



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

Greetings, CSA Community Members! I hope that the classrooms, families, and community spaces in which we exist and belong have facilitated thoughtful discussions about all that we are facing since we saw each other last in Berkeley.

At our last conference, our keynote speaker Catherine Hanna Schrock inspired us to be brave and creative, to imagine and practice better relations among us all. Since then, may we have built spaces, even the smallest of pockets, where we can breathe and move with hope. Maybe a faculty member formed a connection with another to build a resource page in support of our undocumented students who are at risk of detention or deportation. Maybe two of our students decided to start a group in their university to advocate for their transgender peers amidst attacks against their rights. Maybe one of our professional members returned to their organization/company with a spring to their step because of a panel they attended on organizing and social movements (and because they stayed after the dinner to dance).

Speaking of social movements, I am pleased to introduce our new president-elect and 2026 conference chair Dr. J. Vern Cromartie, who is preparing for us a program that highlights the role of music and popular culture in creating social change. I look forward to Dr. Cromartie's leadership this year. *I hope to see you all in Pomona this November!*



California Sociological Association
2026 Annual Meeting
November 6-8, 2026
Location: California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona
Save the Date
Call for Sessions and Papers



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

Invitation to the 2026 CSA Annual Conference

Call for Sessions and Session Organizers

**CSA 2026
Annual Conference**

We are now calling for session organizers to propose sessions for the 2026 annual conference. This is not the call for paper presentations. That will be distributed in the coming weeks. Session organizers are typically expected to be faculty or doctoral students.

To organize a session, please complete the following form,

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5M5MDQY>

We thank you for your participation and we are excited to be together and continue our tradition of hosting high-quality presentations within a supportive atmosphere. Please spread this message to others who may want to organize a session.



On how I become a sociologist

By Heidy Sarabia

I like to think that I became a sociologist when my family moved from Mexico to the United States in the 1990s. In Mexico, I had grown up like a fish on water, as the traditions, costumes, foods, cultures were very familiar to me. But when I arrived in the U.S., I became an outsider—on multiple levels—and that outsider perspective allowed me to clearly see the new “waters” where I was now swimming in.

My family and I arrived in the summer of 1993 to Sacramento, CA, and by the next summer of 1994, Proposition 187 was being debated since it would be on the ballot in California in the fall. This proposition would turn state employees into immigration agents, and children (like myself) would not be allowed to go to school. This was the most terrifying part for me. I had always been a “good student,” and I could not imagine what I would do if I were not allowed to attend school – truly a terrifying thought!

Proposition 187 passed that November, and I felt deeply betrayed. The U.S. wanted my parents as workers, but it did not want me—the daughter, the student. More personally, one of my teachers had revealed to the class that he was planning to vote yes on Prop 187, which made me distrust everyone. After all, if this teacher—who worked with mostly migrants not born in the U.S. as we were all learning English in these English As Second Language Classes—could not see the cruelty of Prop 187, I had no hope, or trust, of others.



On how I become a sociologist by Heidi Sarabia Continued.

Now that I think about it, it was Prop 187 that made me a sociologist, revealing the structural mechanisms that kept me and my family, and my community, afraid—a legal system established to keep us as workers in the U.S.-- as undocumented workers afraid and in the shadows. Prop 187 revealed the economic system that benefitted from the cheap labor of my parents, but was unwilling to pay for the other costs of that labor—such as education, child care, medical benefits, etc.

More than 30 years later, it is painfully evident to see how the system continues to vilify non-citizens to such an extent that the majority of the U.S. population was willing to elect someone with fascists dreams, who has provided immigration policing and control (under the Department of Homeland Security in general and Immigration and Customs Enforcement more specifically) with [\\$75 billion dollars](#). Beyond the current administration, this funding will have long-lasting repercussions, including the potential creation of a federalized police that targets citizens and non-citizens who dissent, and a police force that is mostly unfettered.

Given the resources allocated, things will probably get worse in this country because funding means more resources, more targeting, more terror. Thus, more than ever, we need sociologists who can critically analyze our current social, political, cultural, and economic situation locally, nationally, and globally. Sociologists, more than ever, are needed to provide a moral compass that includes social justice, humanity, decency, freedom that can guide the future of this country.

What is your story? Share with us how you became a sociologist. Please share your story with the Bulletin Editor: Alicia Gonzalez (amgonzal@csusm.edu).



Reflections on the California Civil Rights Pilgrimage CSA President, Jimiliz Valiente Neighbours, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego

Dear CSA Community,

Strength and Hope for These Times: Reflections on the California Civil Rights Pilgrimage Course Trip Spring 2026 From where we were enjoying our tacos, burritos, and *Jarritos* drinks at the *Taqueria El Buen Sabor* in San Francisco Mission District, my students, colleagues, and I can see a glimpse of the gorgeous mural wrapping the Women’s Building located on 18th Street and Lapidge Street, where we had a 3:30pm guided tour with Kristen. After lunch and a moment to digest our food, we walked a block over and because I was there on the same class trip in Spring 2024, I led the way. Once we got close, I lifted my hand to the sky (toward the mural) with the biggest smile, as if to present a gift, and said “See?” I heard oohs and gasps. I was pleased and excited what the students were about to learn from Kristen. The date was March 6th Friday. We were at our first stop on our eight-day civil rights movement pilgrimage throughout California.

With the university’s support, I was invited to develop and teach the first “California Civil Rights Pilgrimage” Sociology course in 2024. Teaching and taking the class means forgoing what could be a restful spring break, so I am always grateful for the students who enroll and the colleagues (fellow staff/faculty) who join us. The weeks leading to the trip are devoted to learning about the sites we will visit and the organizers who contributed to the civil rights movements. The couple of weeks immediately following the trip are reserved for debriefing and reflections, which we certainly needed this year to process the news about Dolores Huerta finally speaking out about sexual assault and abuse by Cesar Chavez. The news had broken on March 18th Wednesday, and we had just returned to San Diego on March 13th Friday.

The pilgrimage was eight days long. From San Diego, we took a flight to San Francisco and then made our way back down by driving. We visited Angel Island (see Photo 1) and Alcatraz Island, which sparked discussions about the South Florida Detention Facility (known as “Alligator Alcatraz”) and to what extent our country has learned from our past or not. One of our stops in Central California was the Manzanar National Historic Site, about which one of the students wrote: “This spot was especially impactful for me as I thought about my *Jiichan* (Grandpa). [...] My *Jiichan* was 3 when he was interned and I was 15 when he passed.” She left a crane at the cemetery in memory of him (see photo).



Reflections on the California Civil Rights Pilgrimage Continued



Our last day was packed with visits to the Civil Rights Institute, the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture, and the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties, all in Riverside. Our very own CSA Past President Mike Chavez (described as “absolutely INCREDIBLE” by a student in their reflection journal) shared his afternoon with the group at the Center to talk about ongoing struggle for living wages and mass incarceration, as well collective organizing among community members around these issues (see Photo 2). Of course, we got lunch at Tio’s Tacos and coffee from Back to the Grind, especially because that spot was significant to helping represent the LGBTQIA community in Riverside.

To start our pilgrimage with the mural at the Women’s Building in San Francisco and end with Chicano art at the Cheech and Miné Okubo’s art collection at the Center in Riverside was no coincidence. My intent was to show students how people find strength and hope when we cultivate creativity and community, the themes I highlighted for our 2025 CSA conference. I wanted the students to see beauty and strength in people and in themselves. A student had expressed about the mural on our first day: “I felt pride in being a woman. And in my features, in my hair, nose, lips, body...seeing them portrayed [...] I was reminded of my value. Perhaps I am worth painting on a building.” By the end of our eight-day pilgrimage, I hope she knows the answer is a resounding YES.

Highlighting Student Voices

Sukhmni Virk is a current graduate student in the department of Sociology at CSU Sacramento. Her path to sociology was anything but straightforward. Growing up in a Punjabi-speaking household and Sukhmni struggled through a K–12 system that left her feeling bored and boxed in. It wasn't until she enrolled at community college where she was finally free to explore courses that resonated with her. It was then that her relationship with school transformed. It was also at the community college that she stumbled into her first sociology course. "I just remember falling in love," she recalls. "I thought, I understand this. I can connect with this, and I feel like I could do a lot of good with it." After taking that class, her path was set.

Now a master's student, Sukhmni's research focuses on Asian Indian millennial women living in multigenerational households—a subject that is deeply personal. Having grown up in such a household herself, she understands from the inside the tensions that arise when families try to preserve cultural and traditional values while also trying to guide their children on how to navigate U.S. society. One of her most striking findings has been the "naiveness in dating" that emerges when young women are shielded from romantic relationships for so long that they enter adulthood emotionally unprepared. Sukhmni sees her work as a vehicle for dialogue across generations, and within the Asian Indian community itself.

Sukhmni is proud to have presented her research at the California Sociological Association annual meeting at UC Berkeley (2025), an experience she describes as amazing, as positive and transformative, as I reignited her passion for her work and reinforced just how much her research fills a gap in the conversation around Asian Indian communities. She valued the opportunity to step outside the classroom and share her work with other sociologists, including other students as well as faculty.



Graduate Student Spotlight:
Sukhmni Virk



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

Important 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 at 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.
- 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



Editors Page — Alicia M. Gonzales, California State University, San Marcos

Request to CSA members: The CSA will honor sociologist and social activists whom we have lost in 2026. Please send the names of the persons who has died in the past year that you wish to be remembered and honored at the 2026 Annual Meeting to amgonzal@csusm.edu Send both name and a digital picture if you have one, to have them included at our next November conference.

2026 Conference Invitation:

Please Join us at the 2026 Annual California Sociological Association's (CSA) Annual Meeting.

Location: CSU Pomona [Kellogg Conference Center](#)

Date: Nov 6-7, 2026

CSA website: <https://cal-soc.org/registration-and-membership/>



2026 Officers and Governing Council of the California Sociological Association

President

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

President Elect

J. Vern Cromartie, Contra Costa College
j_vern_cromartie@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President

Maria Mora, California State University, Stanislaus
mmora4@csustan.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
Vacant

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

Alicia M. Gonzales, California State University, San Marcos
amgonzal@csusm.edu

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