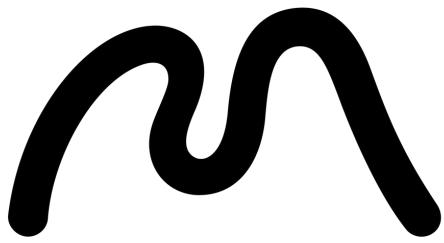


# WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

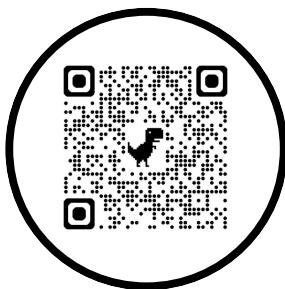
## 2024

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Mellon Mays  
Undergraduate  
Fellowship

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8-9, 2024**



Whittier College  
Villalobos Hall  
Whittier, CA 90602

**HOSTED BY WHITTIER COLLEGE & UCLA**

# WELCOME MESSAGE

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Welcome to the 2024 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference! Whittier College and UCLA—your co-hosts—are thrilled to welcome you to sunny southern California for two days of learning, networking, art, and, of course, research!



**UCLA**

## Hotel

DoubleTree by Hilton Whittier Los Angeles  
7320 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602  
562-945-8511  
(.6 mile walk from Villalobos Hall at Whittier College)  
Parking at the hotel is complimentary

## Conference Wi-Fi

Network: guest  
Password: gopoets

## MMUF Western Regional Conference Contact Email

[mmufwrc2024@college.ucla.edu](mailto:mmufwrc2024@college.ucla.edu)

# MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

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Established in 1988 to address the barriers that result in the problem of underrepresentation in the faculty ranks of higher education, the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) is committed to supporting a diverse professoriate and to promoting the value of multivocality in the humanities and related disciplines, elevating accounts, interpretations, and narratives that expand present understandings. Its name honors Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, the noted African American educator, statesman, minister, and former president of Morehouse College.

Founded with an initial cohort of eight member institutions, the program has grown to include forty-seven member schools and three consortia, including the UNCF consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Thus far the program has produced more than 1,100 PhDs, almost 800 of whom are currently college professors and 300 of whom have taken their humanities training into venues ranging from museums and nonprofit organizations to publishing houses and government positions. At any given time, about 800 MMUF fellows are enrolled in PhD programs, while the fellowship supports approximately 500 undergraduate students each year.

Through a pipeline process that emphasizes mentoring, research support, programming, and student cohort building, Mellon partners with member colleges and universities to identify and support students of great promise and help them become scholars and professionals of the highest distinction. (Source: [mellon.org/mmuf](http://mellon.org/mmuf))

# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

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## Keynote Speaker

### **Dr. Jamaal Muwwakkil**



Dr. Jamaal Muwwakkil is a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Education and Information Studies at UCLA. He was also named a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellow at UCLA. Jamaal earned a PhD in Linguistics from UC Santa Barbara and is a scholar of language, race, and higher education. His work has been published in venues such as *Transforming Anthropology*, *Inside Higher Education*, and the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*.

## Opening Remarks



### **Dr. sal johnston**

Dr. sal johnston joined the faculty of Whittier College in 1996 after receiving his doctoral degree in sociology from the University of Oregon. Johnston's academic and practical focus is on sustainability, ecological, social, and economic. As a Professor of Sociology, he coordinated the Environmental Studies program. A recipient of the Whittier College Nerhood Teaching Award in 2003, his courses have focused on sociological theory, social change, power and politics, and sustainable food systems. Johnston served in several faculty leadership positions at Whittier including chair of the faculty. In his role as Vice President for Academic Affairs, sal has been instrumental in working with faculty and Academic Affairs leadership in providing support for an assessment and realignment of new resources for student success support, ensuring that Whittier's financial resources are aligned to the College's academic mission, and championing the faculty-led curriculum renewal.



### **Dr. Kay Sanders**

As Associate Vice President and Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Kay Sanders provides intellectual and strategic leadership and advocates for the structural and cultural changes necessary to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion at Whittier College. Additionally, Sanders is a Professor of Child Development. Her research focuses on the racial and ethnic socialization processes of child care for low-income racial, ethnic, and language minority children. She received her PhD at UCLA Graduate School of Education.



## Dr. Melissa Mesinas

Dr. Melissa Mesinas is a second-generation Zapotec from Santiago Zochila, Oaxaca and part of the Oaxacan diaspora living in the United States. Melissa received her PhD in Education from Stanford University and bachelor's degree in Psychology and Hispanic Studies from Scripps College. Her research focuses on the cultural nature of development and learning. She is interested in the social and cultural contexts of learning, especially the ones of Indigenous Latinx communities. Melissa has worked closely with Oaxacan children, adolescents, and parents in California for over 10 years. Her work appears in journals such as the Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences, Association of Mexican American Educators Journal, and Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education. Melissa works closely with local Indigenous communities and districts on educational opportunities and the preservation of arts and culture. She is currently a Board of Director for the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project that serves Indigenous communities in south and central California.

## MMUF Alumni Graduate School Panel



### Elvira De La Torre

Elvira De La Torre attended Whittier College where she majored in Sociology and minored in Latino Studies. While attending Whittier College, she earned the Jan and John Cauffman Fellowship and the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF). After graduating in 2020 and with the help of her advisors, Elvira began her graduate career at the University of California, Riverside in 2021. As a fourth-year Sociology PhD student, her research broadly focuses on how family members navigate the crimmigration system. Much of Elvira's research interest stems from her background as a first-generation, system-impacted college student and a daughter of immigrant parents.



### Lynette Dixon

Lynette Dixon (she/her/hers) earned a Bachelor of Arts in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality from Emory University and a Master of Arts in African American and African Students from The Ohio State University. As a doctoral student at UCLA, her research utilizes black feminist thought, performance theory, and hip-hop studies to explore the techniques of embodiment Black women in popular culture employ to navigate, contest, and innovate performances of gender and sexuality.



## Jewell Humphrey

Jewell Ruth-Ella Humphrey is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a proud alumna of Africana studies at Howard University. Her research interests include Black digital humanities, twentieth-century Black community organizing, African diaspora maritime heritage, and digital archival practices. Her dissertation titled "Black Star Archive: Digital Heritage Preservation & the Materiality of the UNIA" addresses the need for a centralized digital archive of the twentieth-century organization Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)- contending that virtual practices can be utilized to expand the definitions of archival research in archaeology. Inspired by her namesakes and grandmothers, Jewel & Ruth Ella, her love for heritage preservation is the driving passion behind this work.



## Yasmin Mendoza

Yasmin Mendoza (she/her) is a third-year PhD student in the Literature department at the University of California, Davis. She earned her BA at Whittier College in 2021 and became an MMUF Fellow in 2020. Her undergraduate degree is in English and Theatre with an emphasis in performance. Currently, her research interests broadly focus on speculative fiction, law, and Science and Technology Studies. She has continued to be involved with organizations that support folks in marginalized communities by serving as the Vice-President of Graduate Scholars of Color+ and being a co-organizer of the UC Davis Graduate Anti-Racism Symposium in 2023.



## Dr. John Paul "JP" Paniagua

Dr. John Paul Paniagua studies colonial Latin America and the early modern Atlantic world with a particular focus on Indigenous experiences of Caribbean colonization. He is working on his first book, which examines how diasporas and differing imperial regimes shaped Native survival patterns across the Greater Antilles. Since learning of the "hidden curriculums" as a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow at Whittier College, he has been a committed mentor and adviser. At Princeton, he advised first-generation and low-income freshmen as part of the Scholars Institute Fellows Program. This year, he will serve as a BEACoN Research Mentor for underrepresented students at Cal Poly. His research has been funded by the Social Science Research Council, and he recently published in the *William and Mary Quarterly*.

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## MMUF Resources and Opportunities: Graduate School and Beyond



### **Dr. Renee Johnson-Thornton**

Dr. Renee Johnson-Thornton earned a doctorate in Education from University of Rhode Island/Rhode Island College. The first member of her family to earn a college degree, Dr. Johnson-Thornton earned a BA from Binghamton University in English and African & African American Studies, and a MA in Liberal Studies from Wesleyan University. Prior to joining the Mellon Foundation, Dr. Johnson-Thornton had an extensive career in student affairs, served on countless committees, and coordinated several grant funded programs including Wesleyan University's MMUF Program. During her 22-year tenure at Wesleyan University, Dr. Johnson-Thornton served as Dean for Diversity and Engagement, Dean for Equity and Inclusion, and Academic Advising Dean. Currently, Dr. Johnson-Thornton holds the position of Senior Program Associate/Associate Director of Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship at the Mellon Foundation where she manages the 44 individual member programs and 3 consortia. She also oversees grants to the Social Science Research Council and the Institute for Citizens and Scholars that supports MMUF alumni on their path to earning their PhDs.

## Arts Event



### **Dr. Douglas Manuel**

Dr. Douglas Manuel was born in Anderson, Indiana and now resides in Whittier, California. He received a BA in Creative Writing from Arizona State University, an MFA in poetry from Butler University, and a PhD in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. He is the author of two collections of poetry, *Testify* (2017) and *Trouble Funk* (2023). His poems and essays can be found in numerous literary journals, magazines, and websites, most recently *Zyzyva*, *Pleiades*, and the *New Orleans Review*. He has traveled to Egypt and Eritrea with The University of Iowa's International Writing Program to teach poetry. A recipient of the Dana Gioia Poetry Award and a fellowship from the Borchard Foundation Center on Literary Arts, he is an assistant professor of English at Whittier College and teaches at Spalding University's low-res MFA program.



### **Dr. Alexandra Grabarchuk**

Dr. Alexandra Grabarchuk is a Ukrainian-born conductor and musicologist. She is the Director of Choral Activities at Whittier College, as well as Co-Director of Music & Fine Arts at Claremont United Church of Christ. Along with her husband, she also serves as Conducting Co-Chair of the Contemporary Choral Collective of Los Angeles (C3LA). Her forthcoming publications include a study of popular music on the Soviet film screen in interdisciplinary journal *Popular Music*, and an entry on 1970s Soviet prog in the *Oxford Handbook of Progressive Rock*.

# PARKING & CONFERENCE LOCATIONS



## Parking Map



# SCIENCE & LEARNING CENTER MAP

## SCIENCE & LEARNING CENTER

FLOOR  
**5**



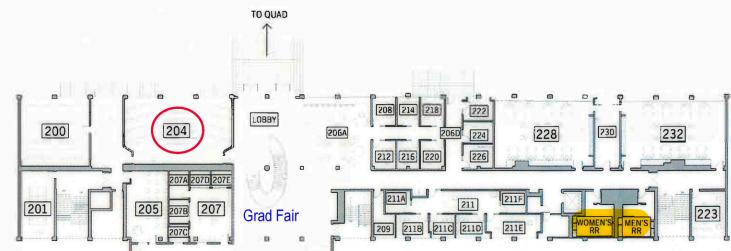
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FLOOR  
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# KEY LOCATIONS

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Lodging	Doubletree Hotel by Hilton, 7320 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, CA 562-945-8511	
Friday, November 8	Whittier College Campus College Hall Lot 13724 Earlham Drive	Parking (pass required)
	Whittier College Campus Villalobos Hall	Breakfast, Presentations, Lunch
	Whittier College Campus Memorial Chapel	Poster Session
	Doubletree Hotel by Hilton 7320 Greenleaf Ave, Whittier	Student Dinner
	The Mission Square 13033 Penn St, Whittier	Coordinator Dinner
Saturday, November 9	Whittier College Campus Science & Learning Ctr Lot 13615 Earlham Drive	Parking (pass required)
	Whittier College Campus Villalobos Hall	Breakfast, Lunch & Arts Event, Closing Dinner
	Whittier College Campus Science & Learning Center (SLC)	Oral Presentations, Roundtables, Graduate School Fair

# COVID-19 PROTOCOL

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If you feel sick during the conference, notify your MMUF campus contact immediately and begin self-isolating. MMUF Coordinators please notify Lisa Newton at 562-685-1100 if anyone in your cohort becomes ill. We will provide masks and assist with testing resources.

COVID testing is strongly recommended and voluntary. If you test positive, follow isolation guidance from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health below to help contain the spread of COVID.

**If you feel sick with cold, flu, or COVID-19 symptoms:**

Stay home away from others until you have not had a fever for 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medication) and other symptoms are improving. LAC DPH recommends that you test negative before resuming normal activities. COVID-19 can spread quickly, especially when someone feels sick.

Wear a well-fitting mask around others while you feel sick. Masks can help prevent spread of germs, including COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

Get tested. Testing helps make sure you get the right treatment and don't spread germs to others. If you test negative but continue to feel sick, test again 48 hours later. If you continue testing negative, talk to your doctor about testing for other respiratory pathogens, especially if you are high-risk for severe illness. Avoid contact with high-risk individuals for 10 days after you started feeling sick. This includes the elderly, people who reside temporarily or live in a congregate facility or people who are immunocompromised. Get treatment for COVID-19 or influenza. Talk to your provider about options.

**If you test positive:**

- If you have symptoms:

Follow the steps above for people who feel sick with symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19.

- If you do not have symptoms, you do not need to stay home as long as you:

Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after you tested positive.

Monitor yourself for symptoms. If you start feeling sick, immediately follow instructions above for people who feel sick with symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19.

Avoid contact with high-risk individuals for 10 days after you tested positive. Higher risk individuals include the elderly, people who reside temporarily or live in a congregate facility or people who are immunocompromised.



## Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Friday, 8 November		Saturday, 9 November	
8am	Poster Session and Networking Memorial Chapel	11:45am	Lunch and Arts Event; Poetry Reading by Dr. Douglas Manuel; Performance by Whittier College Choir; Dr. Alexandra Grabarchuk, director, Edward Sywulka, accompanist Villalobos Hall
Breakfast and Registration Villalobos Hall	4pm	2pm	Oral Presentations, Panel B SLC 508
9am	MMUF Resources and Opportunities; Graduate School and Beyond by Dr. Renee Johnson-Thornton Villalobos Hall	Roundtable Discussion A SLC 418	Oral Presentations, Panel C SLC 309
Opening Remarks from Conference Organizers, Whittier College, and Land Mesinas Villalobos Hall	6pm	10:30am	Oral Presentations, Panel D SLC 311
9:30am	Entertainment: Ballet Folklorico International Dance Company Lucia Parra, Director & Choreographer Doubletree Hotel, Atrium Room	Graduate School Fair SLC Lobby 1st & 2nd Floors	Oral Presentations, Panel E SLC 509
Workshop: Ice Breaker and Elevator Pitches Villalobos Hall	6:45pm	Oral Presentations, Panel F SLC 309	Oral Presentations, Panel F SLC 508
10:30am	Student Dinner Doubletree Hotel	Oral Presentations, Panel G SLC 311	Oral Presentations, Panel G SLC 509
Keynote by Dr. Jamaal Muwwakkil Villalobos Hall	Coordinator Dinner Mission Square Restaurant	Oral Presentations, Panel H SLC 204	Roundtable Discussion C SLC 418
11:45am	1pm	3:15pm	Oral Presentations, Panel I SLC 508
Lunch Villalobos Hall	Breakfast Villalobos Hall	8am	Oral Presentations, Panel O SLC 204
MMUF Alumni Panel Villalobos Hall	MMUF Alumni Panel Villalobos Hall	9:15am	Oral Presentations, Panel P SLC 309
			Oral Presentations, Panel Q SLC 311
			Oral Presentations, Panel R SLC 508



# Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Continued from Saturday, 9 November

Oral Presentations, Panel S  
SLC 509

Roundtable Discussion D  
SLC 418

4:30pm

Oral Presentations, Panel T  
SLC 204

Oral Presentations, Panel U  
SLC 309

Oral Presentations, Panel V  
SLC 311

Oral Presentations, Panel W  
SLC 508

Oral Presentations, Panel X  
SLC 509

Roundtable Discussion E  
SLC 418

6pm

Closing Remarks and Dinner  
Villalobos Hall



# Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

## Friday, 8 November

8am **Breakfast and Registration**  
*Villalobos Hall*

9am **Opening Remarks from Conference Organizers, Whittier College, and Land Acknowledgment by Dr. Melissa Mesinas**  
*Villalobos Hall*

Chaired by: Julie Collins-Dogrul  
*Villalobos Hall*

9:30am **Workshop: Ice Breaker and Elevator Pitches**  
*Villalobos Hall*

Chaired by: Michelle Chihara  
*Villalobos Hall*

10:30am **Keynote by Dr. Jamaal Muwwakkil**  
*Villalobos Hall*

Chaired by: Muriel McClendon  
*Villalobos Hall*

11:45am **Lunch**  
*Villalobos Hall*

**MMUF Alumni Panel**  
*Villalobos Hall*

Chaired by: Jacquelyn Ardam  
*Villalobos Hall*

2:45pm **Poster Session and Networking**  
*Memorial Chapel*

Chaired by: Elizabeth Sanchez  
» [Daniela Alvarez](#)

**How Women Feel Their Way into Liberation: Exploring Radical Imagination in Latin American Postcolonial Poetry**  
» [Daniela Alvarez](#)

**Latine Businesses; El Mercadito**  
» [Giovanna Calderon](#)

**Navigating Bilingual Education: Dual Immersion Schools Post-Proposition 227**  
» [Jeanette Calderon](#)

**The Consumptive Arts: Medicine, Visual Activism, and Queer Resistance in a Time of AIDS Crisis**  
» [Ileana Campos](#)

**Truth-Seeking in Argentine Literature: Ernesto Sabato's Journalistic Magical Realism**  
» [Crystal Chavez Barragan](#)

**Are We Ready Yet?: Afrofuturism and Black Girlhood**  
» [Kayla Daniel](#)

**OpenGulf: Mapping Twentieth Century Weather Patterns In the Arab Gulf**  
» [Iman Deriche](#)

**Consensual Non-monogamy, Eroticism in Blurred Distinctions, & Queer Deviance in Luca Guadagnino's Filmography**  
» [Manuel Dominguez](#)

**Transmasculinity and Blackness: Intersections and Interactions of Black Identity and Transitioning to Masculinity**  
» [Evan Godley](#)



# Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Continued from Friday, 8 November

**Analyzing the Western Perceptions of Boys' Love Manga: The Representation of Male-Male Romance**  
» [Erick Herrera](#)

**Self-Deception as Self-Knowledge; Self-Knowledge as Self-Deception**  
» [Ainara Ibarroondo Lombart](#)

**The United States Prison Industrial Complex: A Systematic Extension of Slavery**  
» [Evan Josten](#)

**Redesigning Antiquity: Ancient Architectures of Disability and Access in Lindos, Rhodes**  
» [Charlie Kim-Worthington](#)

**Endless World Simulation for Generated Personas**  
» [Michelle Li](#)

**"Why do they always send the poor?" Class Consciousness in California's Music Scene**  
» [Nikki Mehli](#)

**Democracy in Peril: The Threat of Disinformation to an Informed Citizenry"**  
» [Paige Meyer-Draffen](#)

**Investigating RF Harmonic Fluctuations Associated with Ice Grain Formation in a Weakly Ionized Plasma**  
» [Robert Morgan III](#)

**Queer Latina History in the California Central Valley**  
» [Larissa Renteria](#)

**Spectroscopic Confirmation of a Population of Isolated, Intermediate-Mass YSOs**  
» [Ramzi Saber](#)

**We are the landscape of the city: Los Angeles Street Vendors in Contemporary Art**  
» [Corina Silverstein](#)

**MMUF Resources and Opportunities: Graduate School and Beyond**  
by Dr. Renee Johnson-Thornton  
*Villalobos Hall*  
Chaired by: Muriel McClendon

**Entertainment: Ballet Folklorico International Dance Company:**  
Lucia Parra, Director & Choreographer  
*Doubletree Hotel, Atrium Room*

**6pm Student Dinner**  
*Doubletree Hotel*  
**6:45pm Coordinator Dinner**  
*Mission Square Restaurant*

**Saturday, 9 November**

**8am Breakfast**  
*Villalobos Hall*



# Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Continued from Saturday, 9 November

9:15am **Oral Presentations, Panel A**

SLC 204

Chaired by: Alberto Ledesma  
» Julián Ángel

**Serving Sin Fronteras: An analysis of How Latinx Resource Centers support Undocumented Students at Hispanic-Serving Institutions**  
» Alexia Guerra

**De Centroamérica No Me Olvido: The Role of Collective Memory and Storytelling in Identity-formation and Political activism of U.S. Central Americans**  
» Izel Ramos

**Survival of Post-DACA Undocumented Students: An Analysis of Higher Education Policy in Liberal Arts Schools**  
» Alessandra Scolastici

**Body, Land, and Capital: The Struggle of Women Farmworkers in the Context of California's Agribusiness**  
» Maurice White, Earth, Wind, and Fire, and Kemet

9:15am **Oral Presentations, Panel B**

SLC 508

Chaired by: Chantrey Murphy  
» Fonzie Diaz

**Racial and Gender Performativity: Navigating On and Offline Queer Spaces**  
» Mikayla Tillery

**Freedom Spaces: Deviant Space Making and Cooperative Communities in Detroit**  
» Chase Wade

9:15am **Oral Presentations, Panel C**

SLC 309

**Metal in the Underground: An Industry from Below**  
» Jarenni Ambriz

**Rhythm and Boots: Latine Youth Engagement with Mexican Diasporic Music and Dance in Southern California**  
» Karen García-Ramos

**Screwed Up Regio: Slowed corridos and Neo-Mexican-Americanism in Texas**  
» Cain Trevino

**"Afilando los Cuchillos": Exploring the Role and Development of Protest & Protest Music in Puerto Rico Post-#RickyRenuncia**  
» Saimary Velázquez Carrasquillo

9:15am **Oral Presentations, Panel D**

SLC 311

Chaired by: Kiyoko Simmons  
» Diana Chávez

**Stars, Sanctuaries, and Platforms: Spatial Orientation Significance in the Maya Lowlands**  
» Henry Rodriguez

**Spirits of the Past: Attitudes on Organ Donation in Lao and Thai Americans Shaped by Buddhist Religiosity and Generational Status**  
» Shayla Sakkakhanaune

**Preaching Christian Nationalism(?)**: Analyzing American Megachurch Sermons, 2020-2024  
» John San Nicolas



## Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Continued from Saturday, 9 November

9:15am **Oral Presentations, Panel E**

SLC 509

Chaired by: Katharine Henshaw

**Deathly (and) Anxious: The Search of Meaning In Our Lives**  
» [Leyna Hoang](#)

**Dolores: Exploring Mexican Health and Healing Beyond Western Healthcare**  
» [Paulina Flores](#)

**How Can Empathy Improve Caring?**  
» [Sofia Ochoa](#)

10:30am **Graduate School Fair**

SLC Lobby 1st & 2nd Floors

10:30am **Oral Presentations, Panel F**

SLC 309

Chaired by: Joshua Jeffers

**Reframing Diaspora: Tracing Migrational Narratives in Hector Tobar's The Tattooed Soldier**  
» [Evelyn Giron](#)

**Marriage and Melancholia: Navigating Wellbeing and Gender Roles in 18th Century Literature**  
» [Denice Perez](#)

**Giving Birth to Time: The Cathartic Capacities of Poetry (and its Death) in Paul Celan's "Corona"**  
» [Leo Tran](#)

10:30am **Oral Presentations, Panel G**

SLC 311

Chaired by: Leila Mansouri

**Black Love and Excellence: Reconciling the Two**  
» [Taylor-Corrine Benton](#)

**The Profitability of Blackness**  
» [Lola Latan](#)

**Haiti and the Will of a Sovereign People**  
» [Randy Pierre](#)

10:30am **Oral Presentations, Panel H**

SLC 204

Chaired by: George Sanchez

**Mental and Social Impacts of Language Brokering in the Latino Community**  
» [Diane Orozco](#)



Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Continued from Saturday, 9 November

## **El Pueblo is Always With Us: Diasporic Indigenous Oaxacan Transnational Connections and Resistance in Ohio**

» Myka Cruz

**My Life With The Typical Heterosexual Love Story: Western Media's Obsession with Reinforcing Heteronormativity**  
» José Dominguez

M 1 C  
International Conference on Resistance III 2010

International Transracial Adoptees - Defining Family

**Undocumented in Arizona's Fields**  
» Alissa Silva

## **Evangelical Protestantism in El Salvador: A Conservative Response**

Boundary Discussion B

110:30am 2/11/11

**Police, Nonprofits and the Carceral Web**  
» Frank Godinez

Tlallamiquiliztli Tlaccualli Inelhuayo huan quen

## **How Incarceration Impacts the Relationship Between a Mother and Her Child**

» Sandro Sebastián Espinosa y Mann  
**is becoming heritage.)**

Reduction

The Spatial and Social Impacts of Forward Mobility on Chinese

10:30am Oral Presentations, Panel J

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## Residential Selection Processes of the LGBTQ Community in Southern California

Villalobos Hall



# Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Continued from Saturday, 9 November

2pm	<b>Graduate School Recruiter Panel</b> SLC 204 Chaired by: Julie Collins-Dogrul	We Still Here: The Role of Social Relationships in Retaining Black, Indigenous and Womxn of Color (BIWOC) in Higher Education » Kristal Roman
2pm	<b>Oral Presentations, Panel K</b> SLC 309 Chaired by: Disha Chauhan	<b>Itachukwa Kijiji Kulea na Mtoto: Kenyan Transnational Child-Rearing in the S.F. Bay Area</b> » Mel Gichane
2pm	<b>Oral Presentations, Panel L</b> SLC 311 Chaired by: Brandi Catanese	<b>Education without Representation: Vietnamese Assimilation and Bilingualism in Orange County</b> » Minh Nguyen
2pm	<b>Oral Presentations, Panel M</b> SLC 508 Chaired by: Leila Mansouri	<b>Title: "I'm Jessica and I'm a Soccer Player": Forming the citizen-subject through girls youth club soccer in San Francisco</b> » Analise Pugh
2pm	<b>Oral Presentations, Panel N</b> SLC 509 Chaired by: Alicia Gutierrez-Romine	<b>Vietnamese in Australia and the US: A Comparative Study of Immigrant Life in Settler States in the Era of "Multiculturalism"</b> » Ben Ma
2pm	<b>Oral Presentations, Panel O</b> SLC 510 Chaired by: Anya Nyman	<b>Elite Women, Development, and the Nation: Constructing/Disciplining the Urban Market Woman in ဗbaa Sima (c. 1971-1979)</b> » Maia Smart
		<b>Intersectionality in Black/ Biracial Communities in individuals with ASD</b> » Lorraine Perez
		<b>Chicana's Rising: Overcoming Challenges and Embracing Identity in Higher Education</b> » Lorraine Perez



# Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Continued from Saturday, 9 November			
2pm	<b>Roundtable Discussion C</b> <i>SLC 418</i> Chaired by: Tashiana Bryant	3:15pm <b>Oral Presentations, Panel P</b> <i>SLC 309</i> Chaired by: Joshua Jeffers	<b>We Keep Us Safe: The Community of UCLA's Temporary Autonomous Zone</b> » <u>Autumn Armstrong Šimović</u>
	<b>Integer factorization algorithm</b> » <u>MohammedSaid Alhalimi</u>		<b>Cultural Resistance in Boarding Schools: The Influence of Extracurricular Activities at Sherman Institute</b> » <u>Michael Gonzalez</u>
	<b>The Mass Shooter in a Liquid Age: Towards a Framework of Understanding</b> » <u>Brandon Alonso-Ramos</u>		<b>Pulgas del 408: Sites of Culture, Community and Resistance within the Silicon Valley</b> » <u>Sarah Morales</u>
	<b>Aliens, Atlantis, and America: How Prominent Pseudo-archaeologists in United States Popular Media Convince Us to Believe in Conspiracy Theories</b> » <u>Eva Marques</u>	3:15pm <b>Oral Presentations, Panel Q</b> <i>SLC 311</i> Chaired by: Sarah Grant	<b>How Anarchism in Latin America Teaches Through Literature</b> » <u>Benicio Celedón</u>
	<b>Disinformation as a Pipeline to Radicalization</b> » <u>Luis Enrique Orozco-Sánchez</u>		<b>Authorial Afterlife: Reimagining Black Women's Authorship in the Wake</b> » <u>Zara Koroma</u>
3:15pm	<b>Oral Presentations, Panel O</b> <i>SLC 204</i> Chaired by: Disha Chauhan		<b>"Women Caught in the Ethnic Crossfire": Linguistic Nationalism and Sri Lankan Identity in Nayomi Munaweera's Island of a Thousand Mirrors</b> » <u>Shyamali Perera</u>
	<b>Los Callejones: Exploring Spatial Contestations, Legalization and Social Interactions</b> » <u>Daniela Rocha Acosta</u>	3:15pm <b>Oral Presentations, Panel R</b> <i>SLC 508</i> Chaired by: Miriam Villazón Valbuena	<b>Investigating Landscapes of Dispossession Among Communities of Migrant Field Workers in the Coachella Valley</b> » <u>Lizabeth Luevano</u>
	<b>Citrus Industry and the Roots of Educational Inequality for Mexicans in the Inland Empire, 1900-1960</b> » <u>Anari Navarro</u>		<b>Louisiana Law: A Question of Identity</b> » <u>Damian Garcia</u>



Continued from Saturday, 9 November

**The intersection of race and income inequality**

» Daniela Gomez

**Between Two Worlds: The Dichotomy of Sephardic Jews in the Dutch Colonial Project**

» Natalya Rowe

**Bound by Power, Perception, and Race: Slavery and Servitude in Colonial Virginia**

» Michael Rubalcava

3:15pm **Oral Presentations, Panel S**

SLC 509

Chaired by: Mark Wild

**Queer Embodiment, Immortality, and Progressivism in Priority of the Orange Tree**

» Ash Goar

**Gone with the Wind Throughout the 20th Century: How the Arts Shape and Reflect the Cultural Imagination**

» Ashley Knolton

**Translation and Activist Pedagogy in Piers Plowman**

» David Rios

**Suffering, the Supernatural, and the Patriarchy: Hearing Women's voices in Like Water for Chocolate and So Far From God**

» Guadalupe Villegas

3:15pm **Roundtable Discussion D**

SLC 418

Chaired by: Alexis Wells-Oghoghomeh

**Navigating Dual Identities: First-Generation African and Black Students, the American Dream, and the Role of Alternative Education**

» Feven Akiliu

**The Creation of Philadelphia's UCity**

» Simir Hampton

**Losing the Land: Hawaiian History and Identity Shaping in the Diaspora**

» Kaylana Kaniaupio

4:30pm **Oral Presentations, Panel T**

SLC 204

Chaired by: Ingrid Anderson

**Recruiting Nationalisms: Multiple Mestizajes and the Construction of Latinidad at the National Museum of the American Latino**

» Chloe Mendoza

**"Trust in Tradition: Fiao as a Tool of Resistance in Mexican Cheesemaking"**

» Guillermo Miranda

**Decolonizing Catholicism Online: An Analysis of Mexican and Latina Women's Lived Religious Practices in Digital Spaces**

» Jasmine Rodriguez

4:30pm **Oral Presentations, Panel U**

SLC 309

Chaired by: Mark Wild

**Trans Liminality in the Media: Disrupting Heteronormative Binary Codes**

» Anita Aycock



# Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Continued from Saturday, 9 November

## Forecasting Tipping Points with Machine Learning

» Miguel Liu-Schiaffini

**Creations of Queer Masculine Identity through African American Vernacular English**  
» Raya Clarke

**Manifesting Community Transition: On the Binary Structures of ICE, Gender-Based Violence, and the Impacts on Undocumented Gender-Variant People of Color.**  
» Humberto (Berto) Hernandez

4:30pm **Oral Presentations, Panel V**  
SLC 311  
Chaired by: Chantrey Murphy

**Cold War Politics in Bowron Vs Poulsom Election: The Fight for Public Housing, Dodger Stadium and Modern Los Angeles**  
» Efrain Contreras

**From 'Billy Goat Acres' to a Working-Class Barrio: Latinas Save Southeast Los Angeles (SELA), 1980s-Now**  
» Daniella Hernandez

**"They Call Us Rebels": Recognizing the Rebel and Party Crew Subcultures Among Chicana/o/x Youth in 1990's Southern California**  
» Denise Santana

4:30pm **Oral Presentations, Panel W**  
SLC 508  
Chaired by: Tashiana Bryant

**Stochastic Error Cancellation in Analog Quantum Simulation**  
» Yili Cai

**Revealing Hidden Star Formation and AGN in ESO 148-IG002**  
» Iohan Castaneda Jaimes

## Exploring Variation of Democratic Decline in post-communist Europe

» Narek Abelian

4:30pm **Oral Presentations, Panel X**  
SLC 509  
Chaired by: Alberto Ledesma

**Rhoticity in Armenian Among Armenian-English Bilingual Speakers**  
» Manifa Baghomian

4:45pm **Gen Z Doesn't Want to Work Anymore: Modern Sentiments of Work Culture as seen through East German Socialism in Miss Butterfly**

» Lani Chavez

5pm **Roundtable Discussion E**  
SLC 418  
Chaired by: Kiyoko Simmons

**On Choices to be Good**  
» Michael-Angelo Brooks

**Violence and The Subjugation of Women in Greek Tragedy and Myth**  
» Isabella Day

**Knowledge and Inferential Theory**  
» Cristian Kerolez

**Art & Femicide in Mexico: Cutzi Salgado**  
» Evany Lopez



## Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional Conference 2024 08 - 09 Nov 2024 All times in PDT

Continued from Saturday, 9 November

6pm      **Closing Remarks and Dinner**  
*Villalobos Hall*

# PANELS & ROUNDTABLES

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## Instructions for **Oral Presentation** Moderators

The oral presentation sessions will allow Fellows to present and discuss their research. Conference organizers have assigned Fellows to panels of three or four based on affinities in research projects. Each Fellow will have **8-10 minutes to present**, and a Q&A will held at the end of each panel. Fellows may use audio or visual aids.

### **Instructions:**

1. Before the session begins, make sure all presenters can access their visual aids. They may access their slides or other aids via the internet on one of the laptops provided in the conference rooms. Alternatively, presenters may use their own flash drive.
2. When the session begins, introduce yourself as the MMUF coordinator and the moderator of the oral presentations.
3. Introduce the outline of the hour:
  - a. Each student will have 8-10 minutes to present their research.
  - b. Ask audience to save questions until all presenters have presented, when there will be a Q&A with all presenters.
  - c. Tell presenters that you will give a hand signal to warn them about time. For instance, you will give them a "2" sign with your hand when they have 2 minutes left and a "1" sign with your hand when they have a minute left.
4. Introduce the presenters and ask them to present in the order they are listed in the program.
5. As the students present, make sure to give these time signals to each participant! (2 minutes left, 1 minute left). Each presenter has a max of 10 minutes to present.
6. **Leave 10 minutes at the end of the hour for Q&A.** Please prepare a question for each presenter in case the audience is quiet.
7. Wrap up the session at the allotted time and thank the presenters and audience.

# PANELS & ROUNDTABLES

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## Instructions for **Roundtable** Moderators

Roundtables are an opportunity for first-year MMUF Fellows to discuss the research projects that they have started to work on. Fellows will share their research ideas and plans, ask questions of each other, offer feedback, and imagine new avenues for research.

Participants have been organized into smaller groups based on research affinities. Please note that roundtable presenters do NOT deliver a formal presentation or pre-written remarks.

### **Instructions:**

1. First, have students and moderator introduce themselves (name, pronouns, institution, major)
2. Give students a few minutes (5~10 minutes) to think about/write down some bullet points about their research. It is okay if they are not sure yet exactly what direction their research will take. They can do this on their phones or on a piece of paper. Some questions for them to think about:
  - a. What is your research topic(s)?
  - b. What are the methods you hope to use when researching this topic?
  - c. What are you curious about as you form your research project?
3. After everyone is done writing notes, start asking the roundtable questions below. When students answer the questions, encourage them to share their research interests as well.

### **Roundtable questions** (depending on time, have a few students share for each):

- What are some of your research interests?
- What inspired you to pursue this line of research? A particular class or reading? A professor? A lived experience or hobby/interest?
- What are you nervous about or what challenges do you foresee as you begin your research? What would you like input on from your peers regarding your research topic or your process?
- What do you hope to gain from the MMUF as you embark on your research journey? What kind of community do you hope to form with your MMUF peers both at your own institution and at other institutions?
- What impact do you hope your research will have on your community or in the world?
- How do you hope to use this time at the MMUF Western Regional Conference to grow your network of peers, mentors, and scholars? What are you hoping to get from this conference?

# GRADUATE SCHOOL RECRUITERS

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First name	Last name	Email	University
Alycia	Mosley Austin	alycia_mosley_austin@brown.edu	Brown University
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## WESTERN REGIONAL MMUF STUDENT ATTENDEES

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First name	Last name	Institution
Narek	Abelian	California State University, Los Angeles
Feven	Aklilu	Pitzer College
MohammedSaid	Alhalimi	Caltech
Brandon	Alonso-Ramos	California State University, Fullerton
Daniela	Alvarez	UC Berkeley
Jarenni	Ambriz	California State University, Los Angeles
Julián	Ángel	University of New Mexico
Fernando	Arellano	California State University, San Bernardino
Autumn	Armstrong Šimović	UCLA
Seleny	Arroyo	Scripps College
Anita	Aycock	California State University, San Bernardino
Manifa	Baghomian	California State University, Los Angeles
Noah	Balderrama	California State University, Fullerton
Taylor-Corrine	Benton	University of Southern California
Karina	Bolanos	University of New Mexico
Michael-Angelo	Brooks	University of New Mexico
Yiyi	Cai	Caltech
Jeanette	Calderon	California State University, Los Angeles
Giovanna	Calderon	California State University, Los Angeles
Illeana	Campos	UC Berkeley
Joahan	Castaneda Jaimes	California Institute of Technology
Benicio	Celedón	California State University, Fullerton
Lani	Chavez	California State University, Long Beach
Diana	Chavez	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Crystal	Chavez Barragan	University of California, Berkeley
Raya	Clarke	University of Southern California
Hannah	Contreras	University of Southern California
Efrain	Contreras	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Myrka	Cruz	Stanford University
Kayla	Daniel	University of California, Riverside
Isabella	Day	University of California, Riverside
Iman	Deriche	Stanford University
Fonzie	Diaz	California State University, Long Beach
Jose	Dominguez	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Manuel	Dominguez	Pomona College
Anagali	Duncan	Stanford University
Sandro Sebastián	Espinosa y Mann	University of New Mexico
Anica	Falcone-Juengert	Whittier College
Paulina	Flores	University of Southern California
Damian	Garcia	Whittier College

## WESTERN REGIONAL MMUF STUDENT ATTENDEES

Karen	Garcia-Ramos	Pomona College
Mel	Gichane	Whittier College
Evelyn	Giron	UCLA
Ash	Goar	California State University, San Bernardino
Frank	Godinez	UCLA
Evan	Godley	Whittier College
Daniela	Gomez	Stanford University
Michael	Gonzalez	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Alexia	Guerra	UC Berkeley
Arwa	Hammad	California State University, Los Angeles
Simir	Hampton	Pomona College
Daniella	Hernandez	Claremont Colleges
Humberto (Berto)	Hernandez	California State University, Los Angeles
Erick	Herrera	California State University, San Bernardino
Leyna	Hoang	UC Riverside
Ainara	Ibarrondo Llombart	UC Riverside
Darya	Jafarinejad	California State University, Long Beach
Evan	Josten	Whittier College
Kaylana	Kaniaupio	University of Southern California
Cristian	Keroles	California State University, San Bernardino
Charlie	Kim-Worthington	University of California, Berkeley
Ashley	Knolton	Pomona College
Zara	Koroma	UC Berkeley
Sol	Lagos	University of Southern California
Lola	Latan	Pitzer College
Louis	Layman	Claremont Colleges
Michelle	Li	California Institute of Technology
Miguel	Liu-Schiaffini	California Institute of Technology
Evany	Lopez	University of New Mexico
Lizbeth	Luevano	Stanford University
Ben	Ma	Claremont Colleges
Edin	Madrid	UCLA
Eva	Marques	University of New Mexico
Nikki	Mehl	University of Southern California
Chloe	Mendoza	Stanford University
Paige	Meyer-Draffen	Whittier College
Guillermo	Miranda	UCLA
Sarah	Morales	UC Berkeley
Robert	Morgan III	California Institute of Technology
Isis	Murillo Bravo	Pomona College

## WESTERN REGIONAL MMUF STUDENT ATTENDEES

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Amari	Navarro	UC Riverside
Minh	Nguyen	California State University, Long Beach
Anya	Nyman	Claremont Colleges
Sofia	Ochoa	UC Riverside
Diane	Orozco	Pitzer College
Luis Enrique	Orozco-Sanchez	California State University, San Bernardino
Grace	Pena	Stanford University
Shyamali	perera	California State University, Fullerton
Denice	Perez	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Laraine	Perez	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Randy	Pierre	Claremont Colleges
Isabella	Praslin	California State University, Fullerton
Analise	Pugh	Claremont Colleges
Itzel	Ramos	Claremont Colleges
Larissa	Renteria	UC Berkeley
Reyes	Reynaga	The University of New Mexico
David	Rios	California State University, Los Angeles
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Natalya	Rowe	California State University, Fullerton
Michael	Rubalcava	California State University, San Bernardino
Ramzi	Saber	California Institute of Technology
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John	San Nicolas	University of New Mexico
Melanie	Sandoval	California State University, Long Beach
Denise	Santana	California State University, Long Beach
Alessandra	Scolastici	California State University, Long Beach
Alissa	Silva	University of Southern California
Corina	Silverstein	Scripps College
Maia	Smart	California State University, San Bernardino
Mikayla	Tillery	Stanford University
Leo	Tran	UC Berkeley
Cain	Trevino	University of Southern California
Pamela	Vega Rivas	UCLA
Saimary	Velázquez Carrasquillo	Stanford University
Guadalupe	Villegas	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Chase	Wade	Pitzer College

## WESTERN REGIONAL MMUF COORDINATOR ATTENDEES

---

First name	Last name	Institution
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Jacquelyn	Ardam	UCLA
Tashiana	Bryant	California Institute of Technology
Brandi	Catanese	UC Berkeley
Disha	Chauhan	University of Southern California
Michelle	Chihara	Whittier College
Julie	Collins-Dogrul	Whittier College
Christy	Frederick	University of New Mexico
Sarah	Grant	California State University, Fullerton
Alicia	Gutierrez-Romine	California State University, San Bernadino
Katharine	Henshaw	UC Riverside
Joshua	Jeffers	California State University, Dominguez Hills
Alberto	Ledesma	UC Berkeley
Leila	Mansouri	Scripps College
Muriel	McClendon	UCLA
Chantrey	Murphy	California State University, Long Beach
Abigail	Rosas	California State University, Long Beach
Elizabeth	Sanchez	Whittier College
George	Sanchez	University of Southern California
Laura	Selznick	Stanford University
Kiyoko	Simmons	University of New Mexico
Miriam	Villazón Valbuena	UC Riverside
Alexis	Wells-Oghoghomeh	Stanford University
Mark	Wild	California State University, Los Angeles

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## Thank You

Thank you to the Mellon Foundation for their support of the 2024  
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Western Regional  
Conference at Whittier College.

## Land Acknowledgment

Whittier College and UCLA acknowledge the Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, So. Channel Islands) and are grateful to have the opportunity to work for the taraaxatom (indigenous peoples) in this place. We pay our respects to Honuukyetam (Ancestors), 'Ahiihirom (Elders), and 'eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.

## Conference Organizers

Whittier College

Elizabeth Sanchez, Administrative Coordinator

Dr. Michelle Chihara and Dr. Julie Collins-Dogrul, Faculty Coordinators  
Lisa Newton, Director of Research, Sponsored Programs, and Fellowships

UCLA

Dr. Jacquelyn Ardam, Administrative Coordinator

Dr. Muriel McClendon, Faculty Coordinator

with help from

Kate McAllister and Gloria Choi, UCLA's Undergraduate Research Center for the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences