

# UC Merced

## The Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced

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Undergraduate

**THE  
UNDERGRADUATE  
HISTORICAL  
AND  
CRITICAL RACE &  
ETHNIC STUDIES  
JOURNAL  
At UC Merced**

Volume 8 ↔ Issue 1 ↔ Fall 2021

**The Undergraduate Historical  
and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies  
Journal at the University of California, Merced**

The Editorial Board (Fall Issue 2021)

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## **Letter from the Editor in Chief**

It is with great pleasure that I present the Undergraduate Historical and Critical Race & Ethnic Studies Journal at UC Merced, as a continuation of the 8th volume of the Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced. As a reflection of our joint department's commitment to urgent questions of race, class, and gender in the past and present, this issue stands as a testament to the benefits of collaboration from students across disciplines.

This semester, we as student editors have made the adjustment to hybrid learning after a long and challenging year of social distancing and lockdowns. As we began to adjust to our new normal, with uncertainty flanking every step, we faced many challenges, both academic and personal. However, the events of the last year have strengthened our collective resolve to support the members of our university community. A commitment to our peers was the driving force in the dedication our editorial board displayed towards this publication.

This semester's board was staffed by the wonderful Arleen Lopez-Soto, Irene Gonzalez, Jeremy Paguibitan, Mahealani La Rosa, and Yohel Salas. I cannot thank these amazing editors enough for the work they put in this semester despite all of our challenges. Finally, on behalf of the entire board, I would like to thank Romina Ruvalcaba PhD for serving as our faculty advisor.

Madelyn Lara  
Editor in Chief

## Faculty Forward

This Fall 2021 has been a challenging semester for students, staff, and faculty members. While continuing to be in the midst of a pandemic, we have focused our efforts to create a sense of meaning despite enormous challenges. For this current Volume 8 Issue 1 of the Journal, the editorial team did a wonderful job of selecting research pieces that geographically range from Asia to Africa and thematically focus on art and music. Following a spirit of collaboration and intellectual curiosity, the team also selected a book review written by Vishwajeet Deshmukh, a law student enrolled in Mumbai's renowned Government Law College in India. Deshmukh's review of Romila Thapar's recently published *Voices of Dissent: An Essay*, is not only incisive but also incorporates critical arcs that reflect his understanding of and passion for historical and contemporary Indian social movements across. At a moment when national and international clamor has re-emerged around Indian democracy and freedom of speech, the Journal once again demonstrates the timeliness of its selections. But the Journal is also a central space for advanced undergraduate research. In this issue, we have the honor of presenting the work of five undergraduate students concentrating in the fields of History and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. Focusing on Chinese regional history, Jeremy Paguibitan and Cynthia Bravo-Zamora respectively analyze the role of leisure in the twentieth century and immigration in the context of nineteenth-century political transformation. Offering a different time and place, Adam Allen analyzes how women in ancient Egypt and Ethiopia shaped the religious, political, and social contours of their civilizations, outlining the implications for gendered politics in subsequent Greco-Roman societies. Framing their critical analyses through, respectively music and art, Irene Gonzalez and Maya Ramirez offer poignant ways to think about questions of justice across categories of colonialism and feminism. Ramirez brilliantly shows how the work of Artemisia Gentileschi was not a reproduction of sexual violence but an affirmation of the politics of feminist activism possible in her context. Irene Gonzalez similarly examines music as a site that brings together a collective critique of settler colonialism, criminal justice industry, and immigration in contemporary politics. Please welcome me in praising the work of our editorial team and our contributors, expression of the critical spirit and life of the mind animating this generation of undergraduates. I would also like to acknowledge Madelyn Lara, lead editor of the Journal whose dedication and commitment have helped keep this hub for undergraduate publications alive and thriving.

Warmly,

Romina Ruvalcaba

Faculty Advisor and Assistant Prof. of Latin American History