

- **Franchesca Ocasio (SES)** - "In their own words: An exploration of the educational experiences of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) girls and gender expansive individuals in foster care"
- **Jonathan Lee (SES)** - "Rainbow Ceiling: School aged homeless LGBTQ students and how it impacts their education, housing, and employment"

Table 2 Theme: Analyzing Contemporary Issues in Societies: Exploring Economic & Political Inequalities

Faculty Facilitator: Javier Rodríguez, Mary Toepelt Nicolai and George S. Blair Assistant Professor (SSSPE)

- **Yuzhu Zeng (DPE)** - "The Effects of China's Divorce Law on Gender Inequality"
- **Amad Abukhzaam (DPE)** and **Abdurraouf Elakder (DPE)** - "Regional marginalization of Fezzan Region in Libya"

Table 3 Theme: Ethnographic Research and Representations: Re-Defining Cultural Poetics & Consciousness

Faculty Facilitator: Joshua Goode, Associate Professor of Cultural Studies and History (SAH)

- **Genesis Zavaleta (SAH)** - "The Poetics of Hustling"

**10:20 AM BREAK****10:25 AM VISUAL STORYTELLING**

Faculty Facilitator: Eve Oishi, Associate Professor of Cultural Studies (SAH)

- **Reener Balingit (SCGH)** - "A Healthy Perspective on the COVID-19 Pandemic among Filipinx/a/o Seniors"

**10:55 AM BREAK****11:00 AM ROUND TABLE SESSION 2**

Table 1 Theme: Moving Beyond DEI: Exploring Racial Equity & Leadership Advancement in the Workplace

Faculty Moderator: Kristine Kawamura, Clinical Professor of Management (Drucker)

- **Yvonne Farrow (CBMArts)** - "White/Black Space + Occupational Hierarchy = Racial Battle Fatigue"
- **Amber Kea-Edwards (DBOS)** - "Moving Beyond Diversity: Understanding and Predicting Leader Development for Black Employees"

Table 2 Theme: Inclusive Research Practices: The Role of Researchers in the Co-Creation of Knowledge

Faculty Moderator: Andrew Vosko, Associate Provost and Director of Transdisciplinary Studies Program

- **Hinako Irei (DBOS)** - "Pathway to Peace: Research 'With' Youth, Not 'On'"

**11:50 AM CLOSING REMARKS**

**Rachel Camacho**, Director of Student Engagement



**Sunghee Nam, PhD**  
*California State University,  
Channel Islands*

Sunghee Nam is a director of the Center for Integrative Studies and a lecturer at California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI). After receiving her doctoral degree in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she taught at several universities in the U.S., South Korea, and Finland. In 2014, she received CSUCI's 2014 President's Award for Innovations in Teaching and Learning. Her research interests include the impact of globalization on higher education in South Korea, first-generation college students and the critical race theory, and international faculty in U.S. higher education.

She serves as a senior board member of Educators Without Borders, a South Korean non-profit organization. Currently, she is working with local community organizations in Kenya on a project that aims to promote girls' education and stop the practice of female genital mutilation.

Sunghee loves to travel and meet people from different cultures. What she discovered from her world travel experiences is that cultural differences do not prevent her from truly meeting and connecting with people, and that keeps her faith in humanity.



**Amad Abukhzaam**  
*Division of Politics &  
Economics*

Amad Abukhzaam (MA, International Studies, '20) is a doctoral student in political science at the Division of Politics & Economics. He is an economist who specializes in methods and procedures for collecting and processing data. Amad earned his Master of Arts in International Studies at Claremont Graduate University.



**Reener Balingit**  
*School of Community &  
Global Health*

Reener Balingit is a master's student in Public Health with a concentration in Health Promotion, Education and Evaluation at the School of Global and Community Health, Claremont Graduate University. She is the Mental Health Program Director at the Filipino American Service Group, Incorporated (FASGI), leading initiatives to provide health and wellness education and promotion throughout the residents of Los Angeles. Reener aims to bridge the health disparities gap among underserved and vulnerable communities through research, advocacy, and health promotion and education.



**Abdurraouf Elakder**  
*Division of Politics &  
Economics*

Abdurraouf Elakder is a doctoral student in comparative politics at the Division of Politics & Economics at Claremont Graduate University. Previously, he was a teacher's assistant in political science at the University of Tripoli, Libya.



**Yvonne Farrow**  
*Center for Business &  
Management of the Arts*

Yvonne Farrow is a master's student at the Center for Business & Management of the Arts at Claremont Graduate University. She is a Performing Arts Program Special Projects Coordinator and Liaison to the Vision Theatre/ Manchester Junior Arts Center for the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). Yvonne is an award-winning actress, producer, choralographer, and filmmaker. She is also a co-partner with her twin sister in their production company, TWINBIZ, whose mission is to write, direct and produce artistic works which seek to educate, entertain and serve, with a special focus on using the performing arts as a tool for social change.



**Amber Kea-Edwards**  
*Division of Behavioral &  
Organizational Sciences*

Amber Kea-Edwards is doctoral student in Positive Organizational Psychology at Claremont Graduate University. Her research interest includes race, leader identity, and leader development. As a research associate at LeAD Labs, she has presented at both national and international conferences and has a publication in the *Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies*. She currently teaches organizational behavior at California State Polytechnical University, Pomona in the school of Management and Human Resources.



**Jonathan Lee**  
*School of Educational  
Studies*

Jonathan Lee is a doctoral student in the School of Educational Studies, majoring in Education Policy, Evaluation, and Reform at Claremont Graduate University. Jonathan earned his Master of Arts in Teaching for Single Subject Social Studies, and GATE Certificate from the University of Southern California. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and Medieval Studies from Georgetown University. His research interests focus on LGBTQ issues, homeless students, education policy and equity, social justice, and Asian- American students in k-16. Jonathan is also fluent in Korean.



**Franchesca Ocasio**  
*School of Educational  
Studies*

Franchesca Alejandra Ocasio (she/her) is a doctoral student at the School of Educational Studies, Claremont Graduate University. Her research interests include the school to prison pipeline, Critical Race Feminism and Disability Critical Race Theory. She is currently conducting her dissertation research, exploring the disciplinary experiences of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), women and gender, and expansive individuals with lived experience in the foster care system. When she isn't working on her dissertation, Franchesca works at Planned Parenthood Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley as an Education Project Specialist. Franchesca enjoys community organizing, playing music and spending time with her dogs.



Genesis Zavaleta is a master's student in Cultural Studies at the School of Arts & Humanities, Claremont Graduate University. She is born and raised in Los Angeles, California.

**Genesis Zavaleta**

*School of Arts & Humanities*



Yuzhu Zeng is a doctoral student in Political Science at the Division of Politics & Economics, Claremont Graduate University. She is also a TRC research fellow for DPE. Yuzhu is focusing on International Relations and Comparative Politics. Her research interests include the political capacity of governments, relations between the U.S. and China, the impact of inequality in the developing world, and demographics within a subnational framework.

**Yuzhu Zeng**

*Division of Politics & Economics*

**Student presenters not pictured**

- **Hinako Irei**

*Division of Behavioral & Organizational Sciences*

*The Realizing Equity: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Justice & Transformative Research Symposium* showcases research for positive social transformation from CGU students committed to scholarship in equity and justice. It is a platform to further one's own research, dialogue with colleagues, and further develop research and presentation skills for future academic conferences and other field-specific opportunities.

At Claremont Graduate University, we prepare scholars and practitioners to be leaders in their disciplines and active citizens in creating positive change in the world.

Realizing equity and justice in the spaces and places we occupy, whether in the disciplines where our scholarship is created or in the fields in which our practice occurs, requires reflection, critical thinking and application of the knowledge that we possess.

### **Faculty Facilitators**

- **Dionne Benson-Smith**, Adjunct Lecturer, AGS/WGS
- **Gloria Gonzalez**, Associate Professor of Psychology
- **Joshua Goode**, Associate Professor of Cultural Studies and History
- **Kristine Kawamura**, Clinical Professor of Management
- **Eve Oishi**, Associate Professor of Cultural Studies
- **Javier Rodriguez**, Mary Toepelt Nicolai and George S. Blair Assistant Professor
- **Andrew Vosko**, Associate Provost and Director of Transdisciplinary Studies Program

### **Research Symposium Conference Committee**

- **David Altman**, Associate Director of Admissions
- **Rachel Camacho**, Director of Student Engagement
- **Heather Case**, Assistant Director of Student Life & International Services
- **Deja Darrington**, Communications & Events Specialist
- **David Estudiente**, Assistant Director of Student Engagement
- **Andrea Montoya**, Admissions & Events Coordinator
- **Eve Oishi**, Associate Professor of Cultural Studies
- **Richard Ross**, Assistant Director of Transdisciplinary Studies Program
- **Andrew Vosko**, Associate Provost and Director of Transdisciplinary Studies Program
- **Marcus Weakley**, Director, Center for Writing & Rhetoric



# CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

## **Claremont Graduate University Schools:**

- CBMArts - Center for Business & Management of the Arts
- CISAT - Center for Information Systems & Technology
- DBOS - Division of Behavioral & Organizational Sciences
- Drucker - Drucker School of Management
- DPE - Division of Politics & Economics
- IMS - Institute of Mathematical Sciences
- SAH - Arts & Humanities
- SCGH - Community & Global Health
- SES - School of Educational Studies
- SSSPE - Social Science, Policy & Evaluation

