
THE COMMITTEE ON ETHNICITY, MIGRATION, RIGHTS



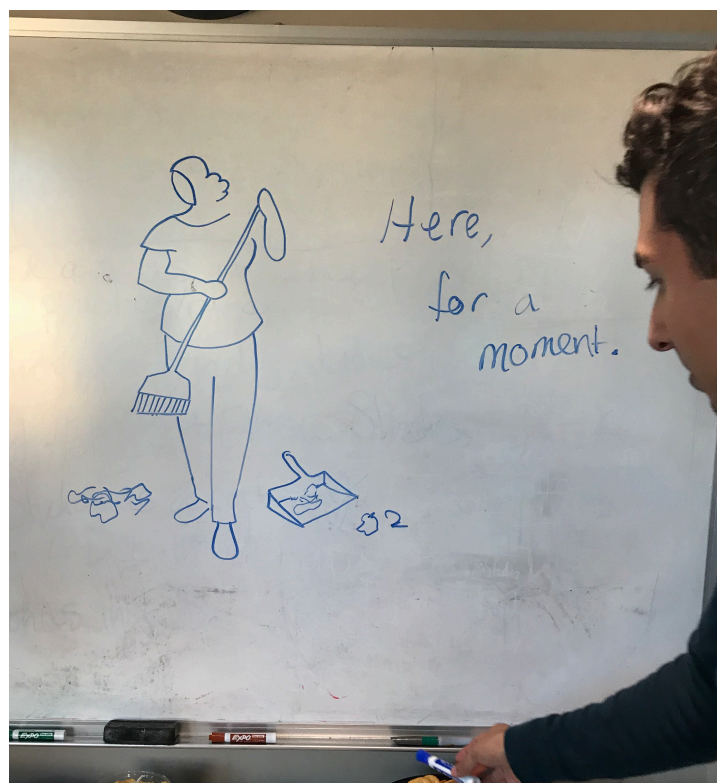
Photo taken at the
February, 2018 meeting
of the EMR Student
Advisory Council

The 2017-18 academic year was a time of transformation and growth for EMR, as we engaged students and faculty in re-imagining how the Committee could support EMR-related work across different Harvard programs. We organized over 30 events, including discussions of the past, present, and future of Ethnic Studies and a series on Art and Activism. We added an Asian American Studies Summer Thesis Research Grant, and established a mentoring program for all recipients of our research awards. Students actively participated in the Student Advisory Council (SAC), the Working Groups, secondary fields, and occasional events, contributing to the creation of an intellectual space centered on underrepresented histories, cultures, and traditions of knowledge.

Arts and Activism: Learning and Doing

Work that takes seriously the diversity of ethnic and indigenous traditions of knowledge is articulated in many genres. Last year we gave particular attention to work happening at the intersections of art and activism; we explored art and activism as ways of studying the world.

Carolyn Wong and Corky Lee, invited by the Asian American Studies Working Group, examined theatrical performance, documentary photography, and community-based organizing around healthcare for the elderly as early forms of Asian American Studies in California and New York in the 1960s and 70s. Ramiro Gomez, guest presenter for the Latinx Studies Working Group, proposed painting as a mode of analysis—one that can poignantly attend to social visibility as well as erasure. Patricia Méndez Obregón offered stirring photographic portraits in her lecture “Faith and Fidencio: dialogues through photography,” also hosted by the Latinx Studies Working Group. She invited us to expand our view of “activism” to include healing, photography, travel, religious devotion, and quotidian relationships. Jack Tchen and Viet Thanh Nguyen discussed the essential role that student



Ramiro Gomez left his temporary mark in 2 Arrow St. just before his talk on art and ‘invisible’ labor forces.



Professor Carolyn Wong from UMass Boston spoke about East Asian and Southeast Asian American movements in the late 1960s and present. Corky Lee’s photographs were on display.

organizing played in establishing Ethnic and Indigenous Studies programs over the past five decades.

The format of each event reflected the artistic genres engaged. The audience lingered after Wong and Lee’s presentation to view photographs Lee has taken over decades of observing and participating in community actions. Nguyen responded over coffee to student questions about his early activism, becoming an artist, and the connections between scholarship and fiction. Gomez gave a slideshow of his paintings, and led workshop participants in an imaginative exercise to connect personal experiences with ethical and political impulses. In the Spoken Word Workshop Series, organized with Warren Center Fellow Melissa Castillo Garsow, Elisabet Velasquez and Elizabeth Acevedo led students in exercises to metaphorically and mythically experiment with poetic storytelling. Members of Speak Out Loud of Harvard College offered a



Elizabeth Acevedo led the final Spoken Word Workshop Series session. Participants explored applying mythical structures and tropes in work drawing from personal experiences.

student-led workshop entitled “Rest as Resistance,” exploring connections between care and struggle.

As the 2018-2019 academic year opens, these energies continue to build with projects activating Teresita Fernández’s installation “Autumn (...Nothing Personal).” EMR Intern and American Studies doctoral student Amanda Figueroa has brought her wealth of experience in arts and public education to mentoring students through conceptual and logistical stages of their planning.

Students have engaged enthusiastically with artists and scholars. They have deepened their understanding of how studies of EMR topics illuminate social conditions, and individual and collective responses to them. EMR will continue to offer opportunities for interdisciplinary explorations, focusing in AY 2018-2019 on the different *approaches* scholars working in various fields take to the study of ethnicity and indigeneity.



Speak Out Loud, an undergraduate student group, led one of three sessions in the Spring term Spoken Word Workshop Series.

The EMR Senior Thesis Prize

Each year, EMR honors an exceptional senior thesis from the graduating class. Our jury, composed of members of the Faculty Advisory Committee, reviewed eighteen faculty-recommended submissions of outstanding quality.

The Senior Thesis Prize of 2018 went to Puanani Brown, concentrator in Environmental Studies and Public Policy.

Pua's thesis, "Food Sovereignty and Traditional Hawaiian Agriculture in the Context of Global Food Systems," demonstrates the connections between legacies of colonial violence and present-day situations of food scarcity in Hawai'i. The committee was impressed by the way that this work reframes environmental justice through the interplay of cultural sovereignty and water rights.

Pua shared with EMR that as the daughter of a Native Hawaiian rights activist and an environmental lawyer, her interest in environmental studies has always been closely tied to Indigenous rights. She hopes to use her degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy to work toward a more equitable and sustainable future by empowering marginalized communities.



Puanani Brown, class of 2018 and winner of the EMR Senior Thesis Prize.

Honorable Mentions

Given the highly competitive pool of submissions, it was the committee's desire to extend recognition to two additional thesis writers. You can learn more about these students and their work at <https://emr.fas.harvard.edu/2018-thesis-prize-winners>.

Kamran Jamil, Social Studies

Development, Disease, and Democracy: Understanding the Roots of Poor Social Development in Sindh, Pakistan and Outlining the Possibilities for Reform

Kaveh Motamedy, Social Studies

Rethinking Resettlements: The Role of the International Institute of New England (IINE) in the Resettlement Experience of Syrian Refugees in Lowell, Massachusetts

Summer Thesis Research Grants

These grants for rising seniors support original undergraduate research across a wide variety of concentrations and programs. They are awarded based on rigorous faculty review of proposals submitted in the spring semester of students' junior year.

New— Graduate Research and Writing Mentors

This year EMR added a mentorship component to each grant award. Based on interest areas and/or methodological orientations, students are paired with doctoral candidates who will work with them

throughout the year, until submission of their theses. The mentorship program aims to increase support for research award recipients, as well as to build EMR community between undergraduate and graduate students.

Our Collaborators

EMR co-sponsored undergraduate researchers with the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

The Asian American Studies Summer Thesis Research Grant was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of donors from the **Asian American Alumni Alliance**. This effort, carried out in a few short months, shows their invaluable support for both EMR and Asian American Studies at Harvard.

The Latina/o Studies Summer Thesis Research Grant is supported by **the Instituto Cervantes, Observatorio** at Harvard University.

2018 Summer Thesis Research Grant Awards

Congratulations to the following students currently pursuing summer research! Undergraduate award recipients are listed alongside their project titles and doctoral mentors. We look forward to learning from their contributions when they return to campus.

José Avonce, grant for Asian American Studies

"Pernicious Citizens"?: Anti-Chinese Rhetoric and Chinese Immigrant Negotiations of Identity in Mexico, 1899-1930

Mentored by Martha Franco (Harvard Graduate School of Education).

Michelle Borbon, grant for Latina/o Studies

Deconstructing Corruption Conversation in Rural Mexico

Mentored by Adrián Rodríguez Ríos (Romance Languages and Literatures)

Sally Chen, grant for Asian American Studies

Renewing the Narrative: Chinatown Library Activism

Mentored by Karintha Lowe (American Studies)

Eliza Ennis, grant for EMR

Politics of International Refugee Aid in an Era of Xenophobia and Public Morality

Mentored by Margarite Blignaut (Anthropology)

Grace Evans, grant for Latina/o Studies

Sanctuary Not Deportation: Political Opportunity and Movement Success in Texas and California Sanctuary Networks

Mentored by Amanda Figueroa (American Studies)

Luca Slavomir Istodor-Berceanu, grant for EMR

LGBT Activism and the Decriminalization of Homosexuality in Guyana

Mentored by Allison Puglisi (American Studies)

Adele Woodmansee, grant for EMR*Native Maize, International Immigration and Agricultural Change in a Zapotec Community*

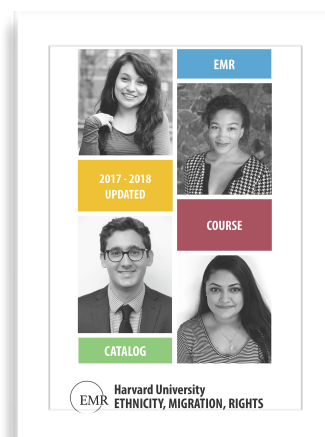
Mentored by Angélica Marquez-Osuna (History of Science)

Stephanie Wu, grant for Latina/o Studies*The Effects of Immigrant Detention on the Health of Hispanic Immigrants*

Mentored by Jenesi Fonseca (American Studies)

Updating the Course Catalog

Over the past year, EMR has worked closely with the Committee on Degrees in History and Literature to develop coordinating descriptions and lists of courses for the concentration in Ethnic Studies under Hist and Lit and secondary fields in EMR. This joint effort helps clarify for students the connections between, and distinctiveness of, each program. EMR will continue to work closely with Hist and Lit to make links between these programs as seamless as possible. We will also work with other programs around the university to widen awareness and availability of our course list.



Spaces for Intersectional and Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching

Studies of ethnicity are inseparable from analyses of race, gender, sexuality, disability, and other axes of difference and power. EMR strives to make these connections more visible to our students by highlighting the intellectual links between EMR and other programs as well as by creating spaces for intersectional and interdisciplinary scholarship.

EMR and WGS

Last year we focused on strengthening our relationship with WGS by developing two related portal courses— a WGS course foregrounding the constitutive role of ethnicity/race and an EMR course foregrounding the constitutive role of gender and sexuality in constructions of ethnicity and race. In the fall of 2018, Caroline Light will teach “Love’s Labors Found: Uncovering Histories of Emotional Labor.” In spring of 2019, Eleanor Craig will teach “Power, Knowledge, Identity: Critical Approaches to Race and Ethnicity.”

What does EMR research look like in *your* discipline?

We are also starting a regular series of informal conversations about how Ethnic and/or Indigenous Studies shape scholarship in particular disciplines. These will be organized by EMR and relevant departments, when possible, to discuss faculty speakers' views of the impact of studies of ethnicity and indigeneity, and the ways they have shaped and been shaped by methods specific to their disciplinary context.

Dissertation Writing Working Group

EMR's new Dissertation Writing Working Group seeks to create a space for sustained collaboration among doctoral students writing on issues of ethnicity, race, indigeneity, and migration across the university. The first cohort will include students in American Studies, History, History of Science, and the Study of Religion. The group will meet biweekly for the full academic year.

Looking Ahead

The leadership for our three standing Working Groups for Academic Year 2018-19 is:

Asian American Studies Working Group

Faculty Directors:

Genevieve Clutario

Ju Yon Kim

Graduate Student Coordinators:

Karintha Lowe

Kristin Oberiano

Latinx Studies Working Group

Faculty Director:

René Carrasco

Graduate Student Coordinators:

Laura Perez Muñoz

Adrián Rodríguez Ríos

Human Rights Working Group

Undergraduate Student Coordinators:

Kieren Kresevic

Hana Seita



SEPTEMBER

- 10** | **Fall Open House**
4:00PM-5:30PM
2 Arrow Street, 4th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138
- 14** | **EMR @ Teresita Fernández Installation, "Autumn (...Nothing Personal)"**
1:00PM-2:00PM
Tercentenary Theatre, Harvard Yard
- 14** | **Spoken Word Performances @ Teresita Fernández Installation, "Autumn (...Nothing Personal)"**
7:30PM-9:30PM
Tercentenary Theatre, Harvard Yard
- 21** | **Student Advisory Council Meeting @ Teresita Fernández Installation, "Autumn (...Nothing Personal)"**
12:00PM-1:00PM
Tercentenary Theatre, Harvard Yard
Please RSVP!
- 21** | **EMR and Task Force on Asian Pacific American Studies @ Teresita Fernández Installation, "Autumn (...Nothing Personal)"**
1:00PM-2:00PM
Tercentenary Theatre, Harvard Yard
- 24** | **Lunchtime Talk with Professor Gabriela Soto Laveaga, History of Science**
12:00PM-1:00PM
2 Arrow Street, Room 408,
Cambridge, MA 02138
This is part of the Approaches Across the Disciplines Series on Ethnic and Indigenous Studies
- 27** | **Conversations in API Studies: Consequences of U.S. Militarism in Asia and the Pacific**
Panelists: Simeon Man, Juliet Nebolon and Dean Itsuji Saranillio
6:00PM-8:00PM
Location: TBD
This panel is hosted by the Asian American Studies Working Group in EMR
- 28** | **EMR @ Teresita Fernández Installation, "Autumn (...Nothing Personal)"**
1:00PM-2:00PM
Tercentenary Theatre, Harvard Yard

EMR CALENDAR OF EVENTS FALL 2018

October

- 12** | **Student Advisory Council Meeting**
12:00PM-1:00PM
2 Arrow Street, Room 408
Cambridge, MA 02138
Please RSVP!
- TBA** | **Lunchtime Talk with Professor Natasha Warikoo, Education**
12:00PM-1:00PM
2 Arrow Street, Room 408
Cambridge, MA 02138
This is part of the Approaches Across the Disciplines Series on Ethnic and Indigenous Studies
- 25** | **The Promise of Beauty**
Professor Mimi Thi Nguyen with Professor Genevieve Clutario
6:00PM-8:00PM
Barker Center, Thompson Room
12 Quincy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
*Funded by the Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities.
Co-sponsored by the Committee on Degrees in History & Literature*

November

- 06** | **Lunchtime Talk with Professor Noe Montez, Theater & Performance**
12:00PM-1:00PM
2 Arrow Street, Room 408
Cambridge, MA 02138
This is part of the Approaches Across the Disciplines Series on Ethnic and Indigenous Studies
- 09** | **Student Advisory Council Meeting**
12:00PM-1:00PM
2 Arrow Street, Room 408
Cambridge, MA 02138
Please RSVP!
- 09** | **Wikiathon on Ethnic and Indigenous Studies at Harvard**
1:00PM-5:00PM
2 Arrow Street, Room 408
Cambridge, MA 02138

December

- 10** | **End-of-Semester Celebration**
4:30PM-6:00PM
2 Arrow Street, Room 408
Cambridge, MA 02138

Please note: Working Group meetings and events will be scheduled throughout the semester. For updated information, please visit our website.


The Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, Rights

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 <http://bit.ly/EMRlistserv>

 facebook.com/HarvardEMR

 [emr_harvard](https://www.instagram.com/emr_harvard)

 <http://bit.ly/EMRAumniGroup>