University of Colorado

PhD Program in Comparative Ethnic Studies

The Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder is currently accepting applications to our Ph.D. program in Comparative Ethnic Studies. This innovative program is designed to provide students with broad training that enables them to research and analyze the intersectional and relational workings of race, ethnicity, indigeneity, gender, class, and sexuality in national and transnational contexts. It provides flexibility for students to pursue their individual research interests, while ensuring that they are grounded in both the foundational and cutting-edge theories in ethnic studies.

Our department is dedicated to interrogating the relational nature of race and its attendant categories, particularly gender and sexuality, using frameworks that account for the increasingly transnational ways that these categories are constructed, contested, and inhabited. However, we believe that rigorous comparative and relational analyses can only grow out of deep groundings in the particular areas of Africana, American Indian, Chicanx/Latinx, and Native American & Indigenous studies. Methodologically and theoretically, our faculty members possess training and expertise in interdisciplinary fields including ethnic studies; women, gender, and sexuality studies; environmental studies; critical sports studies; critical and intersectional criminology; cultural studies; literary and film studies; border studies; and American studies; as well as traditional disciplines including anthropology, history, religious studies, and sociology.

We seek students who are motivated to map out individualized courses of study and are driven to pursue projects that advance the field of ethnic studies through demonstrated abilities in creating, and applying theories, conducting original research, analyzing data, and writing effectively. Applicants must hold a master’s degree in ethnic studies or a related field (examples include areas such as American studies, sociology, literary studies, or history) by the time of their enrollment. Financial support will be available in the form of teaching assistantships and fellowships for especially qualified applicants. Applications are due December 1, 2021 (international applicants) and December 15, 2021 (U.S. applicants) for those who wish to begin studies in Fall 2022. For more information, please visit our website: https://www.colorado.edu/ethnicstudies.


Department of Ethnic Studies Faculty

Arturo Aldama, Chair
Associate Professor
Chicanx/Latinx Studies
Research: US/Mexico border studies, immigration, Chicanx popular culture, film, music, performance, and indigeneity; US Latinx cultural studies, and Latin American subaltern studies, decolonial theories of identity, race, and gender

Awon Atuire
Teaching Faculty, Internship Coordinator
Africana Studies
Research: Africana history, culture, and literature

Natalie Avalos
Assistant Professor
Native American & Indigenous Studies
Research: Native American and Indigenous religions, traditions, Tibetan Buddhism, transnationalism, healing historical trauma, decolonization, Indigenous stewardship, and Indigenous sovereignty

Joanne Belknap
Professor Emerita
Critical & Intersectional Criminology & Social Justice
Research: Intimate partner abuse, sexual victimization, incarceration of women & children, criminal legal policy, feminist & intersectional criminology, jail-to-community reentry, & teaching college classes in prisons

Clint Carroll, Associate Chair of Graduate Studies
Associate Professor
Native American & Indigenous Studies
Research: Native American environmental knowledge, practices, and justice; political ecology; ethnography; Indigenous governance; tribal natural resource management; social-ecological health; Indigenous land education; Cherokee studies

Joseph J. Dupris
Visiting Assistant Professor
Native American & Indigenous Studies / Linguistics
Research: Native/Indigenous Studies; Linguistics; tribal language research, with a focus on analyzing language, race, and nation and sustaining the integrity of tribal polities

Jennifer Ho
Professor, Director, Center for Humanities and the Arts
Asian American Studies
Research: Asian American literary and cultural studies, intersectionality, critical race studies, antiracist theory and praxis, contemporary American multilingual literature, critical mixed race studies

Angelica Lawson
Assistant Professor
Native American & Indigenous Studies
Research: Intersections of global Indigenous film and new media in terms of resistance and resilience

Daryl Maeda
Professor, Dean and Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education
Asian American Studies
Research: Asian American history and studies, comparative ethnic studies, radical social movements, 1960s and 70s, transnational culture

Jessica Ordaz
Assistant Professor
Chicanx/Latinx Studies
Research: Chicana/Latina history, US/Mexico border studies, radical social movements, migration and migrant politics, labor history, the carceral state, the detention and deportation regimes, and food justice

Reiland Rabaka
Professor; Director, Center for African and African American Studies
Africana Studies, Critical Race Class
Gender & Sexuality Studies

Enrique Sepúlveda
Assistant Professor
Chicanx/Latinx Studies
Research: Migration and border studies in global Latinx communities; social theory, critical ethnography and youth participatory action research (YPAR); education, equity and social justice oriented school reform; critical literacy and pedagogy

Seema Sohi
Associate Professor
Asian American Studies
Research: Transnational political movements, radicalism, Asian American history

Nishant Upadhyay
Assistant Professor
Asian American Studies, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Research: Critical Ethnic Studies, Asian (North) American studies, queer & trans of color critiques, intersectional & transnational feminisms, anti-colonial & decolonial thinking, transnational settler colonialisms (US, Canada, India, and Israel), South Asian studies, anti-caste critiques

Nicholas Villanueva, Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies
Assistant Professor, Critical Sports Studies Director
Critical Sports & Chicana/Latinx Studies
Race, gender, sexuality, and sport; nationhood and nationalism; lynching and collective violence in modern U.S. history
Dean Amy Sueyoshi  
College of Ethnic Studies  
San Francisco State University

November 8, 2021

**Memo of Understanding (MOU)**  
**between**  
**The Department of Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado Boulder**  
and  
**The College of Ethnic Studies, San Francisco State University**

The University of Colorado recognizes the key role that the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University has played, and continues to play, in the development of our field. To attract the best students to our Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies program, for this current application cycle for acceptance into the program beginning Fall of 2022 and continuing up to the Fall of 2026 entering cohort, students completing their M.A in Ethnic Studies or Asian American Studies at SFSU may receive the following considerations:

1) Up to five SFSU M.A students per year may have their application fees for our Ph.D. program waived. These five students will be selected at the discretion of the Associate Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at SFSU.

2) The Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder will award a one-time $3,000 fellowship for one student per year who enters the Ph.D. program with the M.A. from SFSU. This offer is conditional upon successful completion of their M.A. in Ethnic Studies or Asian American Studies at SFSU, and acceptance and enrollment in the Ph.D. program in Comparative Ethnic Studies at CU Boulder. This student to receive this award will be selected by the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies in Ethnic Studies at CU Boulder and will be payable in the Fall semester once the student has enrolled into the Ph.D. program.

3) This MOU will be automatically renewed for each admissions cycle in which we are accepting applicants, through the admissions application period for a Fall 2026 enrollment. After this six-year cycle of commitment we will reconvene to discuss the feasibility of renewing this MOU for future cohorts.

Application deadlines and details about the PhD program can be found on our website at:  
[http://www.colorado.edu/ethnicstudies/grad/phd_program.html](http://www.colorado.edu/ethnicstudies/grad/phd_program.html)

Sincerely,

Arturo Aldama  
Chair, Department of Ethnic Studies