

## The President's Corner—Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego

Dear CSA Community,

I aspired for the 2025 California Sociological Association annual meeting this past November 2025 to be a celebration of scholarship and community. I needed the reminder and the practice that we have much to celebrate even with the barrage of devastating news of ICE raids, ongoing genocides in Palestine, Congo, and Sudan, amidst the imminent start of another war for oil. (Imminent as I write this reflection in mid-December, while grading finals.) I was also hungry for what Brian Arao and Kristi Clemens (2013) described as a “brave space” where I can gather in solidarity with fellow scholars, artists, and community organizers. And we did celebrate many things, in many ways!

The conference reminded me that there is much to celebrate! We celebrated each other's scholarship by attending and engaging with each other during our presentations on Friday and Saturday. In one session, a faculty presenter was moved to tears by another faculty presenter. In another, a faculty discussant was also moved to tears by a student presenter. In the hip hop session by Dyno, Piggy, and Thuan Nguyen, student and faculty attendees learned the value of hip hop to community organizing and mental health support, and we were all moved in a sense: we danced “top rock.” We also celebrated students for their scholarship awards: **Jennifer Krebsbach**, **Ken Waddy**, and **Danielle Vu**. Thanks so much to all the presenters for sharing your work with us!

**California Sociological Association**

**2026 Annual Meeting**

**November 6-8, 2026**

**Location: California State Polytechnic**

**University, Pomona**

**Save the Date**

**Call for 2026 Sessions**



## **The President's Corner Cont. — Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego**

We also celebrated each other and our community. I was pleased that presenters invited their parents, partners, children, and friends to our conference and the dance party on Friday night with DJ Shammy Dee. Our youngest “attendee” was five months old, and I’m grateful for their parent letting me carry them around during dinner. My friends’ daughter, whose name means “life” in English, especially impressed us with her splits and was even one of the last people on the dance floor. My godson made jaws drop when, after Piggy and Dyno’s encouragement, he took a turn breakdancing (“breaking”) in our dance circle.

As we approach a new Gregorian calendar year, the conference inspired me to “keep on keeping on” (with thanks to Curtis Mayfield). Our 2025 keynote Catherine Hanna Schrock reminds us to be brave and creatively wild or wildly creative (your pick!), make joyful noises (like we practiced during her presentation), and turn to each other to find and build the Kingian beloved community. Let’s stay in touch (I mean it) and please consider getting involved with CSA to support the work of building in California a strong community of students, faculty sociologists, and practitioners informed by the sociological imagination.

You may watch Catherine’s keynote speech here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpCjLTziZ4>

We’d love to learn what we did well and what we need to improve for future conferences. Please complete the survey here, and thank you in advance!

[https://pointloma.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cZRrZB2MgKSTxxI](https://pointloma.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZRrZB2MgKSTxxI)



## **President-Elect and 2026 Program Chair—J. Vern Cromartie, Contra Costa College**

In 1948, E. Franklin Frazier became the first known that Black person to serve as the president of the American Sociological Association. Frazier also served a stint as the president of the District of Columbia Sociological Society during the 1943-1944 academic year. He paved the way for many other Black sociologists to follow his example and take leadership positions in sociological organizations at the national or state levels. Likewise, Frazier paved the way with a solid record of scholarship pertaining to social conditions in the United States of America (USA) and elsewhere.

During the November 2025 business meeting in Berkeley, California, of our California Sociological Association (CSA), I became the president-elect after running unopposed. I am the first known Black person to serve in the president's position in the CSA. It is a great honor to take on this position and role that comes with it. The CSA Bylaws require me, as the president-elect, to serve as the chief organizer and program chairman of our upcoming November 2026 conference. The CSA Bylaws also require me to take on the duty of selecting a theme for the conference. I look forward to fulfilling all my duties to the best of my ability. The theme for the 2026 CSA Conference is as follows: "Social Movements Past, Present, and Future: Addressing Social Problems with Collective Actions."

I hope that all readers of this message will consider participating in our upcoming CSA conference. We welcome all, including senior scholars, junior scholars, graduate students, undergraduate students, and community members, to participate and share your research. Although we are primarily a sociological organization, we welcome the participation of scholars from other disciplines and fields of study. Our conference is a great place to share ideas in paper sessions. Please come!



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

Thank you for your participation in the California Sociological Association. This was our first year back at Berkeley after many years in Sacramento. This was our first time at this new venue. We plan to return in 2 years. Next year, we plan to meet in Pomona, although the location has not yet been finalized.

I want to thank our current president, Jimiliz **Valiente-Neighbours** for her hard work in organizing the Berkeley event, the CSA council for planning and support, all of the organizers for running their sessions, and especially, I want to thank all of the presenters for sharing their excellent work. It is an honor to serve such a vibrant community.

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

### Odds and Ends

- 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 Alicia M. Gonzales (amgonzal@csusm.edu).
- Please visit the California Sociological Association on Facebook.
- Please register for our association and our annual conference by going to <https://cal-soc.org/registration-and-membership/>. You can pay your association dues at the same time that you register for our next conference. Even if you do not plan to attend the conference, we would appreciate it if you would join the association.
- Dues and conference registration represent almost all of our income. We appreciate your support of the CSA.



## Remembering Michael Burawoy, By Heidi Sarabia

When I started graduate school at UC Berkeley in 2004, Michael Burawoy taught the theory class to my cohort. I did not know, at the time, what a treat that would be! Michael was an amazing theory teacher, who encouraged us to read theoretical pieces closely, and fully engage with each theorist. He also limited the discussion to the theorist we were all reading, thus creating a more equitable classroom for those of us who were engaging with sociological theory for the first time. First, we had to fully understand the theory, then we could critique it, and after that we could test it. At the time, I often felt frustrated by this guidance—not fully understanding the power of engaging with theoretical works fully; had I not followed his advice, I might have never considered reading the works of Durkheim so closely.

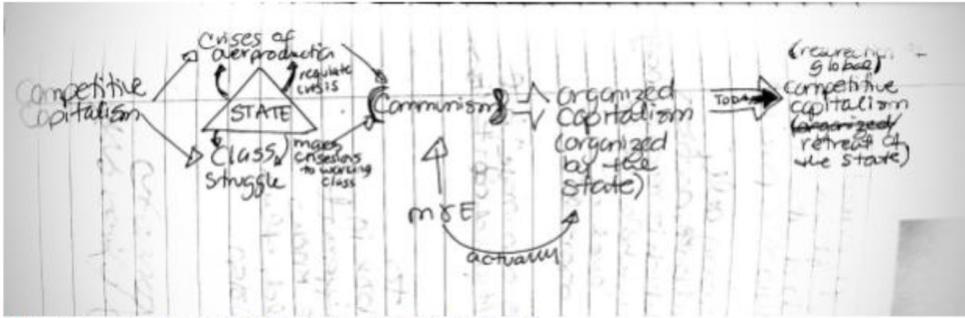
Not only did I learn sociological theory with Michael, but I also learned how to teach it. Today, I think that I was too young to fully appreciate all the lessons. I remember, for example, that Michael argued that you can either spend time reading or writing—it was hard to fully engage in these two activities. I learned that providing the time, space, and guidance to focus on reading or writing is an important pedagogical consideration—even though there is always both going on simultaneously in all classes. Hence, in his theory class he focused on the reading and asked us to do short weekly reflections. The value of this approach has helped me have and set more realistic expectations for students.

My cohort not only attended Burawoy's graduate class, but was also invited to attend the undergraduate classes he taught at Berkeley—where about 300 students packed his lectures. In the graduate classes he was reserved, asking questions, allowing us to discover answers on our own. He guided us to read closely the works of the classic sociological theorist, along DuBois and feminist perspectives. Sometimes we spent hours debating whether a comma changed the meaning of a sentence. But in the undergraduate lecture, his public persona would make his lectures vibrant. For example, he announced at the beginning of the semester that he would eventually learn everyone's name he would actually do it. By the end of the semester— Bob's your uncle!— he was calling students by name. And whenever students asked questions in class, especially on the Marx and Engels readings, by memory, he would say things like, "Let's go to page 475, second paragraph, and read the last sentence, to see what Marx and Engles said about the role of the state in reproducing capitalism" (I am paraphrasing here). Truly impressive! He also had impressive maps to help summarize theories, making the theories accessible and digestible for undergraduate and graduate students alike. I have kept my theory notebooks from Michael's class, and whenever I teach theory (even though not often) I always bring them out and review his lessons.

Cont.



## Remembering Michael Burawoy Cont. By Heidy Sarabia



My Notes taken in a Michael Burawoy's class (10/13/2004).

In 2004, George W. Bush was president, and we often called him fascist. Michael would pause and ask us to first define our terms—and he argued that fascism required the collapse of civil society—so no, we were not living under a fascist president. I would love to hear his take on today's political landscape. What would Marx and Engels say about the current constitutional crisis? Michael's teaching had a way to help us dream about the future, about creating a different world, about the possibility of change, and theorize social change! In his own way, he also had a way to support students beyond academia by theorizing public sociology. Again, I feel like some of these lessons are much more clear today than 20 years ago. Graduate school was challenging and in the middle of the storm it is not easy to see clearly.

Another lesson I learned with Michael was his humane compassion. In 2009, I almost dropped out of the program. I was ready to find a job—I would have taken any job with any organization hiring someone full time to organize and demand immigration reform. It was the end of the Bush administration, and Obama had just been elected—deportations were at an all-time high—and I had been personally touched by the violence of deportations. I was done with theory, sociology, and writing. But I had a meeting with Michael and not only did he convince me to stay, he also made sure I was supported in the program. I ended up taking my qualifying exams that semester and leaving to Mexico for two years—just what I needed at the time. I always sent him messages with the big news: promotions, citizenship ceremonies, birth announcements. He always replied kindly.

Another lesson I learned from him was while I complained about my department. He said, “That is why it is a job! They pay you to show up, and work” (Again, I am paraphrasing). But this comment just changed the way I related to my work. It was a great reminder that the goal is to be a teacher in the morning, a shepherd or ceramics artist in the afternoon, and a philosopher in the evening! At the end of the day, my work and productivity does not define me.

When I heard the news of Michael's passing, I was heartbroken. Seems we need him around now more than ever. Seems I sent notes with news, but I am not sure I ever told him that he is one of the big reasons I finished my PhD, and that I am forever grateful for his humanity, compassion, and support. I miss Michael and all these memories motivate me to become better in the classroom, to be a supportive, kind, humane teacher, and to keep dreaming and working for a better future.

## Student Voices

### **Demondza Hunter, Sociology Graduate Student, California State University-Sacramento**



Just returned from the California Sociological Association Conference in Berkeley, California, where I had the opportunity to present my research, “Oral Histories of Ex-Felons in the Jury Box in California: An Application of Labeling Theory and Symbolic Interactionism.”

I’m grateful that my presentation went well and even more excited about having expanded my research network through meaningful conversations with fellow scholars.

A special shoutout to my alma mater, California State University, Sacramento, and to the M.A. in Sociology cohorts (2024–2025 and 2025–2026) and to our Undergraduates for their powerful presentations and scholarly contributions. Your work continues to inspire!

Also, a big shoutout to the conference organizers and leadership for not only hosting an engaging event but also for opening the business meeting to participants — a meaningful step that fosters transparency, leadership opportunities, and collective growth within our discipline.

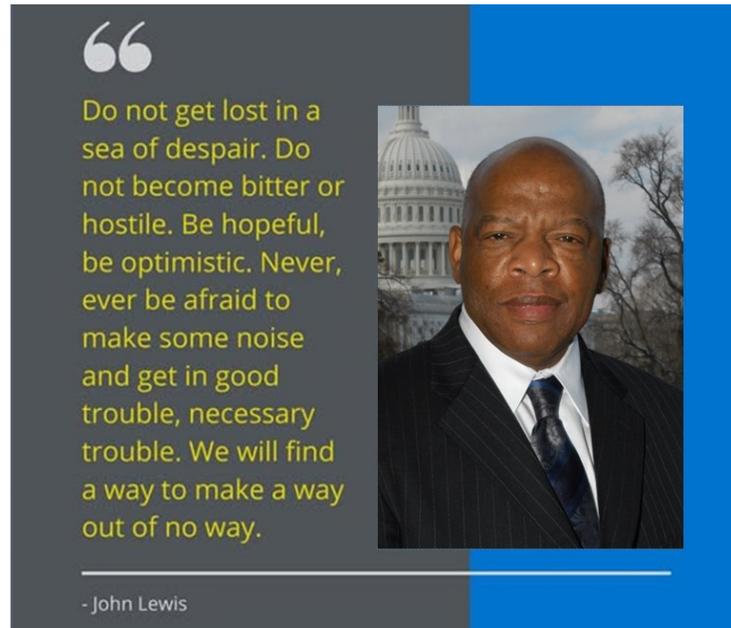
I’m leaving Berkeley inspired and motivated to continue building connections and contributing to our shared sociological community.



The California Sociological Association invites and encourages Student Voices in the CSA bulletin. If students wish to share writing contributions, please send them to Alicia M. Gonzales at [amgonzal@csusm.edu](mailto:amgonzal@csusm.edu)

## Editor's Corner—Alicia M. Gonzales. CSU San Marcos, CSA President, 2022-23

I find myself reading the inspiring words (below) of John Lewis quite often. I re-revisit them because they speak directly to my sociological heart. His insights move me forward with renewed purpose. For sociologist/educators, these words also serve to remind us of the importance of checking in on our sense of hope and courage. As we start this new year, I am reflecting on our shared purpose and commitment to understanding the centrality of human interdependence.



In this current political environment, I admit to sometimes feeling on the edge of shutting down or losing sight of the significance of being a sociology professor at this exact moment and time in our history. John Lewis' insights lift me up, fortify me like food, and bring me back into focus. In these words I see and recognize an undeniable truth/an authenticity, because these words have weight to them. I share this to remind us of just how important we are to our students, our communities, our society, and to basic human dignity and social justice.

Many of us now teach sociology courses while under attack by those who hold unstudied, prejudicial, yet emboldened social views. Their goal is to undermine bodies of accumulated academic knowledge on inequality, social justice, and diversity. Research that highlights the ways individuals, families, communities, and marginalized social groups are being devastated by social policies that discriminate and disenfranchise, and executive orders that circumvent the rule of law and strip legal protections. In all this uncertainty, hope is a brave and necessary choice.

As educators we stand committed to protecting student voices while prioritizing student safety, but we do this now in the context of targeted and/or planted class room disruptions by emboldened anti-diversity activists. While it is easy to be negatively affected, feel alone, and be less optimistic, know that you are important and your sociological voice and scholarship is historically urgent. Purposeful action and speech is certainly required, but optimistic confidence is vital for any resistance and a brave choice.

## Congratulations to the CSA Annual Student Award recipients honored at the 2025 CSA Conference



**Jennifer Krebsbach, UC Davis  
Ph.D, Student Award**



**Ken Waddy, CSU San Marcos  
Graduate Student Award**



**Danielle Vu, CSU Fresno  
Under-graduate Student Award**



**Two post session celebrations by happy Sociologists at the 2025 CSA meeting in Berkeley, CA.**



**Students and faculty from Point Loma Nazarene University pose with their partners and fellow San Diegans, speaker Catherine Hanna Schrock, Peter Schrock, Dyno Rock, Piggy Rock, and Arlene Nagtalon from U.C San Diego**



**Dr. Amalia Perez Martin, Dr. Nitika Sharma, and Dr. Amanda Shigihara celebrate presentations with Sac State graduate students**

## Happy 2025 CSA Participants



**Applied and Theoretical Sociological Perspectives Session  
Presenters: Eva Haburjak, Skylar Martin, Micaela Gates,  
Grace Berryhill, Arduizur (Carli) Richie-Zavaleta**



**2025 CSA Keynote:  
Catherine Hanna Schrock**

## Having Fun Photos from the 2025 CSA Conference



**CSA Friday's After Dinner Dance**



**Reception team**

## 2025 CSA Session on Issues of Race & Ethnicity, presenters and audience participants



**J. Vern Cromartie with Stephanie L. White, Marie Nubia-Feliciano, and Taylor Jackson at the 2025 CSA Conference**



**J. Vern Cromartie and Contra Costa College Sociology Students at the 2025 CSA Conference**

## 2025 CSA Graduate Student Session on Social Control, Presenters



**Samuel Aguirre, Sayra Ashanti, Jaqueline Chavez, Demonza Hunter, and Karen Villa**



**Demonza Hunter Demonza and Dr. Amalia Perez Martin**

## 2025 CSA Session on “Erendira” presenter, organizer, and participants



**Rose Burunda and Heidi Sarabia**



## **Dia De Muertos (Day of the Dead) Ofrenda at the 2025 CSA Conference which Honored Sociologists who Died in 2025 or Before**



**Please send any  
names of sociologist  
you wish to be  
honored in memorial  
for the next 2026 CSA  
Dia de Muertos  
Ofrenda to:  
Alicia Gonzales at  
[amgonzal@csusm.edu](mailto:amgonzal@csusm.edu)**

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