



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

Dear CSA Community,

I hope everyone is having a smooth transition back to their semester. We are excited to see you at the 2025 conference in Berkeley, California, this November. Dr. Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours, our current president-elect, has created a theme, “Creativity and Community in Times of Crises,” that will uplift our members' spirits and push for creative solutions to address social injustices. The theme reminds us of how community supports community and the role of the California Sociological Association (CSA) in providing a space for students, faculty, and community members to discuss real-world issues that impact the most vulnerable. In a time when there are continuous attacks on various groups, it is an opportunity to continue to push towards social change and find joy in community resistance. As the CSA board continues to prepare for our upcoming conference, I encourage you all to organize a session and to participate in them as well. Our CSA conference would not be possible without all of you.



**California Sociological Association  
2025 Annual Meeting  
November 6-8, 2025  
*Location:*  
Residence Inn by Marriott  
*Address:*  
2121 Center Street  
Berkeley, California**

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

Over 20 years ago, Howard Zinn stated in *The Optimism of Uncertainty* (2004) that: “What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.” The 2025 California Sociological Association’s conference theme is to invite us all to remember those times and places where our elders, relatives, and neighbors have used **“creativity and community in times of crises”** so we do not lose inspiration and hope during these difficult times of ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing, reversals of civil rights we only managed to secure a few decades ago, separation of families, and among many others, rollbacks of protections against our non-human relatives water, air, land, plants, and animals.

How does one remain encouraged amidst one crisis after another? Grace Lee Boggs, who lived to be 100 years old (1915-2015), shares some wisdom in her book *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism in the Twenty-First Century* (2012). She expressed: “Healing our society will require the patient work not primarily of politicians but of artists, ministers, gardeners, workers, families, women, and communities.” Inspired by Boggs’s call for “critical connections” of people from all walks of life, this conference invites artists, community organizers, sociologists, and interdisciplinary scholars to listen to one another, to cultivate and celebrate community, and to be inspired by each other’s creativity in the way we move in our respective professions and daily lives. And, yes, this year’s conference will also include how we can celebrate each other’s creativity on the dance floor, where we welcome community members of all ages! I hope to see you at this year’s conference.



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

The California Sociological Association (CSA) has proudly maintained an uninterrupted 35-year tradition of hosting lively annual conferences. These gatherings showcase the work of scholars in sociology and allied fields who bring sociological thinking to bear on the issues of our time. I have been active in CSA since returning to California in 2001, served as president in 2016, and have had the honor of serving as executive director since 2021.

It is deeply rewarding to be part of a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the dissemination of important ideas. By providing a nonprofit forum for scholarly exchange, CSA contributes to the health of civil society—joining the vital tradition of nongovernmental organizations committed to fostering public dialogue around pressing social issues.

Many scholars have noted the decline of civic engagement in recent decades, often tied to the waning of civic organizations. While CSA is certainly a professional organization, it also embodies the spirit of a civic association: voluntary, community-based, and motivated by the shared purpose of advancing beneficial ideas about society. Civic organizations, as Robert Putnam and others have shown, play a key role in building social capital, yet participation in them has diminished due to work pressures, suburbanization, and the lure of electronic entertainment.

In this context, the continued vitality of the California Sociological Association is something truly significant—and something we can all take pride in sustaining. Together, we have built and preserved an organization that strengthens both our profession and our civic life.

I am honored to serve as executive director, and I thank you for your commitment to CSA and its mission.

### 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)).
- The *California Sociological Association Bulletin* is accepting submissions of short articles and poems in future issues.





## **Catherine Hanna Schrock: Keynote Speaker at the 2025 CSA Conference**

**Catherine Hanna Schrock** is the Co-Founder & Director of Programs for IMAGINE ([imaginebravespaces.com](http://imaginebravespaces.com)), an applied theatre company based in San Diego, California. Motivated to cultivate empathy, Catherine designs and facilitates creative programming that equips diverse multigenerational communities to engage in complex dialogues toward social and community development. She specializes in various applied theatre forms including Interview Theatre, Playback Theatre, and Theatre of the Oppressed—specifically, Forum Theatre, an interactive format that allows audiences to role-play toward conflict transformation. To date, her original Forum Theatre work has served more than 50,000 people across San Diego County. Catherine holds a master’s degree in educational theater from New York University and a bachelor’s degree in sociology and international development.





## Shammy Dee: Featured Performer at the 2025 CSA Conference

**Shammy Dee** is a joyful and high-energy DJ who has shared the stage with Grammy award-winning artists like Kendrick Lamar and Diplo and played for celebrities such as Alicia Keys and Fergie, as well as global brands including Christian Louboutin and Louis Vuitton. He is also a composer and music director for theatrical productions such as *Poor Yella Rednecks* (South Coast Repertory), *Vietgone* (A.C.T. SF and East-West Players), and *Tiger Style!* (La Jolla Playhouse). An accomplished artist himself, he composes original music (find him on Spotify) and has appeared on television shows like *How I Met Your Mother* and *Sam & Cat*.



2025 CONFERENCE

FRI & SAT | NOVEMBER 7TH & 8TH

CALIFORNIA SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
**CREATIVITY & COMMUNITY  
IN TIMES OF CRISES**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
CATHERINE HANNA  
SCHROCK  
OF IMAGINE



FEATURED DJ  
SHAMMY DEE



WE WELCOME SESSIONS ON ORGANIZING, ART, AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING!





**Residence Inn by Marriott Berkeley**  
2121 Center Street  
Berkeley, CA

**Hotel Information**

- **Newest hotel in Berkeley (opened December 2021)**
- **One bedroom suites—king or double queen beds with a separate seating area and kitchen**
- **Daily—All-American breakfast buffet (included in group room rate)**
- **Complimentary WiFi in guestrooms**
- **Fitness center**
- **Indoor and outdoor function space**
- **Full service catering**
- **In-house AV company**
- **Study hall roof top bar**
- **Amazing roof top restaurant and bar (12<sup>th</sup> floor) with views of UC Berkeley & other parts of the Bay Area. It is the best roof top bar in Berkeley! There is live music & DJ on Friday & Saturday nights.**
- **Centrally located in Downtown Berkeley with a variety of restaurants, bars, entertainment, Downtown BART Station, etc.**
- **California Sociological Association Group Rate: \$249 plus 13.25% tax per night (savings of \$64 per room per night)**



# Call for Papers, Paper Sessions, and Roundtable Panel Sessions

## Organize a Paper Session or Roundtable Panel Session for the Upcoming California Sociological Association Conference

You still have time to organize a paper session or roundtable panel session! To be added to the list of paper sessions or roundtable panels, please send an email to Heidy Sarabia ([heidy.sarabia@csus.edu](mailto:heidy.sarabia@csus.edu)) and Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours ([jvaliente@pointloma.edu](mailto:jvaliente@pointloma.edu)) to be added to the list by September 12, 2025. Paper session organizers and roundtable panel organizers will have until October 17, 2025 to submit paper session details and roundtable panel details.

## Present at the 2025 California Sociological Association Conference

To present at the conference, find an appropriate session from the list below and email the organizer. In the email, include the title of your presentation, your name as you would like it to appear on the program, your status (e.g., professor, student, etc.), and your affiliation (e.g., what college or university you are attending). Please note that the “undergraduate student sessions” are specifically intended for undergraduates and not graduate students.

Organizer	Email	Session Type
A. Carli Richie-Zavaleta	<a href="mailto:arichiez@pointloma.edu">arichiez@pointloma.edu</a>	Undergraduate student session (focused on applied research and methods projects)
Amalia Perez Martin	<a href="mailto:a.perezmartin@csus.edu">a.perezmartin@csus.edu</a>	Undergraduate Student Session (focused on research around social control in society, including legal and non-legal forms of control over minoritized individuals and communities)
Amanda Sigihara	<a href="mailto:shigihara@csus.edu">shigihara@csus.edu</a>	Graduate Student Session (focused on sex, gender, and bodies)
Ana Ljubinkovic	<a href="mailto:aljubinkovic@csustan.edu">aljubinkovic@csustan.edu</a>	Migration, Trauma, and Healing
Anne Marengo	<a href="mailto:anne.marengo@canyons.edu">anne.marengo@canyons.edu</a>	Undergraduate Student Session (focused on research)
Anne Marengo	<a href="mailto:anne.marengo@canyons.edu">anne.marengo@canyons.edu</a>	Poster Session for Students
Ari Ofengenden	<a href="mailto:ariofengen@csus.edu">ariofengen@csus.edu</a>	Sociological Studies of Theory

Organizer	Email	Session Type
Ayanna Yonemura	yonemura@csus.edu	Meet the Author Session ( <i>Women, Wars and Public Policies, 2025</i> )
Ayanna Yonemura	yonemura@csus.edu	Sociological Studies of Culture
Celina Bridges	cbridges2@csustan.edu	Sociological Studies of Health and Medicine
Alicia Gonzales	amgonzal@sum.edu	Graduate Student Session: Making Sociology Matter
Alicia Gonzales	amgonzal@sum.edu	Race—Open Call Session: Current Research
Alicia Gonzales	amgonzal@sum.edu	Undergraduate Student Research
Alicia Gonzales	amgonzal@sum.edu	Critical Life Course
Alicia Gonzales	amgonzal@sum.edu	Community Cultural Wealth
Charlene Holkenbrink-Monk	cholkenbrink-monk@sdsu.edu	Visual Sociology
LaQuita M. Jones	joneslm@laccd.edu	Sociological Studies of Soundtracks of Social Change
Christian Lewis	clewis@nightingale.edu	Sociological Methodology—Qualitative
Christian Lewis	clewis@nightingale.edu	Sociological Studies of Education
Jennifer Krebsbach	jkrebsbach@ucdavis.edu	Sociology of Sex and Gender
Claudia Johnson Madrigal	cjohnson78@ucmerced.edu	Sociological Studies of Abolitionist Praxis
Jeremy Thomas	jeremythomas@isu	Sociological Studies of Sexuality
Flor Saldana	fsaldana@sum.edu	Sociological Studies of Education
Heidy Sarabia	heidy.sarabia@csus.edu	Undergraduate Student Session (focused on health and leisure)
Heidy Sarabia	heidy.sarabia@csus.edu	Undergraduate Student Session (focused on higher education majors, programs, and support for first generation students)
Heidy Sarabia	heidy.sarabia@csus.edu	Sociology of Immigration

Organizer	Email	Session Type
Hien Park	hien.park@vanguard.edu	Undergraduate Student Session (focused on empirical research studies)
Hoai-An Nguyen	hnguyen00@ucsb.edu	Theory of Global Capitalism and Praxis of Anti-Capitalism
J. Vern Cromartie	j_vern_cromartie@yahoo.com	Issues in Race and Ethnicity
Jacqueline Brooks	Jacqueline.brooks@csus.edu	Undergraduate Student Session (focused on Pathways Research Training Programs)
Jacqueline Brooks	Jacqueline.brooks@csus.edu	Sociological Studies of Education (High Impact Practices)
Jana Noel	noelj@csus.edu	Sociological Studies of Urban Life
Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours	jvalient@pointloma.edu	Undergraduate Student Session (focused on using classical sociological theories)
John Kincaid	jdkincaid@csustan.edu	Current Trends in the Study of the Far Right
John Kincaid	jdkincaid@csustan.edu	First Generation Students and Graduate School
Lina Rincon	lina.rincon@csus.edu	Race, Immigration and Coloniality
Luis Ruben Gonzalez Marquez	lgonzalezmarquez@tulane.edu	Environmental Sociology
Maricela Banuelos	mariceb@uci.edu	Sociological Studies of Education
Meggan Jordan	mjordan1@csustan.edu	Sociological Studies of Misinformation
Nikita Sharma	n.sharma@csus.edu	Undergraduate Student Session (focused on the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, and social class)
Sean Martin Cranley	sean.cranley@gmail.com	Teaching Race and Ethnicity
Simon Griffith	s3griffith@ucsd.edu	Sociological Studies of Space and Place
Tamara Snizek	tsnizek@csustan.edu	Undergraduate Student Poster Session
Yajaira Ceciliano	cecilianonavarroy@uhd.edu	Sociological Studies of the Criminal Justice System

## 2025 Officers and Governing Council of the California Sociological Association

### President

**Maria Mora, California State University, Stanislaus**  
mmora4@csustan.edu

### President Elect

**Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours, Point Loma Nazarene University**  
jvaliente@pointloma.edu

### Immediate Past President

**Mike Chavez, Riverside Community College**  
michael.chavez@rccd.edu

### Vice President—North

**Anne Marengo, College of the Canyons**  
anne.marengo@canyons.edu

### Vice President—South

**Maria Mora, California State University, Stanislaus**  
mmora4@csustan.edu

**California State University North Representative**  
Vacant

**California State University South Representative**  
**Alejandro Zermeno, California Polytechnic University, Pomona**  
zermeno@cpp.edu

**University of California Representative**  
Vacant

**Community Colleges North Representative**  
**J. Vern Cromartie, Contra Costa College**  
j\_vern\_cromartie@yahoo.com

**Community Colleges South Representative**  
**Juan Pitones, Oxnard College**  
jpitones@vcccd.edu

### Private Schools Representative

**Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours, Point Loma Nazarene University**  
jvaliente@pointloma.edu

**Practitioners Representative**  
Vacant

**Student Representative and Social Media Representative**  
**Catherine Rivera Hernandez, University of California, Merced**  
criverahernandez@ucmerced.edu

### Executive Director

**Tim Kubal, California State University, Fresno**  
tkubal@csufresno.edu

### Web Designer

**Heidy Sarabia, California State University, Sacramento**  
heidy.sarabia@csus.edu

### Bulletin Editor

**J. Vern Cromartie, Contra Costa College**  
j\_vern\_cromartie@yahoo.com

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

### As the Crow Flies No. 15

#### *Festivals and Funerals: A Sociological View*

Sociologists like W.E.B. Du Bois and E. Franklin Frazier have observed that people live their lives in social groups. In the case of my own life, I belong to multiple social groups. For example, I belong to the Morgan-Frazier family clan and the Cromartie-Wright family clan. In contrast, my wife Cassaundra Cromartie (aka Cassaundra Lang) belongs to the Lang-Johnson family clan and the Souza-Encarnacao family clan.

Recently, the Lang-Johnson family clan lost a member who died from an extended illness at the age of 78. The name of the dearly departed was Marilyn Lang (aka Marilyn Mitchell and Teen). On August 23, 2025, the Lang-Johnson family clan held her funeral in Oakland, California at the Baker Funeral Home. Marilyn Lang was an aunt of my wife Cassaundra. On the one hand, the Lang-Johnson family clan asked me to share a reading from the Old Testament and New Testament during the funeral. On the other hand, the Lang-Johnson family clan asked my wife Cassaundra to share some reflections on its history. Both of us honored the requests. My wife Cassaundra shared the following reflections regarding the history of the Lang-Johnson family clan:

The Lang-Johnson family clan was created on September 23, 1948, in Oakland, California, when Earl Lang, Sr. and Nancy Johnson got married. Earl Lang, Sr. was born on November 10, 1918, in Dallas, Texas, and died on January 1, 1990, at the age of 71, in Alameda, California. In contrast, Nancy Johnson Lang was born on January 12, 1925, in Oakridge, Louisiana, and died on October 10, 2003, at the age of 78, in Oakland. Their marriage created a blended family because Nancy Lang Johnson brought a child into the relationship named Charles Jackson. After their marriage, they had the following children: Earl Lang, Jr.; Melvin Lang; Marilyn Lang; Bernadine Lang; and Forestine Lang. Earl Lang, Sr. also had several children outside the relationship.

Earl Lang, Sr. and Nancy Johnson Lang both came from relatively large families. The parents of Earl Lang, Sr. were Charlie Melvin Lang and Annie Bledsoe. The five siblings of Earl Lang, Sr. were Thelma Lang, Cecil F. Lang, Theodore Lang, Cora L. Lang, and Doris Lang. Earl Lang, Sr. was the third child in the birth order. The family lived in Dallas, Texas. The parents of Nancy Lang Johnson were Jimmie Johnson, Sr. and Emily Johnson. The 12 siblings of Nancy Lang Johnson were Earline Johnson, Jimmie Johnson, Jr., Goldman Johnson, General Johnson, Sr., Mollie Johnson, Horace Johnson, Rosie B. Johnson, Armetus Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Eddie Johnson, Annie Bell Johnson (also known as Tiny), and Ernest Johnson. Nancy Johnson Lang was the ninth child in the birth order. The family lived in Morehouse, Louisiana. The obituary of Earl Lang, Jr. indicates that when he died, Earl Lang, Sr. left behind 15 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives, including siblings, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends. In contrast, the obituary of Nancy Lang Johnson indicates that when she died, Nancy Johnson Lang left behind 18 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; and a host of other relatives, including siblings, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

Several months ago, my wife Cassaundra purchased two tickets for us to attend the Super Soul Fest '25 in Lincoln, California at the Venue of the Thunder Valley Casino Resort. On the night of August 23, 2025, we attended the event which featured five different acts. The concert opened with the group Surface. That group was followed by an individual performer named D-Train. Next, the stage was taken by the Timex Social Club and Club Nouveau, a group that was founded in Oakland. They were followed by the Whispers, another group that was founded in Oakland. After the Whispers, Jeffrey Osborne performed and closed out the show. The featured performers dazzled the audience by using live musicians instead of recorded tracks. It was truly a breath of fresh air to see live musicians playing their hearts out. Like other members of the audience, my wife Cassaundra and I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the soulful sounds created by the vocalists and stellar musicians.

## Under the Sky as the Limit

*(Dedicated to Darrell Gauff)*

under the sky  
as the limit  
we have seen hurricanes  
come and go  
and rode out the storm  
a long way from New Orleans, LA  
which is the land  
of Creoles and Cajuns

we were not there  
when Hurricane Katrina  
came past the Congo Square  
of Jelly Roll Morton  
and Robert Charles

under the sky  
as the limit  
we have seen hurricanes  
come and go  
and rode out the storm  
a long way from Waycross, GA  
which is the land  
of Geechees and Gullahs

we were not there  
when Hurricane Helene  
came past the Oak Street  
of Bill Hemmans  
and Charlie Chester

in Congo Square  
Robert Charles  
heard the news  
about storms  
and how to ride  
them out with his gun

on Oak Street  
Charlie Chester  
heard the news  
about storms  
and how to ride  
them out with his gun

Robert Charles was Stagolee  
holding his gun  
under the sky  
in New Orleans  
and saying no more  
to the Buckras  
as he rode out storms  
in his day and time  
in the shadow  
of Congo Square

Charlie Chester was Stagolee  
holding his gun  
under the sky  
in Waycross  
and saying no more  
to the Buckras  
as he rode out storms  
in his day and time  
in the shadow  
of Oak Street

Robert Charles shot the Buckra deputy  
under the sky in New Orleans  
and brought forth a new day  
in the face of the storm

Charlie Chester shot the Buckra deputy  
under the sky in Waycross  
and brought forth a new day  
in the face of the storm

they brought forth  
the spirit of Stagolee  
in the face of the storm  
and the lynching mob.

--J. Vern Cromartie  
© 2025

