

PhD

Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies



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Ethnic Studies

INDIGENOUS, RACE, AND ETHNIC STUDIES



A Dynamic Community

Graduate students in the Department of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies join a diverse and dynamic community of scholars dedicated to pursuing transformative knowledge through original research and community engagement. We train scholars in transdisciplinary, intersectional, and creative scholarship. Students receive a comprehensive course of study grounded in the lives of Indigenous communities and people of color. We seek highly motivated students interested in engaging research with direct academic and social impact.

A Tailored Curriculum

Graduate students work closely with faculty mentors to customize a program of study that enables a comprehensive breadth and depth within core fields of ethnic studies, and prepares students for their post-PhD careers. Areas of specialization may include: women of color and Indigenous feminisms, queer race studies, Latinx and Chicana studies, media and sports studies, literary and cultural studies, carceral studies, environmental justice, geography, Indigenous and racial formations, comparative race studies, and social justice activism.

All incoming students receive financial support for five years, including salary, tuition, and fees. Support includes various teaching, research, and/or fellowship assignments, with chances for students to develop their own courses in their last two years. Graduate student employees are unionized under the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers.

The UO and the Pacific Northwest

Nestled in the Willamette Valley, the University of Oregon sits near the majestic Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, one hour away from both the stunning Oregon Coast to the west and the snowy Cascade Mountains to the east.

We are located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional Indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. The IRES department recognizes the dispossession of the Kalapuya people whose descendants are the citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon.

The UO is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU). As a research-intensive university, the UO has outstanding libraries and research centers, including the following:

- Oregon Humanities Center
- Center for Latina/o and Latin American Studies
- Center for the Study of Women in Society
- Center for Asian and Pacific Studies
- Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics



Core Graduate Faculty



Bernadette Calafell

Fields: Chicana, Hip-Hop, and Black Feminisms, Monstrosity and Horror, Latina/o/x/e Studies, Kink, Queer of Color Theory and Method



Charise Cheney

Fields: Black Studies, Comparative Ethnic Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies



Courtney M. Cox

Fields: Black Studies, Sports Studies, Cultural Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies



Lynn Fujiwara

Fields: Asian American Studies, Women of Color Feminisms, Gender and Sexuality Studies



Brian Klopotek

Fields: Native American and Indigenous Studies, Comparative Ethnic Studies



Abigail Jinju Lee

Fields: Asian American Studies, Asian Black Comparative Racialization, Media and Film Studies, Literary Studies



Lana Lopesi

Fields: Pacific Islander Studies, Indigenous and Women of Color Feminisms, Contemporary Pacific Art, Digital Humanities and Cultural Production



Ernesto Javier Martínez

Fields: Women of Color Feminisms, Queer Race Studies, Latinx Studies, Comparative Ethnic Studies



Jennifer O'Neal

Fields: Native American and Indigenous Studies, Indigenous Data Sovereignty, Indigenous Archives, Indigenous Research Methods, International Relations, Digital Humanities



Laura Pulido

Fields: Comparative Ethnic Studies, Chicanx Studies, Environmental Justice, Critical Human Geography



Arifa Raza

Fields: Immigration/Crimmigration, Critical Race Theory, Carceral Studies, Comparative Ethnic Studies, Human Trafficking



Cera Smith

Fields: U.S. Black Literatures, Radical Protest Literatures in the U.S., Black Studies, Affect Theory, Gender and Sexuality, Histories of Science and Medicine

Additional Graduate Faculty

Oluwakemi “Kemi” Balogun, Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Sociology

Kirby Brown, Associate Professor of English

Christopher Chávez, Professor, School of Journalism and Communication

Ana-Maurine Lara, Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Audrey Lucero, Professor of Critical and Sociocultural Studies in Education

Julius McGee, Associate Professor of Sociology

Lanie Millar, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese

Malek Najjar, Professor of Theater Arts

José Meléndez, Associate Professor of Planning, Public Policy and Management

Isabel Millán, Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies

Kari Norgaard, Professor of Sociology

Edward Olivos, Professor of Education

Priscilla Ovalle, Associate Professor of Cinema Studies

Yvette Saavedra, Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies

Gerard Sandoval, Professor of Planning, Public Policy and Management

Lynn Stephen, Professor of Anthropology

Arafaat A. Valiani, Associate Professor of History

Jessica Vasquez-Tokos, Professor of Sociology

Sarah Wald, Associate Professor of English and Environmental Studies

Julie Weise, Associate Professor of History

Rachel Weissler, Assistant Professor of Linguistics

Admission Requirements

- A bachelor’s degree or master’s degree in ethnic studies or affiliated field from an accredited college or university
- Undergraduate and graduate official transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose (1,000–1,500 words)
- Writing sample (maximum 35 pages)
- A CV or résumé



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