Note from the Director

Spring quarter is off to a very challenging start. Our gratitude goes to the health care professionals and first responders who are on the front lines of this pandemic, risking their own lives for others.

Even though physical distancing is needed of us now, our lives remain truly interconnected across the globe. As we navigate our way through this health crisis collectively, let’s recommit to fortifying social relationships based on respect, compassion, empathy, and *buen vivir* (living well together).

We look forward to resuming a schedule of research activities in the fall. The RCA hopes you and your loved ones are safe and in good health.

Saludos,
Sylvanna M. Falcón, Director
Research Center for the Americas

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Lionel Cantú Memorial Award

Application Deadline: 5:00 p.m. PST, Friday, May 1, 2020

APPLY HERE

This award celebrates the scholarship of Lionel Cantú (1965-2002), former assistant professor of sociology at UC Santa Cruz. Graduate students working in the areas of Latino sociology, immigration, and gender/sexuality studies are encouraged to apply.

Human Rights Student Researchers for 2020–2021

Eligibility: Undergraduate and graduate students in good academic standing

Application Deadline: 5:00 p.m. PST, Friday, May 8, 2020

APPLY HERE

The RCA is recruiting for its second cohort of students to join our research lab. The Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas tracks and monitors ongoing humanitarian, environmental, and socio-political crises by using open source investigative methods in partnership with non-governmental organizations, news outlets, and other advocacy partners. This opportunity is open to undergraduate and graduate students in any division. Please direct any questions about this research opportunity to rca@ucsc.edu.

RCA PUBLICATION
The RCA is pleased to co-publish a research report — "Youth-led Civic Engagement and the Growing Electorate: Findings from the Central Valley Freedom Summer Participatory Action Research Project" — co-authored by Dr. Veronica Terríquez, associate professor of sociology, Randy Villegas, PhD. student of politics, and Roxanna Villalobos, Ph.D. student of sociology.

We welcome proposals from UC Santa Cruz faculty and graduate students for future submissions in the Research Reports series or Open Forum.

KUDOS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Photo Contest Winners
We are pleased to announce the winners of our third annual photo contest on the theme of "Chosen Family." Congratulations to Vanessa Alarcon, Michael Lara, and Carolyn Mock (photographers of images from left to right). This trio of winners recognizes the constellation of Chosen Family from nature, to our ancestors and friendships, and the intimate beauty of new families. These images will be exhibited at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History in the near future. Congrats Slugs!

Accolades for RCA Faculty Affiliates
Congratulations to the following faculty colleagues:

• Jeffery Erbig of Latin American and Latino Studies for his new book Where Caciques and Mapmakers Met: Border Making in Eighteenth-Century South America (2020, University of North Carolina Press);

• Marcella Gomez of Applied Mathematics for her new collaborative project to develop innovative technology for improving the healing of serious wounds;

• Kimberly Adilia Helmer of the Writing Program for her new book Learning and Not Learning in the Heritage Language Classroom Engaging Mexican-Origin Students (2020, Multilingual Matters Press);

• Karen Holl of Environmental Studies for her new book Primer of Ecological Restoration (2020, Island Press);
Jackie Powell has been a valued and reliable team member of the RCA staff for the past five years. As she starts a new stage of her career this summer, the RCA would like to publicly thank Jackie for many years of dedicated service which included overseeing the daily operations of the RCA, such as event planning, guest speaker relations, and faculty and student awards. Of her many contributions, Jackie helped us realize Non-citizenship, our Andrew W. Mellon Foundation John E. Sawyer Seminar on the Comparative Study of Culture, and served as the Resiliency Manager for the Human Rights Investigations Lab team. Thank you Jackie for supporting the RCA. You will be missed!

Since its founding by UC Santa Cruz faculty in Latin American and Latino Studies in 1992, the Research Center for the Americas serves as a hub for research inquiry, exploration, and creativity. We support collaborative and interdisciplinary
research on Latin American and Chicanx/Latinx Studies. To learn more about the RCA, visit our website www.rca.ucsc.edu.