

César E. Chávez Institute



*A community-based research center
where impassioned science
and peaceful social action
intersect to produce change*



College of Ethnic Studies
San Francisco State



Inspired by

César E. Chávez' example of peaceful social justice action, we are dedicated to examining, documenting, and providing strategies to better address the needs of communities of color – highlighting our histories, experiences, resiliency and strengths.

We serve as a bridge

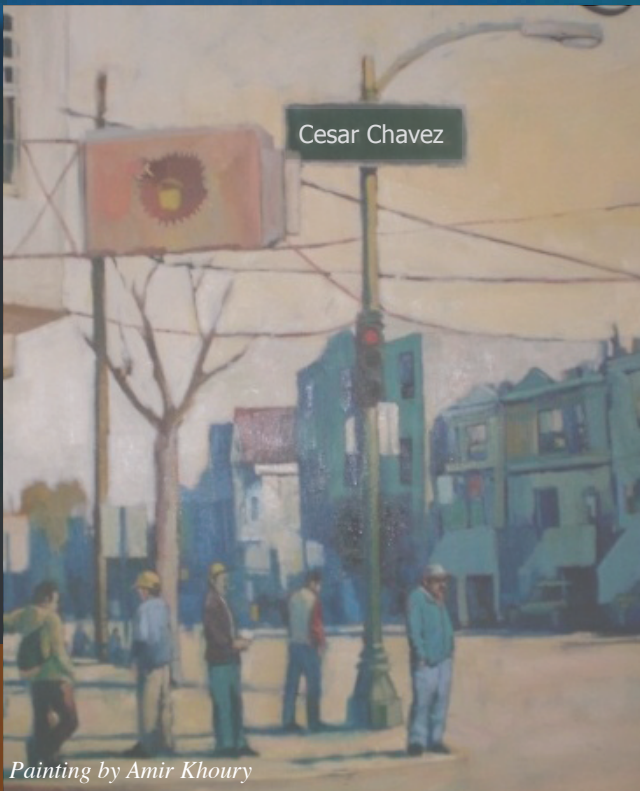
between academic research and community action, developing partnerships between students, faculty, and community



We foster the research and creative work of faculty of color and support the missions of the College of Ethnic Studies and of San Francisco State University.

The César E. Chávez Institute

A multi-ethnic research center committed to promoting socially engaged scholarship and community action, with the overall goal of empowering communities and individuals of color in their struggles for inclusion and equality. We have a decade-long record promoting change in the areas of health, education, and self-determination.



We:

- Engage in research that informs policy and practice
- Examine the impact of structural disadvantage and institutional bias on access and representation
- Work to enhance capacity and enable voice in our communities

Action-centered Research

The César E. Chávez Institute is committed to the highest quality research, with the goal of developing effective and culturally appropriate strategies and policies.

Our community partners are not merely the objects of research and intervention, but rather active participants in the investigative process and in the meaningful interpretation and documentation of findings.

We employ a wide range of quantitative and qualitative methods, such as surveys, secondary data analysis, policy analysis, ethnography, indepth interviews, oral histories, focus groups, social documentation and literary criticism.

We seek only meaningful projects that have the potential to create change in our communities.

Education

We aim to improve educational progress and ensure that students of color have access to a high-quality education.

We examine the varying educational attainment levels of students of color and the barriers to education.

Health

We aim to improve health by increasing access to high-quality, culturally and linguistically appropriate care in our communities.

We explore the social determinants of health and the intersection of social and institutional factors that perpetuate lax care, medical disadvantages, and poor health.

Self-determination

We are committed to building the capacity of individuals, families, and communities, expand wealth, foster leadership, and promote the enfranchisement of people of color.

We examine and document barriers to self-determination and inclusion, explore programs that promote community empowerment, and support already present sources of resiliency and strength.



Samples of current and recent projects



Latino Migrant Labor: Structural-environmental factors, alcohol, and HIV risk

Kurt Organista, UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare

James Quesada, César E. Chávez Institute

A collaboration with Mission Neighborhood Resource Center, Multicultural Institute of West Berkeley, Research Triangle Institute, La Raza Centro Legal, and UC San Francisco.

Migrant workers survive amidst pronounced poverty, substandard housing or homelessness, discrimination, employer abuse, and prolonged isolation. Dangerous working conditions result in frequent injuries - yet desperate economic pressure pushes them to accept dangerous assignments with no training or safety equipment. To make matters worse, tighter immigration and border control policies now make it more difficult, dangerous, and expensive to return home for visits, forcing men to separate almost permanently from their loved ones. Isolation and depression are the norm. The conditions they confront contribute to drinking, drug use, and risky sexual behaviors. How migrant workers cope with these stressors has not been well documented. This project examines the structural-environmental factors that lead to risky behaviors and the potential protective factors that help them mediate the risk and remain healthy. This is a four-year mixed-method project funded by the National Institute of Health and the National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse.



Community Involvement & Activism as a Protective Factor for HIV

Rafael M. Díaz, César E. Chávez Institute

Jesús Ramírez Valles, University of Illinois at Chicago

The AIDS crisis proved that community involvement can play a central role in the fight against disease in that it was volunteers and activists who first led education, prevention, care-taking, and creating community-based organizations in the most affected populations. Numberless individuals taking action together brings about far-reaching social changes in their communities, and health interventions are likely to be culturally appropriate and sustainable.

Beyond the more palpable, collective benefits, community involvement has other critically beneficial public health implications. Through their involvement in HIV/AIDS-related organizations and efforts, individuals develop and maintain a more positive and therefore psychologically healthy sense of themselves. They become educated and conscious of HIV risks and preventive behaviors, develop a sense of community in spite of social stigmas, and mobilize their social networks to cope with their individual and community stressors. The over-all effect is greater psychological and physical health and resilience. In the process of mobilizing, volunteers and activists transform themselves in ways that have quantifiable health outcomes.

The overall goal of this now-completed, two-city research program was to investigate the protective effects of community involvement in HIV/AIDS sexual risk behavior among Latino gay or bisexual men using qualitative and quantitative methods.



Ethnic Studies in Urban Schools

Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales, César E. Chávez Institute

The purpose of this project is to develop ways in which ethnic studies can be included in the curriculum of urban schools, inspiring students to be more engaged in their education. In ethnic studies, students learn about their identities and communities, and how to engage in service and action that pursue social justice and equity. This project employs traditional research methods as well as ground-breaking community-based participatory research, working directly with youth and public school teachers in the development of research aims and methodology. The director of this project is currently working with an Ethnic Studies Development Committee of the San Francisco Unified School District to create curriculum for the schools. Currently five schools in the SFUSD are teaching ethnic studies at their schools, serving over 300 students.



Future direction of our work



Rationing Preschools: Institutional Barriers to Preschool Enrollment for Latino Children

*Elías López, Wealth Research Institute
Belinda Reyes, César E. Chávez Institute*

Latinos have the lowest preschool enrollment of all racial and ethnic groups, even though they are the majority of preschool age children. Enrollment is particularly low among low-income children, many of whom are eligible to attend state-funded programs yet do not enroll. Institutional barriers, such as the application and eligibility processes for state programs, could be limiting children from accessing the programs. This project examines the barriers to preschool enrollment for Latino children.

A Study of Civic Action Among African American Youth: Understanding the Role of Injustice, Power, and Activism

*Shawn Ginwright, César E. Chávez Institute
Rodrick Watts, City University of New York*

Our schools often fail to prepare low-income youth of color to deal with the poverty, oppression, and the lack of opportunities in their environment. Social activism can contribute towards genuine well-being and a more positive development among urban youth. Fostering knowledge of themes such as oppression, liberation, and social justice, combined with social action such as protests or community organizing can promote youth development. This study explains how perceptions of injustice influence a range of civic activities for black youth in urban neighborhoods.



Dropping Public Support for Higher Education: It's Impact on People of Color Entering and Graduating from College

*Belinda Reyes, César E. Chávez Institute
Hans Johnson, Public Policy Institute of California*

Throughout the nation, colleges and universities are experiencing reductions in government support that are leading to increases in tuition, rationing, and cost cutting measures. These institutional changes could erode access to postsecondary education, particularly to students of color who are already at a disadvantage in access and completion. This research seeks to examine the relationship between cost reducing strategies and student's access, persistence, and completion, with an emphasis on students of color.

White Attitudes about Diversity and their Support for Social Programs

*Max Neiman, University of California, Berkeley
Belinda Reyes, César E. Chávez Institute
Luís Fraga, University of Washington*

State and the Federal governments are debating broad cuts in public programs. Could increases in ethnic diversity have an impact on the level of popular support for a host of public programs? This project assesses how non-Hispanic whites' willingness to support services, such as education, is affected by their perceptions of rising social diversity in their communities.



Women with Breast Cancer Taking Care of Other: Emotional Support Patterns among Women of Color

Grace Yoo, César E. Chávez Institute

Breast cancer continues to be a leading cause of death for women in the U.S., and women of color have poorer prognoses as compared with white women. Research has shown that an inability to cope emotionally with a cancer diagnoses can be very harmful. For certain women of color, the ingrained habits of always caring for others may override taking care of herself, just when her need to receive support is most dire. Understanding if and when these habits are detrimental to their own emotional and physical health may help healthcare providers educate patients and caregivers about how to respond effectively to their loved ones with breast cancer.

Community Seminars and Forums

*“Effective, informative,
and provocative...”*

*“It was so powerful to
participate in this event,
this celebration,
coming-together,
learning experience...
This was a very
invigorating experience.”*

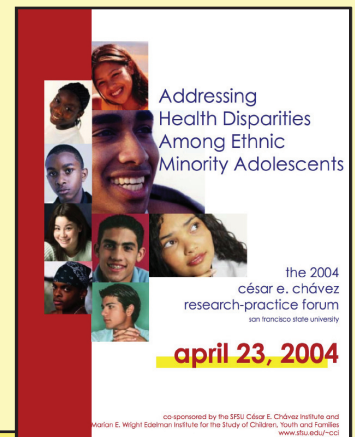
*“The perfect venue
for networking and
having significant
dialogue between
community, academia
and researchers...
Thank you!”*

In-depth, meaningful research and community mobilization depend on the ability to listen, to accurately perceive needs, to allow the community itself to move our work in new directions.

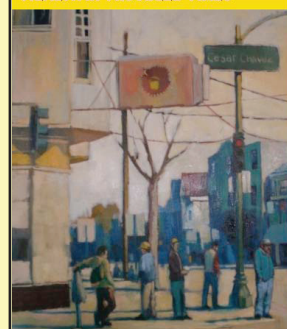
Our forums and seminars bring together community organizations, researchers and policy makers to share best practices on topics relevant to community stakeholders.

Research/Practice Forums at the Institute bring together key academic and community representatives to share new knowledge and best practices on a critical issue. These carefully structured all-day events allow community-based organizations (CBOs), policymakers, researchers, artists, students and educators to learn from each other's work and exchange ideas, allowing participants to improve local practices and influence wider discourse and research.

Policy & Action Seminars enable community members to discuss critical issues of the day, on a more regular basis, with faculty, policymakers, students, and researchers, in a less structured format. CCI presents research evidence on the subject or brings in experts to frame the discussion. The intention is to share best practices and provide a forum for open dialogue.



Day Laborers



- health
- human rights
- advocacy
- mobilization
- housing
- INS raids
- survival
- access to services
- mental health
- deportation
- personal safety
- isolation
- discrimination
- activism
- culture
- citizenship
- wellbeing

Service providers,
academics &
activists:
Working together
in solidarity

**A Community/University Forum
Tuesday May 8th, 2007**

information & registration
<http://cci.sfsu.edu/forum>

organized by the
César E. Chávez Institute
San Francisco State University - College of Ethnic Studies

Event graphics by Miguel Casuso



Community Building



Public policymakers and funders are increasingly turning to community-based organizations to offer or co-create new solutions to the multiple social ills where both the public and private sectors have failed to have sufficient impact. CBOs are asked to help build, educate, protect and empower communities, and at the same time operate under an ever-greater demand for efficiency and efficacy. Many programs designed to bolster the wellbeing of communities of color need outside help to more clearly understand and address the complexities of the social and political issues they are confronted with on a daily basis.

Capacity Building Initiative

The Capacity Building Initiative (CBI) assists CBOs in building their research and evaluation capacity, in order to strengthen their programs and advocacy, meet contract requirements, and gain support from the community, regulatory agencies and funders.

Products and Services can include:

- Research methods designed to meet the specific needs of agencies
- In-depth interviews
- Survey instrument development
- Assistance defining and articulating community needs, program objectives and design
- Literature reviews
- Data analysis
- Program evaluations
- Community assessments
- Impact reports
- Culturally appropriate educational materials
- Training and technical assistance to implement assessments

“We have nothing but praise for all the training and support the Institute provided our team. We appreciate your guidance and look forward to collaborating with you in the future...”

Evaluation of *Cestas Populares* Peer Lending Circles in Six San Francisco Communities

The economic and housing crisis has caused the greatest loss of wealth to people of color in modern U.S. history. Programs that aim to improve the financial situation of people of color are critical. For many years, community organizations have offered financial training and education with a minimal impact on people's financial situation.

The Mission Asset Fund (MAF) is forging new ground by combining a responsible and relevant financial product with timely and actionable financial education that result in short- and long-term gains for families. In partnership with the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE), MAF will expand its program by franchising the model to five additional communities in San Francisco.

CCI will collaborate with MAF in evaluating the program's effectiveness at increasing the financial capacity of low- to moderate-income populations in the original Mission site, plus the five new communities. Using a quasi-experimental design, the evaluation will include qualitative and quantitative data that document the financial, personal, and economic progress of participants and a control group. The replication study and evaluation are funded by the Levi Strauss Foundation, the Citi Foundation, and the Center for Financial Services Innovation.

Ethnographic Collaborative



Painting by Amir Khourey

The Collaborative is the Institute's emerging network of faculty, activists, students and CBO partners focused on documenting the history, experiences and resiliency of communities of color -- from our own perspectives and in our own voices.

Ethnographic and oral historical methods and digital technologies can be skillfully employed by marginalized communities, who are too often left out of public discourse and historical analyses, to understand and empower themselves and tell their own stories.

Collaborative projects are bringing the extensive expertise and tools of academia to Bay Area communities of color by:

- Collecting, housing, sorting, digitization, and cataloging historical materials for preservation and future public access;
- Creating interactive web sites for the comprehensive presentation and sharing of digitized materials – a living archives;
- Providing instruction in, support for, and opportunities for the use of new media and digital technologies;
- Teaching oral historical methods – such as filmed, qualitative, in-depth interviewing;
- Promoting youth civic engagement and service learning;
- Developing teaching tools based on the materials generated by the projects.

Current projects

We are Still Here

A multi-media exhibit on the historic American Indian occupation of Alcatraz Island in 1969 - providing visibility and an historical re-analysis of the event that launched the Red Power movement.

California Native American Art History Collections and Archives Project

The first-ever comprehensive art historical profile of California Native American art, revealing a missing chapter in the state's current role as a capital of contemporary Native American art.

Hiphop as Public Engagement

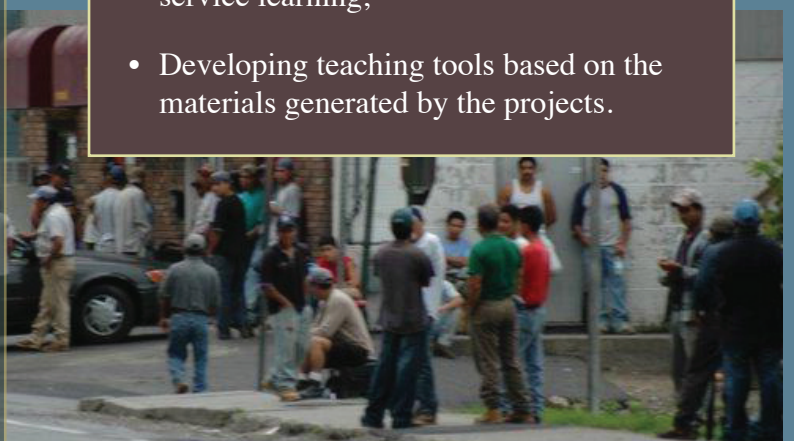
A gathering of the history, art, ethnography and political work associated with the Bay Area's Hiphop's cultures, and their uncompromising critique and sociopolitical analysis arising from communities of color.

All Power to the People

A digital archive project on the social movements and issues at the heart of the 1968 Third World Strike at San Francisco State as well as other historic struggles in Bay Area communities of color.

La Misión, Voices of Resistance

An ongoing community oral history project examining the impact of gentrification of low-income Latin@ neighborhoods and possible strategies for navigating and resisting change.



Mentorship & Training

The César E. Chávez Institute provides mentoring and research opportunities for faculty and students in order to cultivate a new generation of socially engaged researchers.

For Students

Student Research Award

The César E. Chávez Institute aims to reward student scholarship by providing awards, publication possibilities, and financial compensation for scholarship and creative work that addresses social justice issues facing people of color.

Internship and Employment

We engage students in research, training and community engagement opportunities, either as salaried work experience or for academic credit.

For Faculty

- Proposal Development Group
- Community-University Empowerment Fund

The Institute has two programs to mentor and support faculty and community partners in the development and implementation of policy- or community-relevant projects. The goal is to cultivate a new generation of socially engaged researchers.

For everyone



The Chávez Institute is a member of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR), meaning that our faculty, students *and* community partners

are eligible to access a range of research opportunities and a diverse network of scholars across the United States.

Opportunities at IUPLR include:

Working Groups of scholars from member centers, who collectively advance research on critical social and policy issues.

The Latino Museum Studies

Program – a month-long training at the Smithsonian Latino Center in Washington, D.C., which helps students and practitioners develop archival and cultural preservation skills.

The Summer Institute for Latino

Policy in Washington, D.C., which develops the policy research skills of young Latinos and exposes them to the world of politics.

Faculty Working Groups

The Institute regularly brings together faculty with similar interests to share ideas, provide feedback on research and methods and develop proposals. Our first such effort yielded the Ethnographic Collaborative. We are currently hoping to develop a new working group on Media, Arts and Social Justice.



César E. Chávez Institute

Affiliated S.F. State Faculty & Institute Staff



Belinda Reyes, Director
Associate Professor of Latina/Latino Studies



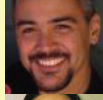
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Administration, graphics, communication



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Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies



Rafael M. Díaz, Former Director
Professor of Ethnic Studies (retired)



Jason Ferreira
Assistant Professor of Race and Resistance Studies



Dawn-Elissa Fischer
Assistant Professor of Africana Studies



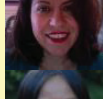
Shawn Ginwright
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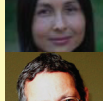
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Public Policy Institute of California

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Severns Family Foundation

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