

CRES Newsletter

CRITICAL RACE AND ETHNIC STUDIES



POST-ELECTION: WHAT NOW?

The presidential election has once again underscored deep political and ideological divide. While some Americans celebrate the outcome, others have expressed disappointment, anger and fear. Donald Trump's racist, xenophobic, misogynistic and transphobic language has created a hostile social environment that promotes division amongst Americans. As the nation transitions into a new chapter, key social dynamics are shaping the national conversation. It is important for Americans to support one another and to remain resilient against the aspects of Trump's presidency that may cause more division.



Across the country, conservative groups and wealthy organizations such as the National Rifle Association, Crown Crest Operating (Oil/ Energy), Amazon, and Walmart support Trump's policies that will protect the wealthy while enabling racism and misogyny. Meanwhile, civil rights advocates and social justice groups such as the United Farm Workers of America hold protests of resistance. Democratic leaders such as Kamala Harris, Joe Biden, Barack, and Michelle Obama warn about key issues such as

bodily autonomy, strict immigration policy, election integrity, and more. As citizens mobilize to voice their hopes and concerns about the future, media outlets and social platforms are playing a significant role in shaping public perception. The spread of misinformation through Donald Trump and popular right-wing media outlets remains a pressing challenge in maintaining constructive dialogue. For many marginalized groups, the election outcome represents either a sense of hopelessness or renewed anxiety.

Conservative proposals targeting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, threaten the security of individuals' legal, civil, and human rights, which can affect employment, housing, health care, and ability to stay together as a family. Donald Trump's proposed immigration policies could have profound and multifaceted impacts on people of color in the United States, both directly and indirectly. Trump's planned policies have implications for mass deportations, ending birthright citizenship, travel bans, legally recognizing only two genders, restrictions on gender affirming care, reversing Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and education reform, including the elimination of teachings on critical race and structural racism theory.



Historically, Trump's immigration stances such as: strict border enforcement, deportation initiatives, and travel bans, have disproportionately affected communities of color. A return to similar or more aggressive policies--as Trump has promised-- would expand these disparities. Trump's proposals to reimplement policies like the "Remain in Mexico" program and expansion of mass deportations would predominantly target immigrants from Latin America and other non-European regions. This focus creates a climate of fear and instability for many undocumented immigrant families, including those with mixed immigration status. People of color, especially Latinx, Black, and Asian immigrant communities, may face heightened risks of family separations, deportations, and challenges to their legal status.

Additionally, the implementation of a federal abortion ban or more strict abortion policies under a future Trump presidency would have profound and far-reaching impacts on women in the United States. Such a policy would restrict or eliminate access to safe and legal abortions across the country, disproportionately affecting women in states without strong protections for reproductive rights. Women in rural and low-income areas may face additional challenges, such as lacking the resources to travel to states or countries where abortion remains accessible. This could lead to increased physical and emotional risks associated with unsafe, illegal procedures or carrying pregnancies under challenging circumstances.

Most importantly, this stance reinforces and sets a precedent for the patriarchal structure of the United States by stripping women of their rights to their bodily autonomy, ignoring, expanding, and exploiting the disproportionate levels of inequality that women face. Trump's proposed policies expand the reproductive injustice that exists in our current sociopolitical landscape. Trump's policies also eliminate the "right to parent children" when considering deportation and family separation policies. Restrictions on reproductive health could also have ripple effects, influencing women's educational and professional opportunities, thereby widening existing gender inequalities. While some see these restrictions as a moral or ideological victory, others view them as a significant step back in the fight for women's rights and healthcare access. Advocacy groups such as Planned Parenthood, The American Civil Liberties Union, NAACP, and Human Rights Campaign all plan to challenge the incoming administration's agenda.



Dealing with fears, concerns, and anxieties about Donald Trump's second presidential term involves adopting practical strategies to maintain mental well-being and safely promote constructive engagement. First, staying informed through multiple new sources that can help us understand the complexities and stakes of harmful policies. Engaging in open conversations with friends, family, or close support groups creates opportunities to share feelings and gain perspective. For those deeply concerned about policies, participating in community or advocacy groups allows individuals to channel their energy and emotion into meaningful action. Groups such as Faith in the Valley, NorCal Resist, Power California, and SIREN are local organizations that practice safe and empowering social action initiatives to advocate for social justice and civil rights or our community. Practicing mindfulness, meditation, or other stress-reducing activities can mitigate the mental toll. Lastly, focusing on personal agency—identifying actions one can take to create change—can empower individuals and foster a sense of control during turbulent times. By utilizing collective community engagement, we can navigate our emotions more effectively and remain resilient amongst an uncertain political landscape.

FALL SEMESTER



CRES Club Highlights

In Fall 2024, the CRES Club was officially established. Throughout the semester, the CRES Club held a variety of meetings and social gatherings, such as the Student-Faculty Mixer and the Healing Circle, to share knowledge on important topics relating to current social issues and provide a safe space for students to engage.

The CRES Club will continue to hold meetings throughout the Spring semester in which they will cover current and historical social issues and provide workshops that offer an overview of opportunities related in the CRES Field.

Follow the CRES Club Instagram and sign up for the CRES Club Treasurer position!



@UCMCRESClub

Find information on meetings, officers, and stay up to date with the CRES club and academic program!



CRES RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- [ARTE AMERICAS UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM](#)
- [The Islamic Scholarship Fund's paid Summer and Spring Internships](#)
- Maddy Institute Legislative Internship
- UROC: Undergraduate Research Opportunities through UC Merced
- UCDC: Study on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. for a semester
- Check in with the Center for Africana Studies, Black Scholars Resource Center, AAPI Resource Center, and Monarch Center

WHAT IS SJP?

From civil rights and gender equality to anti-war activism, the University of California has long been a hotbed of student movements for justice and progress. SJP UCM follows this tradition as students working in solidarity with the Palestinian people, who endure genocide and settler colonialism with the support of our institutions. The student organization hosts demonstrations, fundraisers, and events to fight for justice in Palestine, to create a more educated community, and to demand accountability from the University.

MEETING TIMES

SJP hosts general meetings in the library every Monday at 7pm, and can be reached on Instagram at @sjp.ucm!

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ADVOCATE AND UPLIFT THE VOICES OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES?

Palestinians have endured racial and settler colonial violence since roughly 1948, when the British Empire gave the occupied Palestinian Mandate to settlers. With the support of Western institutions, the state of Israel forcibly expelled Palestinian families and communities from their homes onto shrinking areas of land, where they face apartheid, violence, arbitrary detention, and denial of access to basic resources.

This past year marked a significant escalation in the genocide of Palestinians; armies backed by our government and university, Israel routinely attacks homes, schools, hospitals, aid groups, journalists, and civilians in Gaza, the West Bank, and now in Lebanon as well. Despite its alleged commitment to social justice, the University of California continues to enable the genocide and settlement of Palestine through its financial investments. Like the student-led movements before us, we are pressing the University to take actions that match its stated mission and values. UC administrators outwardly refuse to listen to students, academics or international condemnation of this genocide, antagonizing and sometimes threatening violence or retaliation. We remain undeterred by these threats; the plight and trauma of the Palestinian people necessitates that those of us with privilege speak out for them. People of all identities are welcome in Students for Justice in Palestine. Only together will we inspire change. United, no institution can undermine our power in community.

LOOKING FORWARD: SPRING 2025

NEW CRES COURSE 2025 DIVAS AND DEMOCRACY

CRN: 11652

COURSE DESCRIPTION: UNCOVERS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMERICAN DIVA FIGURES WITH DEMOCRATIC POLITICS AND POETICS. "DIVA" MAY EVOKE A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL, AN EXCEPTIONAL SUBJECT THAT INHABITS A WORLD OF PRIVILEGE, GLAMOUR, AND VISIBILITY. THIS CONTRASTS WITH IDEAS OF "DEMOCRACY", A MESSY, SEEMINGLY DISEMBODIED PROCESS WHEREBY A MULTIPLICITY OF OPINIONS AND EXPERIENCES INFORM THE LEADERSHIP OF A COMMUNITY. WE SITUATE THE FIGURE OF THE DIVA IN THE POLITICAL CONTEXTS THAT CONSTRUCT, BUILD, LISTEN AND ADORE HER/HIM, AND THE ROLE THAT RACE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY PLAYS IN ITS DEVELOPMENT. MOREOVER, WE INTERROGATE OUR OWN LINKS TO DIVAS AND DEMOCRACY THROUGH EMBODIED PERFORMANCE AND PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

OPEN SPRING 2025 COURSES

CRES CORE COURSES:

- **CRES 001** - INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL RACE AND ETHNIC STUDIES TAUGHT BY MYERS, KIT
- **CRES 100** - THEORIES IN CRES TAUGHT BY MYERS, KIT
- **CRES 190** - SENIOR CAPSTONE TAUGHT BY BAKER, CHRISTINA

THEORY REQUIREMENT:

- **SOC 100** - SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY TAUGHT BY VAN DYKE, NELLA

NON-UNITED STATES REQUIREMENT (8 UNITS / 2 CLASSES):

- **HIST 115** - HUMANITARIANISM IN AFRICA TAUGHT BY ALI, MYLES
- **ANTH 113** - URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY TAUGHT BY THOMPSON, DANIEL

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE REQUIREMENT:

- CRES 030** - INTRO TO CHICANX/LATINX STUDIES TAUGHT BY SIFUENTEZ, MARIO
- CRES 051** - THE HISTORY OF THINGS TAUGHT BY SMITH, SABRINA
- CRES 052** - POWER IN FILM TAUGHT BY ROUFF, DAVID
- CRES 101** - RACE AND THE MEDIA TAUGHT CHIQUITHA AMINSALEHI
- CRES 123** - COMPARATIVE RACE AND ETHNICITY TAUGHT BY ROUFF, DAVID
- CRES 174B** - DIVAS AND DEMOCRACY TAUGHT BY ALVARADO, LORENA
- HIST 124A** - AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TAUGHT BY DAWSON, KEVIN
- HIST 187R** - WHITE SUPREMACY AND WHITE VIOLENCE IN THE U.S.: RESEARCH TAUGHT BY MALLOY, SEAN
- GASP 003** - INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL CULTURE (TBA)
- GASP 007** - MUSIC IN SOCIETY TAUGHT BY ALVARADO, LORENA
- PH 113** - LATINO AND IMMIGRANT HEALTH TAUGHT BY YOUNG, MARIA-ELENA
- PSY 124** - HEALTH DISPARITIES TAUGHT BY EPPERSON, ANNA
- SOC 145** - SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH TAUGHT BY VAN NETTA, MEREDITH
- SOC 160** - GENDER AND SOCIETY TAUGHT BY MOLINA, CAROLINA
- SPAN 177** - SOCIOLINGUISTIC AND LATINO HEALTH TAUGHT BY MAGANA, DALIA

CRES Pedestal

Do you know someone who is involved in CRES or exemplifies the values and goals of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies? Have a favorite professor associated with the department and want to shout them out? Fill out the form and nominate yourself, a peer, a friend, or faculty to be on the CRES Pedestal in our next edition! Highlighting the folks working to make UC Merced more inclusive and creating a future with equity, care, and justice for all is the goal.



<https://forms.gle/WeFSvTEpxKQpDegYA>



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CLUB MEETINGS



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