



## The President's Corner—Maria De Jesus Mora, California State University, Stanislaus

Dear CSA community,

As I reflect on our recent 2024 conference in Cal Poly Pomona, I am reminded of how sociology provides a space for developing critical consciousness and fostering community initiatives. The ongoing resistance by racialized and underserved communities inspired our 2024 conference theme on *Human Rights: Policy Threats, Alliances, and Community Resistance*. The keynote address enhanced this discussion by focusing on the environmental impact of military bases. Dr. Camila Alvarez reminded us of the importance of sociologists in documenting resistance against environmental threats and highlighted the importance of participatory action research.

I want to extend my gratitude to our keynote speaker and our sociological community for contributing to the success of the 2024 California Sociological Association conference. The meaningful discussions held by undergraduates in their roundtables and research panels show the significant impact students have in our discipline and the crucial need for sociology in higher education. I also want to thank all the organizers, council members, and conference participants. I am honored to introduce our new president-elect Dr. Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours and I look forward to her leadership.



**California Sociological Association  
2025 Annual Meeting  
November 6-8, 2025  
Location: To Be Announced  
Save the Date  
Call for Sessions and Papers  
Coming Soon!**

## President Elect and 2025 Program Chair—Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours, Point Loma University

We, the California Sociological Association (CSA) executive committee, are still celebrating the success of our most recent conference, which was held at the Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel in Pomona on November 1-2, 2024. Congratulations to Dr. Maria De Jesus Mora, the 2024 CSA President-Elect and Program Chair! The conversations I had there helped me face the election results with courage. I remember talking with colleagues and students, saying something akin to: “no matter what happens, we will continue to do the work that needs to be done. And we will find ways to *flourish*.”

The feeling was familiar. The first time I attended a CSA Annual Meeting was in November 2016, three days before the election. Two students who were curious about graduate school joined me, and we took a photo together in front of the Riverside Mission Inn entrance. When the election results that year came in, I recall thinking, “we have so much work to do.” During times like these—then in 2016, now in 2024, and as we begin 2025—I hold on to the words by both Rep. John Robert Lewis (1940-2020) and Grace Lee Boggs (1915-2015). Lewis said to be hopeful: “Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime.” And Boggs, who lived for 100 years (imagine all the struggles she’d seen!), remarked that: “Healing our society will require the *patient* work not primarily of politicians but of artists, ministers, gardeners, workers, families, women, and communities” (my emphasis).

As I step into the role of the 2025 CSA President-Elect and Program Chair, I am reflecting on how we can—collectively—persevere through the struggles of our lifetime, so we can continue to do the necessary work with patience.

### Odds and Ends

- Please visit the California Sociological Association on Facebook.
- Is your department doing something especially well—receiving awards, preparing students for employment or graduate study, promoting research skills, or service learning? Please let the rest of us know by contacting J. Vern Cromartie ([j\\_vern\\_cromartie@yahoo.com](mailto:j_vern_cromartie@yahoo.com)).



## Message from the Executive Director —Tim Kubal, Fresno State University

The California Sociological Association serves an important purpose for scholars across the state, but also serves as a vehicle for service among a small number of committed leaders who help organize the conference and keep the organization afloat. The CSA pays no administrative costs—everyone is a volunteer. In this message, I want to acknowledge a few key leaders and also some new faces that have joined the CSA organizing council.

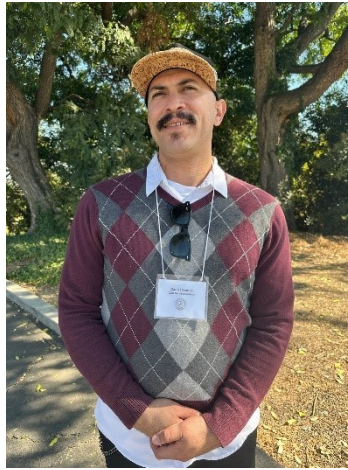
Thank you to our current president, Maria De Jesus Mora, from CSU, Stanislaus, who did an excellent job of organizing the 2024 conference in Pomona. The keynote speaker was especially enlightening and motivating. Thank you to all the session organizers for establishing great sessions, and all the speakers for sharing their passions. It was the first time that CSA has met on a college campus. We hope to continue meeting on campuses, but there are limited options for campus conferences during the school year that also offer on-site lodging for conference participants, especially in the North. CSA rotates north-south each year to maximize membership participation.

We could not find a suitable campus home in the north for the 2025 CSA conference. Therefore, we are *tentatively* planning the CSA 2025 conference at the Sacramento Holiday Inn on Nov 7-8 2025. This is the same location that we have used in the past, and while they are more expensive than campus, they are accessible, good quality, have lots of nearby food options, and of course, have on-site lodging and catering.

Once the contract is signed in the next month or so, we will post on the CSA website a formal announcement about the conference location and dates. We expect to request a Call for Sessions earlier than the past—you should see the Call for Sessions early in the Spring, with a Call for Papers shortly thereafter. This year's conference lead organizer is president-elect *Jimiliz* M. Valiente-Neighbours, Ph.D. (she/her/hers) (pronounced "Jim-uh-leez"). She is a professor of sociology at Point Loma University. We also are welcoming Mike Chavez into the role of immediate past president, Juan M. Pitones from Ventura Community College as our Community College South Representative, and Alejandro Zermeño from California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, who is starting service as the CSU South Representative.

What makes CSA so great is the people—those recognized here and the many others that make it worthwhile. Thank you all.





**Daniel Gomez, California State University, San Bernardino  
CSU Undergraduate Student of 2024 Award**



**Simon Griffith, California State University, San Marcos  
CSU Graduate Student of 2024 Award**



**Betty Arreguin, University of California, San Francisco  
UC Graduate Student of 2024 Award**



**Four CSA Presidents at the 2024 CSA Conference (Left to Right: Newest CSA President Elect, Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours; 2025 CSA President, Maria Mora; 2024 CSA President, Mike Chavez; and 2023 CSA President Alicia M. Gonzales)**





**Students Celebrate Their Amazing Undergraduate Research Roundtables Session at the 2024 CSA Conference. Organizer: Alicia M. Gonzales, California State University, San Marcos, [amgozal@csum.edu](mailto:amgozal@csum.edu). President: Roberto Rivera, University of California, Riverside, [rrivera@csusm.edu](mailto:rrivera@csusm.edu)**





**Dia De Muertos (Day of the Dead) Altar at the 2024 CSA Conference  
which Honored Sociologists who Died in 2024 or Before**





**Close-up View of the Dia De Muertos (Day of the Dead) Altar at the 2024 CSA Conference which Shows Photographs of Sociologists Dr. Gary Rolison, Professor Willie Thompson, and Dr. Majeedah Rahman**







**Close-up View of the Dia De Muertos (Day of the Dead) Altar at the 2024 CSA Conference which Honored Sociologists who Died in 2024**





**Close-up View of the Dia De Muertos (Day of the Dead) Altar at the 2024 CSA Conference which Shows Photographs of Sociologists Dr. Nathan Hare and Dr. Robert L. Allen**





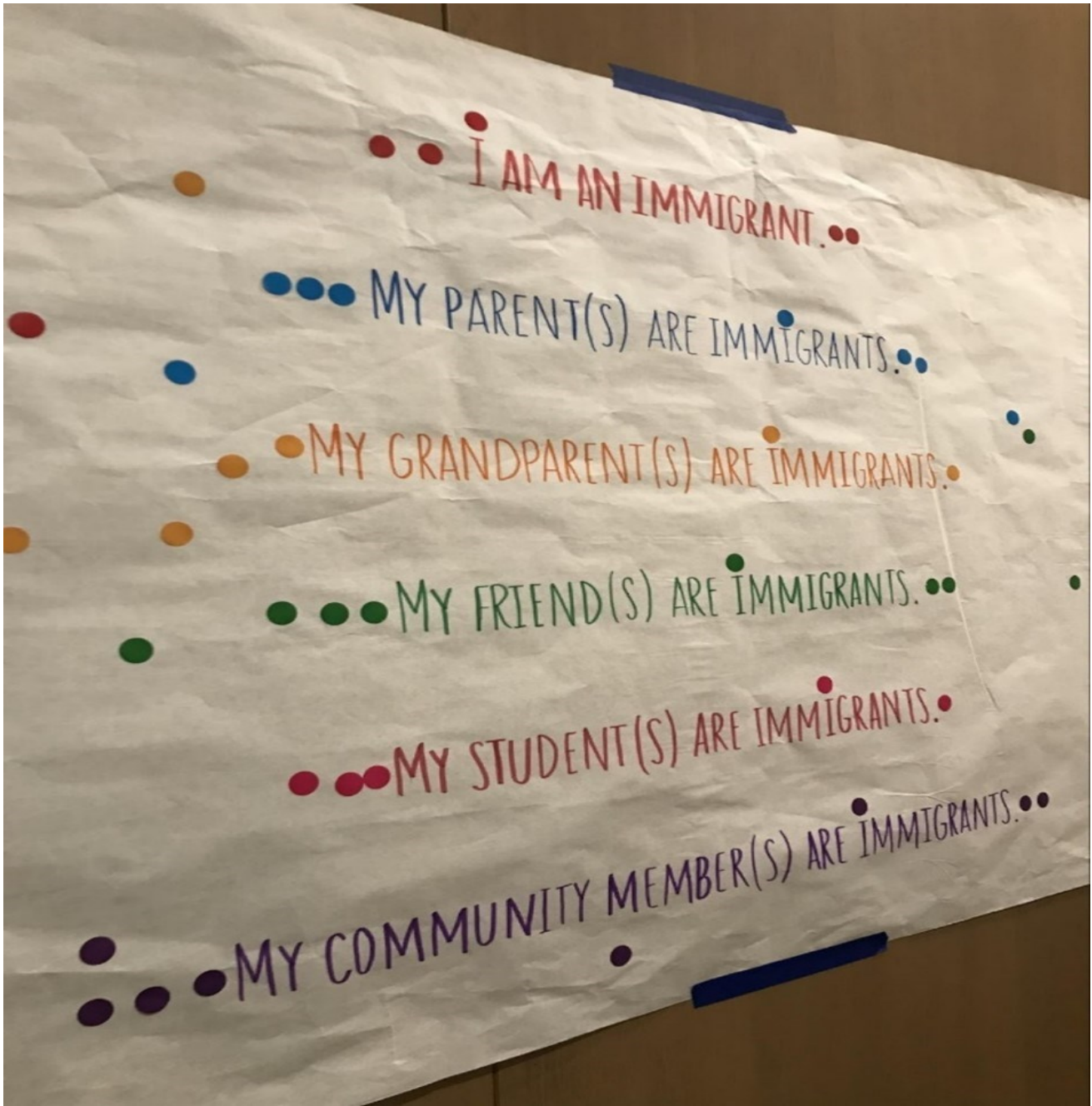
**J. Vern Cromartie, Contra Costa College, Stands Next to the Dia De Muertos (Day of the Dead) Altar at the 2024 CSA Conference**





**Stephanie J. White, Contra Costa College; Catherine Leach, California Baptist University; and J. Vern Cromartie, Cromartie, Contra Costa College; Stand Together After Their “Issues in Race and Ethnicity” Paper Session at the 2024 CSA Conference**





**Interactive Immigrant Collective Art Display on Day 1  
of the 2024 CSA Conference**



## Editor's Corner—J. Vern Cromartie, Contra Costa College

### As the Crow Flies No. 14

*Black History Month and the Sociological Imagination:  
Events at Contra Costa College in 2024 and 2025*

On February 24, 2024, the Sociology Department at Contra Costa College held an online event titled “The Black Arts Movement Reexamined: A Symposium.” I organized the symposium which featured two research presentations. One presentation was done by Dr. James Alexander Robinson, 4th, a professor of Black Studies at Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His presentation focused on the contributions of Toni Cade Bambara to the Black Arts Movement. I made the second presentation and focused on the contributions of Black Panthers to the Black Arts Movement before they joined the Black Panther Party. The Black Panthers I covered included Bobby Seale, George Mason Murray, and Emory Douglas. Bobby Seale made his contributions to the Black Arts Movement as sales and distribution manager from 1965 to 1966 for *Soulbook*. It was one of the first journals, if not the first, to develop out of the Black Arts Movement. Bobby Seale also served as an actor in some of the first plays to emerge out of the Black Arts Movement. He played the role of Willie in a play by Marvin X titled *Come Next Summer*. In the case of George Mason Murray, he made his contributions to the Black Arts Movement as a poet and actor. George Mason Murray published a poem in the first issue of *Black Dialogue* during the spring of 1965. He served as the lead actor in a play titled *The First Militant Minister*, which one of the first plays to develop out of the Black Arts Movement during Spring 1967. The play was written by Ben Caldwell and directed by Amiri Baraka. Emory Douglas served as a set designer and graphics specialist for some of the first plays to develop out of the Black Arts Movement. One of those plays was Ben Caldwell's *The First Militant Minister*.

From February 1, 2024 to February 28, 2024, I served as the curator of a month-long exhibit in the Contra Costa College Library display cases. The exhibit was titled “The Black Arts Movement: The Forgotten Contributions of Black Panthers Bobby Seale, George Mason Murray, and Emory Douglas.” It was directly connected to the presentation I made as part of the symposium on February 24, 2024. The exhibit featured photographs and books that shed light on Bobby Seale, George Mason Murray, and Emory Douglas as three Black Panthers who made valuable contributions to the Black Arts Movement before they joined the Black Panther Party.

On February 22, 2022, the Sociology Department at Contra Costa College will sponsor an online symposium titled “Black Labor in the United States of America: The Ordeal of Black Dining Car Workers and Black Sanitation Workers.” I organized the symposium which will feature two research presentations. One presentation will be done by Dr. James Alexander Robinson of Metropolitan State University. His presentation will focus on the case of Lienzi Remus as a dining car waiter and social movement leader. I will make the second presentation and will focus on the “I am a Man Protest Demonstration and the Black Sanitation Worker Strike.”

From February 1, 2025 to February 28, 2025, I will serve as the curator of a month-long exhibit in the Contra Costa College Library display cases. The exhibit is titled “Black Labor in the United States of America: The Case of the 1968 I am a Man Protest Demonstration and the Black Sanitation Worker Strike in Memphis, Tennessee.” The exhibit is directly connected to the presentation I will make as part of the symposium on February 22, 2025. My exhibit will feature photographs of the 1968 I am a Man Protest Demonstration and the Black Sanitation Worker Strike in Memphis, Tennessee, as well as, Thomas “T.O.” Jones, Jr., as a Jegna and president of Local 1733 of AFSCME. It will also feature a collection of books authored by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Jegna and president of SCLC. In addition, the exhibit will feature my book titled Martin Luther King, Jr. in Waycross, Georgia. It focuses on a visit Dr. King made to Waycross, Georgia on March 23, 1968, only 12 days before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.



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