The Intercollegiate Feminist Center for Teaching, Research and Engagement invites you to join us in honoring the

2019 & 2020 Grace Berry Award* Recipients

With guest speaker:

Michelle Téllez

Assistant Professor of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona; Grace Berry Award recipient, 2003: Ph.D., CGU, 2005

**Beyond the Wall: Fronteriza Imaginaries in the Everyday**

Thinking beyond geopolitical demarcations at the US/Mexico border and imagining the borderlands as a space of feminist resistance, conviviality, agency, and creative community building.

Friday, March 19, 2021
12:00-1:15 PM/PT
Join Zoom Meeting:
https://scrippscollege.zoom.us/j/94118896094

Michelle Téllez is Assistant Professor of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona. She writes about transnational community formations, Chicana feminism, and gendered migration. A founding member of the Chicana M(other)work collective, the Arizona Son Jarocho Collective, and the Binational Arts Residency project, Téllez has a long history in grassroots organizing projects and community-based arts and performance. She co-edited *The Chicana M(other)work Anthology: Porque Sin Madres No Hay Revolución*, published in March of 2019. Her new book, *Autonomy in the Spaces of Neoliberal Neglect: Las Mujeres de Maclovio Rojas*, is forthcoming in Fall 2021.

*The Grace Berry Award for Women in Graduate Studies is made possible by a gift from Pomona alumna Margarita Horner in honor of Grace Berry, the founder of the Pomona Branch of the American Association of University Women.*

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Cristal B. Almonte, M.A., is a first-generation, Latina, doctoral candidate in Higher Education and Student Affairs at CGU. As the proud daughter of immigrant parents, she is deeply invested in amplifying the voices and experiences of undocumented communities through her scholarship, in the classroom as a future professor, and through policy. Her current research is focused on exploring the experiences of first-generation, undocumented students within higher education and beyond. She aims to inform policy, practitioners, and other researchers through her work to support the access and persistence of undocumented students in higher education. During her time at CGU, she earned her M.A. in Education, the
Allies of Dreamers Certificate, and the Women’s and Gender Studies Certificate. Prior to enrolling in CGU, Cristal was a seventh-grade mathematics teachers in Chaparral, New Mexico. Her experience in the classroom influenced her decision to pursue a Ph.D. in Education. She earned her B.A. in psychology at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

**Research Topic:** Cristal's research examines the post-graduation planning process of undocumented college students navigating structural barriers within and outside of post-secondary institutions. Her research study is guided by critical and asset-based frameworks to examine the experiences of undocumented Latina/o/x college students and/or recent college graduates.

**Jovita Murillo, MA, MPH,** is a CGU graduate from the School of Community and Global Health, Dr. Jovita Murillo explores the intersection between the built environment, public health, and public policy. Her current research explores the effects of gentrification on female-headed households caring for children and no spouse. Her overall goal is to propose policies to promote healthy development without displacement, eviction, and homelessness and create an equitable social infrastructure that promotes health and overall wellbeing while protecting low-income residents.

**Research Topic:** Dr. Murillo research examines the role of female headed households caring for children and no Spouse in gentrification in Los Angeles.

**Monique Posadas, MA,** is a doctoral student in the School of Educational Studies at CGU, with research foci in education history and minority graduate student success. She received her M.A. from Syracuse University in Cultural Anthropology. At San José State University, she received her B.A. in Anthropology and B.S. in Nutrition and Food Science, with a minor in Complementary and Alternative Health. She is a proud transfer student from Cabrillo Community College. Monique is the Assistant Director of the McNair Scholars Program at California State University Fullerton and the Goldwater Scholarship Campus Representative. Prior to her appointment at Fullerton, Monique was the Coordinator/Advisor for McNair Program at Cornell University. When Monique is not helping students achieve their graduate education goals, she is mother to a rambunctious three-year-old named Citlali.

**Research Topic:** Monique's research examines foci revolve around the History of Education and minority graduate student success. Understanding that support programs and professional organizations advance student success, Monique wants to understand how these programs impact the Latinx and Native American educational pipeline. Currently, she is researching the women founders of the professional association, the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), in hopes that these oral histories provide us a glimpse into the historical context of such programs and how these pioneering women succeeded within the academy.

**Tamara Wallace Ramirez, MA,** explores the relationships among media, the arts, culture, social activism, and the environment. A doctoral student of Cultural Studies with a Media studies emphasis at Claremont Graduate University, she is dedicated to working toward a more just, compassionate, and sustainable world. She comes to CGU from Northern Arizona University, where she taught courses in environmental humanities. There, she worked with the Program in Community, Culture, and Environment and the Master of Arts in Sustainable Communities Program fostering collaborations among diverse communities to promote sustainable engagement with the land. She and her family currently live in Covina, CA.

**Research Topic:** Tamara examines how mass media frames the connections between the global ecological crisis and COVID-19. Responses to these dilemmas depend on how we understand the links between people, the planet, and the pandemic.

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**Jenelle Nila,** a Ph.D. student in Higher Education and Student Affairs at CGU. She was born, raised, and educated in Pomona. She writes that she “comes from a large family and an even larger community of hardworking immigrants and educators.” She received two Bachelor of Art’s degrees in Sociology and in Chicana/o Studies from UC Riverside. Her current research focuses on the voices, knowledge, and community building practices of Women of Color in higher education. She has earned both the Applied
Women and Gender Studies and Allies for Dreamers certificates at CGU and will graduate this semester with her M.A in Education.

*Research Topic:* Jenelle’s research is focused on the community building practices of Doctoral Women of Color. Using a Critical Feminist lens and storytelling methodology, she interrogates the white supremacist and deficit-based perspectives of graduate education by highlighting the ways in which Women of Color disrupt doctoral socialization by focusing on community building.

**Whitney Martinez** is a doctoral candidate in CGU’s School of Social Science Policy & Evaluation. She holds a BA and MPA in Public Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany, and an MBA from CGU’s Drucker School of Management. Before coming to CGU, she worked in state government in New York, her home state. She is also a vocalist, and at UAlbany, founded Phenomenal Voices to support the artistic expression of voices of people from disenfranchised groups. At the Claremont Colleges, she has served on the Honnold Mudd Library Board of Student Stakeholders and as president of the Graduate Student Council. Whitney’s current research fuses sociology, business management & public policy to assess the role of leadership styles for social movement actualization, using the case study of Palestine. She has traveled internationally to conduct her research. Whitney plans to continue paying it forward by paving the way for women of color in academia, public affairs and global management through community service and scholarship.

*Research Topic:* Whitney’s research analyzes the practice of social movement leadership by identifying leader styles that actualize movements for well-being and good governance, using the case study of Palestine. She translates the steps for building a social movement into a business management plan to broaden the scope of leadership styles. Whitney then performs a comparative text analysis of speeches for historical leaders who led revolutionary movements elsewhere to categorize their leadership styles. This framework is used to link leader style to movement type for policy change as a guide for the unactualized social movement in Palestine.

**Shanté Morgan**, a PhD student in Cultural Studies. Her research interests center on the intersection of race, gender, and communication. She currently teaches communication and critical thinking at CSU Channel Islands; before entering academe, she worked as a journalist, reporting on issues ranging from Hollywood typecasting to urban sprawl. She holds BAs in Journalism and Afro-American Studies from CSUN and a MA from the USC Annenberg School of Journalism. Among other distinctions, she is the first African American woman to chair the Ventura County Commission for Women and served as co-chair of the Commission’s Study on the Status of Women and Girls, the first comprehensive examination of this constituency in Ventura County’s history. She is the founder of the Concerned Parents of Black Children of Moorpark, and the CSUN Black Alumni Association. She is a native of Los Angeles; a first generation college student; and the proud mother of two children.

*Research Topic:* Shanté examines womanist theory as a source of agency and empowerment for African American women.

**Surana K. Singh** earned her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies with a Media Studies emphasis from CGU in 2020. She holds a BA in the History of Art from UC Santa Cruz and a M.S. in Theory, Criticism, and History of Art, Design, and Architecture from Pratt, located in Brooklyn, NY. She is the mother of two children and teaches Art History full-time at East Los Angeles College, where she works to diversify and globalize the field through student mentorship, instruction, and course and program development, including the Museum Studies Certificate Program which launched in 2020.

*Research Topic:* Surana’s research interests is in transnationalism and visual cultural studies led her to her dissertation topic on comparative diasporas and contemporary art practices focusing on LA-based artists, where she used the framework of diaspora space to include indigeneity and to develop the concept of the dialogic gaze. In selecting artists that engage with issues of diaspora, she argued that these artists adopt a dialogic gaze that introduces simultaneous transgressions of multiple borders – temporal, cultural, stylistic, and geographic – that denies easy binaryisms in the reading of their work, functioning as a form of cultural politics that contributes to revisionist historiographies.

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