

# Women/Non-Binary People of Color Scholars Inclusion Project (WOCSI)



Jeanelle K. Hope, PhD Candidate, Cultural Studies  
 Kaozong N. Mouavangsou, PhD Candidate, School of Education  
 University of California, Davis  
 wocsiucd@gmail.com

## Project Statement

To live in the borderlands means you are neither hispana india negra espanola ni gabacha, eres mestiza, mulata, half-breed caught in the crossfire between camps while carrying all five races on your back...  
 Living in the Borderlands means you fight hard...

To survive the Borderlands you must live sin fronteras be a crossroads.  
 -Gloria Anzaldua, 2006

Similarly to Anzaldua's depiction of living between borders, as women/non-binary scholars of color, we trend on many lands. From lands of racial, ethnic, gender norms to institutional systems of power; living here we must "fight hard" and in order "to survive the Borderlands we must live 'sin fronteras'" (without borders) (Anzaldua, 2006). This means understanding, acknowledging, and strategizing our intersecting identities as assets. But we do not have to have to survive this fight on our own; we can support one another at these crossroads. Our aim is a one year project that will bring women/non-binary color scholars (faculty and graduate students) engaging critical race and ethnic studies together and create lasting relationships. We will build an intellectual community, mentor graduate students, increase the visibility of our scholarship, and document our experiences.



Jeanelle & Kaozong with Dr. Robyn Rodriguez, WOCSI Adviser

## Public Symposia: Scholar Activism & Ethnic Studies Event

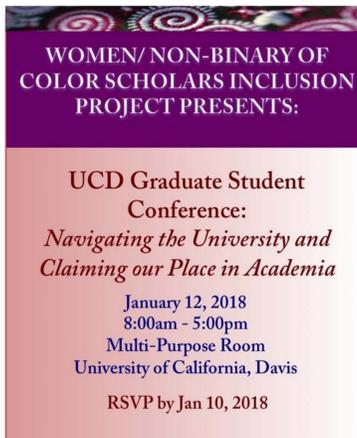
In November and February we hosted two public symposia. The first was attended by over 70 UCD students, faculty, and community members. We invited Drs. Diane Fujino and Genevieve Negrón-González to be in conversation with B.B. Buchanan, a UCD Sociology Ph.D. student. They discussed the role of scholar-activism in the current political climate and some of their current projects.



In February we brought together Ethnic studies teachers from local school districts, community colleges, and UCs and CSUs to discuss the current advocacy work around ensuring Ethnic studies is taught at the K-12 level. Moreover, we discussed what our role is as scholars to help support Ethnic studies teachers looking for curriculum and resource materials for their classrooms.



## Conferences



Our Winter conference covered topics such as academic publishing, preparing for the job market, community building/collaborating relationships and many more. Our goal was to cultivate a space where current and future scholars navigate and claim their place in academia.

Our Spring Conference brought together undergraduates, graduate students, and visiting scholars to workshop/present their research. We had 15 presenters and four thematic panels:

1. International/Transnational Perspectives on Race, Belonging and Borders
2. Marginalization in the U.S
3. Race, Gender and STEM
4. Feminist and anti-Racist Futures



## Networking, Social Events & Communication

### October Networking Event

- Attended by ~20 UCD WOCSI Scholars
- This was our kick-off event. Scholars from across campus were able to mingle and be in community with each other

### WOCSI Newsletters

- Monthly updates on:
  - Upcoming events
  - Conferences
  - Funding opportunities

## Conclusion & Future Directions

- Final project report & retention recommendations for women/non-binary scholars of color on campus to be sent to Office of Graduate studies
- Maintaining community
- Seeking additional grant funding for the 2018-2019 cycle

### Testimonial

I just wanted to drop you both a line to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH for putting together the Women/Non-Binary Scholars Conference this past Friday. While I was only able to attend for a little while, I SO appreciated the opportunity to connect with other people of color in academia and just to be ACKNOWLEDGED as existing is so powerful. I left after my short visit to the conference feeling a little lighter (and better informed), and I can't tell you how much I appreciate that.

-WOCSI Participant

